



Sul Ross State University—Rio Grande College

Criminal Justice 3306 Probation and Parole Fall 2014

Professor: Martin Guevara Urbina, Ph.D.

Classroom: Web
Class Meeting: Online

Office: B-109
Phone: 830/758-5017 (office, direct line)
Hours: Monday and Tuesday, 12:00 to 5:00. Even though this is an online course, you are welcome to visit the Professor's office anytime.
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Course (Catalog) Description: *Rehabilitation concepts; probation and parole techniques; statutory and case law; case management; agency organization and administration.*

Program Learning Outcomes:

1. Demonstrate proficiency in the application of legal concepts, theoretical applications, scientific principles, and historical trends in the criminal justice arena.
2. Demonstrate competency in the application of basic research methods, to include: research design, statistical analysis, and uses of empirical findings and interpretations.
3. Demonstrate the application of organizational principles, cultural, social and behavioral knowledge, critical thinking skills and cognitive thought processes within the criminal justice arena.

Objective: *Probation and Parole* will offer a sound and holistic analysis of various statutory and constitutional rights of people on probation or parole in the US, combined with an historical, sociological, and criminological exploration of the American penal system, to include safety, management, effectiveness, and justice. While the focus will be primarily, but not exclusively, on the objectives, implications, manifestations, ramifications, and utility of probation and parole, particular attention will be given to the current state American corrections—allowing us insight into the criminal justice system as a

whole. For instance, largely attributed to the ‘war on drugs,’ formal social control, like crime, is becoming more transnational. Specifically, the intent of this course is to provide the student with a detailed understanding of **10** main topics, which are best expressed in the following questions:

1. How could we define the terms *probation* and *parole*?
2. Pragmatically, philosophically, politically, economically, culturally, and socially, what do we mean by *probation* and *parole*? Notice that this question requires us to go far behind the formal definition of probation and parole. Hint: Law in the books vs. law in action!!!
3. What are the primary objectives of placing criminal defendants on probation or releasing people on parole?
4. What are the most influential theoretical and philosophical ideologies behind the current state of probation and parole? How has the penal system, in the context of probation and parole, evolved in the US?
5. What FORCES have shaped and/or continue to shape probation and parole? What role do politics, the media, symbolism, power, social norms, and society play in amending the objectives and functions of probation and parole? Likewise, what role have historical EVENTS played in shaping and re-shaping American corrections, particularly probation and parole?
6. WHO has played the most significant role in “shaping and reshaping” legislation pertaining to probation and parole? What are the reasons of amending existing laws, practice, and process regarding people on either probation or parole?
7. What is the scope and nature of current “critical” issues in the US penal system and, by extension, jurisprudence? For instance, confronted with prison overcrowding and a global war against drug traffickers, how should people who get caught with small amounts of drugs be treated by both the judicial and penal systems?
8. What is the significance, implications, and ramifications of “globalized legislation and sanctions,” and, by extension, probation and parole in the US and abroad?
9. What are the avenues for the establishment of a rational, effective, and just penal system?
10. What is the future of probation and parole in the US and abroad?

The next set of questions is essentially definitional in nature. It is essential that we share the same definitions of an issues, event, situation, or problem if we are to come to a common understanding of both the problem and any possible solutions/remedies. Consequently, the class’s first segment deals with defining “probation and parole” and placing it in a global context.

The last set of questions is more analytical. A particular truism about jurisprudence, penology, criminological, sociological, and theoretical aspects of the nature of human behavior is as follows: There are many typologies of criminological, sociological, and penal theories as there are authors writing textbooks about the subject. The five-fold approach we will take is an amalgam of several such typologies:

History—When deemed appropriate, we will make use of historical events, situations, and circumstances to better understand the subject matter by its totality. It is essential that we obtain an understanding and appreciation for historical ruptures and discontinuities as we try to bridge existing gaps. According to an African proverb, “Until lions have their own historians, histories of the hunt will glorify the hunter.”

Theory—Theoretically, we must investigate which theories provide the best guidance in our search for “truth and reality.”

