

**POL 210**

**POLITICS OF CRIME AND PUNISHMENT**

**MWF 1-1:50pm**

**Instructor Information:**

Dr. Gregory Gunderson

313 North Hall (Wausau)

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If you have an emergency, questions, etc, the best way to contact me is through email.

**Office Hours:**

By appointment via Zoom or we can arrange to meet face-to-face.

**Course Content:** This course explores the structure and dynamics of the criminal justice system as a form of social control in the United States. We touch on four main areas: the criminal justice system itself as a form of social control, the law and public policy as a form of social control, law enforcement as social control, and the role of corrections in social control. Some of the themes we touch upon include due process, rights and liberties, and public order. We finish the semester with a look at the role of the criminal justice system in the war on terror.

Please read the remainder of this syllabus carefully; it can be viewed as a contract of sorts (although I retain the right to make changes if necessary – they will be kept to a minimum and will be discussed in class), laying out what you can expect of me as well as what I will expect of you. I look forward to working with you this semester. Welcome.

**Required Textbook:**

Joycelyn M. Pollock, *Crime and Justice in America*, 3rd edition.

**Student Learning Outcomes:** By the end of the semester each student should be able to...

- Describe and discuss the system of crime and punishment in the United States;
- Evaluate the criminal justice system as a form of social control;
- Explain and analyze concepts such as due process, rights and liberties;
- Explain the basic functions of the court system in the United States;
- Describe and discuss the U.S. system of corrections;
- Analyze the American system of crime and punishment in a global context.

**Attendance:** I believe, in general, that attendance policies should not be necessary at the university-level. Unfortunately, experience has shown that many students will only attend class regularly if it directly affects their grade . I will take attendance. During the course, your discussion and attendance will be worth 100points. Obviously, you cannot discuss if you do not attend. I will take attendance every day.

### **Academic Honesty**

Please do not cheat – cheating does nothing but rob you of the chance for an education. As a college student, you are part of an academic community and are expected to behave in a manner that is respectful of that community, in part by being academically honest. Examples of academic misconduct include, but are not limited to “cheating on an examination,” “submitting a paper or assignment as one’s own work when a part or all of the paper or assignment is the work of another,” and “submitting a paper or assignment that contains ideas or research of others without appropriately identifying the sources of those ideas.”

### **Course Requirements:**

1. Attendance is required. See the section above on attendance for a discussion of my policy.
2. Discussion is important. Don’t be afraid to speak up, ask questions, or challenge the information I give you. Education is not strictly a spectator sport -- you will find the class more interesting and informative if you participate.
3. Be nice, be patient, be tolerant.
4. **Exams and stuff like that** –
  - There will be three exams given in this class and one quiz. The points will be distributed as follows:
    - Quiz 50 Points
    - Exam 1 150 points
    - Exam 2 100 points
    - Exam 3 100 points
  - Regular class attendance and participation will be worth 100 points.
  - Each student will be assigned to a debate team. We will be debating three subjects near the end of the term -- Death penalty, Gun control, and the legalization of drugs., The debates will be worth 100 points. More information will be given in a couple of weeks.
  - To review, the distribution of points will be as follows:

Attendance and participation - 100 points

Exams - 400 points

Debate - 100 points

Total - 600 points

**There will be no make-up exams or assignments except in the case of a bona fide (and verified) emergency! All make-up exams will consist of essay questions only.**

Grades will be assigned as follows:

A = 93-100%

- = 90-92 %

B+=87-89%

B = 83-86%

B-= 80-83%

C+ = 77-79%

C = 73-76%

C-= 70-72%

D+= 67-69%

D = 60-66%

F = 59% or below

**Extra Credit: NO! Sorry, I simply do not believe in extra credit. However, during the semester there will be some bonus quizzes.**

**ZOOM Fridays:** As some of you know I have had some health concerns this past year and the bottom line is that I cannot drive, meaning I have had to arrange for rides to get to campus. I have been able to secure rides for Mon and Wed classes, But not Friday. So to begin the semester I will be teaching in the classroom on Mon and Wed and from home via Zoom on Fridays. This should not affect you -- you can still come to the classroom on Fridays and see my smiling face on the big screen. I will explain more in class.

**Sep 6 Course Introduction**

**Sep 8 Introduction to the Discipline**

**Sep 11-13 Social Control Chapter 1**

**Sep 15-20 Crime and Society Chapter 2**

**Sep 22 QUIZ**

**Week of Sep 25 Why Crime? Chapter 3**

**Week of Oct 2 Police in America Chapter 4**

Week of Oct 9 Policing and The Legal Process Chapter 6

Week of Oct 16 Law and Society Chapter 7

Oct 23 Debate Discussion

Oct 25 and 27 Exam 1

Week of Oct 30 Courts Chapter 8

Week of Nov 6 Due Process Chapter 9

Week of Nov 13 Corrections

Week of Nov 20 Corrections Chapter 11

NO CLASS NOV 24 THANSIVING BREAK

Nov 27 and 29 Terrorism

Dec 1 EXAM 2

Dec 4-6 Debate 1

Dec 8-11 Debate 2

Dec 13-15 Debate 3

FINAL EXAM DUE BY 3PM ON DEC 22