Law and Society—In a society where most behavior is governed by some type of law, it is vital that we explore the relationship between law and society. To some scholars, laws are a measure of culture; crime, another element of all known cultures, is the violation of those laws. In essence, why do we have laws? Do we need laws? Does law make a difference?

Philosophy—While sociological and criminological theories might serve as “road maps” to everyday life, philosophy gives “meaning” to human existence. It enables us to better appreciate what matters most at the END of the day.

Poetry—Even though poetry is one of the oldest forms of dialogue, it is seldom mentioned in academic discussions. Yet, poetry allows us to transcend the unknown ... it allows us to dream the impossible ... to dream the impossible dream. “Invent the age, invent the metaphor. Without a credible structure of law a society is inconceivable. Without a workable poetry no society can conceive a [person].” --Archibald MacLeish, *Apologia*, 1972.

The final question has policy overtones. First, we must briefly look at the nature and process of human behavior, in the context of the US penal system, with a focus on probation and parole. Next, we turn to the more difficult task of linking penology, sociological, and criminological theory, particularly those we will review, to behavior, punishment, research, and practices.

Overall, this course is designed to introduce you to the nature and dynamics of probation and parole within the context of the criminal justice system as a whole and, by extension, social interactions and, ultimately, human behavior in the world. By introducing you to influential issues that provide the frameworks to studying a wide variety of phenomena, I intend this course to be a basis for further, more in-depth study in the areas that interest you.

Course Context: As an upper-level course, this class may include controversial, sensitive, and/or adult material. For instance, what should “we” do with terminally ill defendants, particularly those with HIV or AIDS? How should we handle defendants who are pregnant (and possibly ill)? Or, how should we deal with mentally ill defendants? Thus, students are expected to have the mentality and readiness for upper-level content and rigor.

Course Structure: This course will be presented in modules. Please note that the ENTIRE course will be taught online via Blackboard.

Required Texts:

Abadinsky, Howard (2014). *Probation and parole: Theory and practice*, 12th edition. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson/Prentice Hall.
[ISBN: 978-0133483703]

Optional Readings:

- Bosworth, Mary and Jeanne Flavin, eds. (2007). *Race, gender, and punishment: From colonialism to the war on terror*. Piscataway, NJ: Rutgers University Press.
- Chambliss, William and Marjorie Zatz, eds. (1993). *Making law: The state, the law, and structural contradictions*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press.
- Champion, Dean J. (2007). *Probation, parole and community corrections*, 6th edition. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice hall.
- Churchill, Ward and Jim Vander Wall, eds. (1992). *Cages of steel: The politics of imprisonment in the United States*. Washington, D.C.: Maisonneuve Press.
- Ditton, Paula M. (1999). *Mental health and treatment of inmates and probationers*. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of Justice.
- Festervan, Earlene (2003). *Women probationers: Supervision and success*. Alexandria: VA: American Correctional Association.
- Gilroy, Paul (1993). *The black atlantic: Modernity and double consciousness*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.
- Glaze, Lauren E. and Thomas P. Bonczar (2006). *Probation and parole in the United States, 2005*. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of Justice.
- Hariman, Robert (1990). *Popular trials: Rhetoric, mass media, and the law*. Tuscaloosa: University of Alabama Press.
- Petersilia, Joan (1998). *Community corrections: Probation, parole, and intermediate sanctions*. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Reiman, Jeffrey and Paul Leighton (2009). *The rich get richer and the poor get prison: Ideology, class, and criminal justice*, 9th Edition. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall.
- Ruddell, Rick (2004). *America behind bars: Trends in imprisonment, 1950 to 2000*. New York: LFB Scholarly Publishing.
- Schlanger, Margo (2003). "Inmate litigation." *Harvard Law Review*, 116: 1555-1706.
- Thompson, Anthony (2008). *Releasing prisoners, redeeming communities: Reentry, race, and politics*. New York: NYU Press.
- Welch, Michael (2002). *Detained: Immigration laws and the expanding I.N.S. jail complex*. Philadelphia: Temple University Press.

Recommended Readings**Books:**

- Urbina, Martin Guevara (Forthcoming). *Kylor's adventure through the rainforest: A journey of courage and faith*. A Children's Book: Bilingual Edition.

- Urbina, Martin Guevara and Sofia Espinoza Alvarez, eds. (2015). *Latino police officers in the United States: An examination of emerging trends and issues*. Boulder, CO: Lynne Rienner Publishers.
- Urbina, Martin Guevara, ed. (2014). *Twenty-first century dynamics of multiculturalism: Beyond post-racial America*. Springfield, IL: Charles C Thomas, Publisher Ltd.
- Urbina, Martin Guevara, Joel E. Vela, and Juan O. Sanchez (2014). *Ethnic realities of Mexican Americans: From colonialism to 21st century globalization*. Springfield, IL: Charles C Thomas, Publisher Ltd.
- Urbina, Martin Guevara (2012). *Capital punishment in America: Race and the death penalty over time*. El Paso, TX: LFB Scholarly Publishing.
- Urbina, Martin Guevara, ed. (2012). *Hispanics in the U.S. criminal justice system: The new American demography*. Springfield, IL: Charles C Thomas, Publisher Ltd.
- Urbina, Martin Guevara (2011). *Capital punishment and Latino offenders: Racial and ethnic differences in death sentences*. El Paso, TX: LFB Scholarly Publishing.
- Urbina, Martin Guevara (2008). *A comprehensive study of female offenders: Life before, during, and after incarceration*. Springfield, IL: Charles C Thomas, Publisher Ltd.
- Urbina, Martin Guevara (2003). *Capital punishment and Latino offenders: Racial and ethnic differences in death sentences*. New York: LFB Scholarly Publishing.

Book Chapters:

- Urbina, Martin Guevara and Sofia Espinoza Alvarez (2015). "Situating the current state of research on Latino police and ethnic community in twenty-first century America." In *Latino police officers in the United States: An examination of emerging trends and issues*, edited by Martin Guevara Urbina and Sofia Espinoza Alvarez. Boulder, CO: Lynne Rienner Publishers.
- Alvarez, Sofia Espinoza and Martin Guevara Urbina (2015). "Bridging the gaps and future research: Thinking ahead." In *Latino police officers in the United States: An examination of emerging trends and issues*, edited by Martin Guevara Urbina and Sofia Espinoza Alvarez. Boulder, CO: Lynne Rienner Publishers.
- Urbina, Martin Guevara, Ferris Roger Byxbe, and Sofia Espinoza Alvarez (2015). "Policy recommendations: Toward a new police force." In *Latino police officers in the United States: An examination of emerging trends and issues*, edited by Martin Guevara Urbina and Sofia Espinoza Alvarez. Boulder, CO: Lynne Rienner Publishers.
- Alvarez, Sofia Espinoza and Martin Guevara Urbina (2015). "The future of Latino officers in the American police." In *Latino police officers in the United States: An examination of emerging trends and issues*, edited by Martin Guevara Urbina and Sofia Espinoza Alvarez. Boulder, CO: Lynne Rienner Publishers.
- Alvarez, Sofia Espinoza and Martin Guevara Urbina (2014). "From the shadows of the past: Revolutionizing multiculturalism in the midst of globalization—A twenty-first century challenge." In *Twenty-first century dynamics of multiculturalism: Beyond post-racial America*, edited by Martin Guevara Urbina. Springfield, IL: Charles C Thomas, Publisher Ltd.

- Urbina, Martin Guevara (2014). "It's a new world: The changing dynamics of multiculturalism." In *Twenty-first century dynamics of multiculturalism: Beyond post-racial America*, edited by Martin Guevara Urbina. Springfield, IL: Charles C Thomas, Publisher Ltd.
- Urbina, Martin Guevara (2014). "The future of U.S. multiculturalism: Si se puede." In *Twenty-first century dynamics of multiculturalism: Beyond post-racial America*, edited by Martin Guevara Urbina. Springfield, IL: Charles C Thomas, Publisher Ltd.
- Peña, Ilse Aglaé and Martin Guevara Urbina (2012). "The legacy of capital punishment: Executing Latinas and Latinos." In *Hispanics in the U.S. criminal justice system: The new American demography*, edited by Martin Guevara Urbina. Springfield, IL: Charles C Thomas, Publisher Ltd.
- Urbina, Martin Guevara (2012). "The dynamics of education and globalization in the new millennium: The unspoken realities." In *Hispanics in the U.S. criminal justice system: The new American demography*, edited by Martin Guevara Urbina. Springfield, IL: Charles C Thomas, Publisher Ltd.
- Urbina, Martin Guevara (2012). "Ethnic constructions: The making of the upcoming majority, Latinas and Latinos." In *Hispanics in the U.S. criminal justice system: The new American demography*, edited by Martin Guevara Urbina. Springfield, IL: Charles C Thomas, Publisher Ltd.
- Urbina, Martin Guevara (2012). "Indigent defendants and the barriers they face in the U.S. court system." In *Hispanics in the U.S. criminal justice system: The new American demography*, edited by Martin Guevara Urbina. Springfield, IL: Charles C Thomas, Publisher Ltd.
- Urbina, Martin Guevara (2012). "Life after prison: Ethnic, racial, and gender realities." In *Hispanics in the U.S. criminal justice system: The new American demography*, edited by Martin Guevara Urbina. Springfield, IL: Charles C Thomas, Publisher Ltd.
- Urbina, Martin Guevara (2012). "The American criminal justice system and the future of Latinos and Latinas." In *Hispanics in the U.S. criminal justice system: The new American demography*, edited by Martin Guevara Urbina. Springfield, IL: Charles C Thomas, Publisher Ltd.
- Nieling, Sara and Martin Guevara Urbina (2008). "Epilogue: Thoughts for the future." In *A comprehensive study of female offenders: Life before, during, and after incarceration*, by Martin Guevara Urbina. Springfield, IL: Charles C Thomas, Publisher Ltd.
- Urbina, Martin Guevara and Leslie Smith (2007). "Colonialism and its impact on Mexicans' experience of punishment in the United States." In *Race, gender, and punishment: From colonialism to the war on terror*, edited by Mary Bosworth and Jeanne Flavin. Piscataway, NJ: Rutgers University Press.

Refereed (Peer-Reviewed) Journal Articles:

- Urbina, Martin Guevara and Sofia Espinoza Alvarez (Forthcoming). "Neoliberalism, criminal justice, and Latinos: The contours of neoliberal economic thought and policy on criminalization." *Latino Studies*, in progress.

- Byxbe, Ferris Roger and Martin Guevara Urbina (2014). "The global epidemic of prescription drug abuse: The American experience." *International Journal of Liberal Arts and Social Science*, 2: 208-216.
- Byxbe, Ferris Roger and Martin Guevara Urbina (2013). "The globalization of crime in American schools: An assessment of emerging trends in the twenty-first century." *International Journal of Humanities and Social Science*, 2: 1-13.
- Byxbe, Ferris Roger and Martin Guevara Urbina (2013). "In loco parentis: The contours of the Fourth Amendment in American public schools." *International Journal of Arts and Commerce*, 2: 11-26.
- Urbina, Martin Guevara and Ferris Roger Byxbe (2012). "Capital punishment in America: Ethnicity, crime, and social justice." *International Journal of Humanities and Social Science*, 2: 13-29.
- Urbina, Martin Guevara and Ferris Roger Byxbe (2011). "Interacting forces in the judicial system: A case study in American criminal law." *International Journal of Humanities and Social Science*, 1: 141-154.
- Byxbe, Ferris and Martin Guevara Urbina (2011). "Sexual harassment: Crossing the lines within the ranks." *Police Forum*, 20: 4-12.
- Byxbe, Ferris, Martin Guevara Urbina, and Patricia Nicosia (2011). "Community oriented policing and partnerships: A recipe for success!" *Police Forum*, 20: 4-16.
- Urbina, Martin Guevara and William Sakamoto White (2009). "Waiving juveniles to criminal court: Court officials express their thoughts." *Social Justice: A Journal of Crime, Conflict & World Order*, 36: 122-139.
- Urbina, Martin Guevara (2007). "Latinas/os in the criminal and juvenile justice systems." *Critical Criminology: An International Journal*, 15: 41-99.
- Ruddell, Rick and Martin Guevara Urbina (2007). "Weak nations, political repression, and punishment." *International Criminal Justice Review*, 17: 84-107.
- Urbina, Martin Guevara (2005). "Transferring juveniles to adult court in Wisconsin: Practitioners voice their views." *Criminal Justice Studies: A Critical Journal of Crime, Law and Society*, 18: 147-172.
- Urbina, Martin Guevara (2004). "Language barriers in the Wisconsin court system: The Latino/a experience." *Journal of Ethnicity in Criminal Justice*, 2: 91-118.
- Urbina, Martin Guevara (2004). "A qualitative analysis of Latinos executed in the United States between 1975 and 1995: Who were they?" *Social Justice: A Journal of Crime, Conflict & World Order*, 31: 242-267.
- Urbina, Martin Guevara and Sara Kreitzer (2004). "The practical utility and ramifications of RICO: Thirty-two years after its implementation." *Criminal Justice Policy Review*, 15: 294-323.
- Ruddell, Rick and Martin Guevara Urbina (2004). "Minority threat and punishment: A cross-national analysis." *Justice Quarterly*, 21: 903-931.

Urbina, Martin Guevara (2003). "Race and ethnic differences in punishment and death sentence outcomes: Empirical analysis of data on California, Florida and Texas, 1975-1995." *Journal of Ethnicity in Criminal Justice*, 1: 5-35.

Urbina, Martin Guevara (2003). "The quest and application of historical knowledge in modern times: A critical view." *Criminal Justice Studies: A Critical Journal of Crime, Law and Society*, 16: 113-129.

Urbina, Martin Guevara (2002). "Furman and Gregg exist death row?: Un-weaving an old controversy." *The Justice Professional*, 15: 105-125.

Encyclopedia, Magazine, and Other Publications:

Alvarez, Sofia Espinoza and Martin Guevara Urbina (2014). "Capital punishment on trial: Who lives, who dies, who decides—A question of justice?" *Criminal Law Bulletin*, 50: 263-298.

Urbina, Martin Guevara (2014). "Education and globalization in the new millennium: The power to exclude and oppress." In progress.

Byxbe, Ferris Roger, Donna Byxbe, Martin Guevara Urbina, and Patricia Nicosia (2011). "Prescription drugs: Generation Rx in crisis." *LAE Journal*, 34-36.

Byxbe, Ferris, Martin Guevara Urbina, and Patricia Nicosia (2010). "Community oriented policing and partnerships: A recipe for success!" *LAE Journal*, 22-25. (A reprint.)

Urbina, Martin Guevara (2005). "Puerto Rican nationalists." *Encyclopedia of Prisons & Correctional Facilities*, Vol. 2: 796-798. Edited by Mary Bosworth. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications.

Urbina, Martin Guevara (2003). "Good teachers never die." *Hispanic Outlook in Higher Education Magazine*, 13: 31-32.

Urbina, Martin Guevara (2002). "Death sentence outcomes." *Encyclopedia of Crime and Punishment*, Vol 2: 482-485. Edited by David Levinson. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications.

Weekly Assignments:

There will be ten (10) *Weekly Assignments*, each worth 10 points for a total of 100 points. The "Weekly Assignments" will be discussed further the first week of class. Please do NOT panic! Handouts will be posted to assist you as you prepare your weekly assignments.

Activities/Participation:

Please complete the **reading** assignments as assigned to avoid falling behind, and, more fundamentally, to capture the essence of the class. During the semester, I will be posting a question or a statement for you to **respond** (100 points) and post for ALL students to read. Again, please do NOT panic! If you do the reading, you should be fine. Participation in these "exercises" will be equated into your final grade.

Book/Article Reviews:

For your *Book/Article Reviews* you are asked to read and make critical judgment about three (3) books/articles (20 points each). In particular, select your readings (1 book and 2 articles OR 2 books and 1 article) from the followings lists (see above): “Optional Readings” and “Recommended Readings.” **Note:** Some exceptions will be noted in class!

As you will see, the books vary in length. Hence, be prudent about the size of the books vis-a-vis your class load. In the Book/Article Reviews for this course, keep in mind that you are limited to 3 typed pages. The logistics of the Book/Article Reviews will be discussed in class and handouts will be posted to assist you with the writing assignments.

Required Project:

The logistics of the project, which will be submitted as a formal paper, will be discussed in detailed during the first part of the class. Illustration: some agencies allow citizens to go in and observe. Some law enforcement agencies, for instance, allow “ride alongs.” Hence, you could arrange to participate in a series of “field” activities. At the end of the shift/session, write down what you observed. Describe how it compares with what you have learned in class (like, deviant behavior, life under probation or parole supervision, policy implications and consequences). For instance, based on your observations, what are the links between probation/parole, media, age, gender, race, ethnicity, research, and practice?

Your project, which is **required** (100 points), **will be shared with the rest of the class at the end of the semester**, allowing other students to provide feedback (vis-à-vis a short reaction comments), if time allows. Papers (approximately 8 to 12 pages in length) must be typed. Late papers will **not** be accepted. Do not submit (post) your only copy of any paper without **saving** your essay in case assignments are lost or destroyed. In effect, make sure that you have a backup copy of the latest version. Note: The project will be discussed further in class.

Mini-project:

This should be a fun exercise that allows you to explore (critically) some aspect of human behavior as it pertain to **Probation or Parole** in greater depth with less evaluation anxiety than you would have in a full-length paper assignment. I would like you to try to and choose a project that you will enjoy, and that will stimulate your thinking about the concepts covered in this course.

Mini-projects are **optional**. You will receive “extra credit” points for completing mini-projects. If your mini-project is **adequate**, you will receive one percentage point. This point(s) will be added on to your final grade at the end of the semester.

You may turn in your mini-projects any time during the semester. The projects will be of greater value if they are done thoughtfully. Thus, you may not submit more than three (3) mini-projects.

There is no minimum or maximum length requirement. Typically you will submit a three to five page typed paper as the final product of each mini-project. Some projects, however, may require longer (or shorter) write-ups. Your analysis should illustrate or explore some phenomenon relevant to the course, while knowledgeably using concepts, principles, and language in the context of **Probation and Parole**.

Attached to the end of the syllabus are descriptions of some mini-project options. Some of them will make more sense to you as we progress through the course. If you think of an **alternative** you would like to do as a mini-project, please feel free to ask me about it. Again, I am looking for you to implement class material—especially critical issues/perspectives—when describing the phenomena you choose to explore.

Make-up Work: A **tentative** schedule of assignment will be provided (posted) at the beginning of the semester. However, it is possible that the schedule will be **modified** during the semester. Hence, if you fail to log on as discussed herein, it is the student’s responsibility to check with the Professor (or the Professor’s website) regularly to determine the deadlines for weekly readings, assignments, and activities. To this end, as noted above, make-up exercises will NOT be given, unless otherwise specified. For missed readings, weekly assignments and activities (i.e., “special circumstances”), it is the student’s responsibilities to find out what make-up work is required. If you have any difficulties getting the assignments or making the deadlines, please contact me right way.

Note: Unless otherwise specified, all assignments and activities are due on the scheduled due date. **No late assignments will be accepted.**

Grades: There are a total of 360 points available in this course. Grades will be based on the total points for the semester. Specifically, grades will be assigned by comparing your performance to the best possible score (360) as follows:

| | |
|---------------------------|-------------------|
| Weekly Assignments: | 100 points* |
| Book/Article Reviews: | 60 points |
| Required Project: | 100 points |
| Activities/Participation: | 100 points** |
| | ----- |
| Total..... | 360 points |

*Tentatively, Weekly Assignments will count for 100 points. However, it is possible that the total possible points (i.e., 100) will be increased, or reduced. If increased, the TOTAL POSSIBLE points discussed herein (i.e., 360) will add to more than 360 points. If reduced, the TOTAL POSSIBLE points discussed herein (i.e., 660) will add to less than 360 points.

Similarly, if the 100 Activities and Participation points are either increased or reduced, only the total possible points for Activities/Participation that are utilized will be equated in the final grade distribution. In such case, the TOTAL POSSIBLE points discussed herein (i.e., 360) will add to less (or more) than 360 points. **Note: Mini-project points will be added to your point total at the end of the course.

Grade Distribution:

| | |
|-----------|---------------------------|
| 90-100% | = A (Excellent) |
| 80-89% | = B (Better than Average) |
| 70-79% | = C (Average) |
| 60-69% | = D (Below Average) |
| Below 60% | = Failing |

Please be aware of **class expectations, rules, and University/College Policies**, which follow:

Attendance Policy:

This course is “**Web**” based. Students are expected to log-on regularly, check the calendar for due dates and respond to all emails. Thus, it is to your advantage to log-on regularly. For instance, if you do not participate, you cannot learn the discussed material. Additionally, you will not be able to discuss the assigned readings. Much of the learning in class is through discussion with other students. In the process, feel free to ask questions and/or make comments that might enhance our understanding of *Probation and Parole* and related issues. Also, do not hesitate to share experiences that may help to enhance our understanding of the nature and significance of deviant behavior within the context of the criminal justice system. (Please reference Sul Ross State University—Rio Grande College Catalog for additional information.)

Punctuality: It is of extreme importance that you complete the readings and writing assignments on time to avoid falling behind. I understand that it is not possible at times, but please do not make it a routine.

Classroom etiquette: Above all, always **respect** yourself and others; be **patient**; be willing to explore new ideas (perspectives); and restrict questions and comments to the topic being discussed.

Incomplete Grades:

PLEASE AVOID INCOMPLETE GRADES. ALL ASSIGNMENTS ARE DUE ON THE DATES OUTLINED IN THE SYLLABUS. It is the responsibility of students to notify the Professor if they cannot make an assignment or will not be able to log-on to the class. Please call me at 830/758-5017 if you do not plan to participate in a class discussion question or feel you will be missing an assignment. If I do not hear from you in regards to missed assignments, I will not allow an excuse for the missed work.

Class Responsibilities and Conduct:

You will be responsible for all information posted anytime during the semester. You will be responsible for obtaining announcements or amendments you may have missed. Any student who is intentionally abusive, disruptive, or disrespectful vis-à-vis posted discussions, activities, or emails will be asked immediately amend such communication, AND possibly dropped from the course. Any student who has been asked to amend “unjustified” communication twice will be reported to the Department Chair or Academic Dean. You are expected to show respect to yourself, other students, and your Professor.

Academic Honesty (Reference Sul Ross State University—Rio Grande College Catalog):

Rio Grande College expects its students to maintain high standards of personal and academic conduct. Students who take part in academic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary action. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work, plagiarism, collusion, and the abuse of resource materials. The faculty member is responsible for initiating action for each case of academic dishonesty. Discover any academic dishonesty by a student, may be reported to the Department Chair or Academic Dean.

Disability Services:

Students who have special instructional needs because of a physical handicap or a learning disability should discuss their special needs with the office of Student Disabilities Services. You may also see the University/College Catalog for more information. Please do so before the end of the first week of class.

Drop Policy:

If you discover that you need to drop this class, you must contact the Records Office and ask for the necessary paperwork. Professors cannot drop students; this is always the responsibility of the student. The Record's Office will give a deadline for which the paperwork and form, if required, must be returned, complete and signed. If you discover that you are still enrolled, FOLLOW-UP with the Records Office immediately. You are to attend class until the procedure is complete to avoid penalty for absence. Should you miss the deadline or fail to follow the procedure, you will receive an **F** in the course.

Library Services:

Library information and technology focus on research skills that prepare individuals to live and work in an information-centered society. Librarians will work with students in the development of critical reasoning, ethical use of information, and the appropriate use of secondary research techniques including: exploring information resources such as library collections and services, identify sources such as subject databases and scholarly journals, executing effective search strategies, retrieving, recording, and citing relevant results correctly, and interpreting search results and deciding whether to expand the search.

The Rio Grande College Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP):

Sul Ross State University Rio Grande College is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS). As part of the reaffirmation process, SACS requires every institution to develop a Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) that enhances student learning. Rio Grande College has developed a QEP called *Putting Your Words to Work* that requires students to write different kinds of papers and deliver oral presentations for courses in all departments. Rio Grande College is committed to enhancing students' written and oral communication skills which means that students should be writing and speaking significantly more in courses across all departments.

To prepare for the increased number of written assignments, students should make every effort to enroll in English 3312 in their first semester at RGC. Students should expect to write and speak professionally in all courses, not just English classes. In this course, **Probation and Parole**, students will write various papers and present student work to other students and the Professor, as discussed herein. If you have questions about the QEP, please contact Dr. Sarah Moreman, QEP Coordinator, at smoreman@sulross.edu.

Again, I want this class to be useful to you in your future careers. As such, if I can assist you in any way, please stop by and see me or call/e-mail me. If a problem is to arise during the semester, please contact me immediately so that we can work out a solution. Do not wait until it is too late to remedy the problem.

Tentative*
Schedule of Classes and Assignments

| Week | Topic | Reading |
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| Week 1 | Focus: Detail class expectations; provide a foundation for the study of corrections; & provide an introduction & broad overview of the subject matter: probation and parole. | |
| Week 2 | Probation history & administration Focus: Detail major forces defining and shaping the historical evolution of probation and parole: academic, theoretical, cultural, social, financial, political, philosophical, and ideological. | Chapters 1 & 2 |
| Week 3 | Sentencing & the pre-sentence investigation Focus: Examine procedural mechanisms of pre-sentencing investigations; and the elements of the sentencing stage for defendants, paying particular attention to the implications of modern technological advances. | Chapter 3 |
| Week 4 | The probation officer & juvenile justice Focus: Analyze the functions and objectives of probation officers within the juvenile justice system, with an emphasis on the most pressing issues currently confronting juvenile justice. | Chapter 4 |
| Week 5 | The American prison system Focus: Evaluate how probation and parole fits within the penal system; then show how the correctional system, to include probation and parole, fits in the broader legal sphere of the criminal justice system. | Chapter 5 |
| Week 6 | Parole & the indeterminate sentence Focus: Detail the functions and expectations of indeterminate sentences, vis-à-vis other types of penal sanctions. Explore possible alternatives, which might be more effective. | Chapter 6 |
| Week 7 | “Reflection Week”: Focus: “Reflection Week” is designed to give students the opportunity to reflect (think and act) on what has transpired during the first half of the semester, and, more fundamentally, how things “fits” into their broader academic career, professional life, and personal life. | |
| Week 8 | Movie: <i>The Shawshank Redemption</i> Mid-Term Exam Focus: The selected movie gives students a vivid illustration implications and significance of the penal system as a formal sanction for criminal behavior. | |
| Week 9 | Parole administration & services Focus: Detail the duties and responsibilities of parole administration; and evaluates service delivery for people on probation or parole. What a focal question in mind: what remains to be done to improve this particular area of corrections? | Chapter 7 |

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| Week 10 | Rehabilitation theory & practice Focus: Theoretically and pragmatically, how effective is rehabilitation on individuals placed on probation or parole? What additions or modifications can be made to improve rehabilitation objectives and expectations? | Chapter 8 |
| Week 11 | Probation & parole officers Focus: Detail the characteristics of probation and parole officers; analyze their duties, responsibilities, and objectives. With a central question in mind: what are the most crucial issues currently facing probation and parole officers? | Chapter 9 |
| Week 12 | Probation & parole supervision Focus: Examine the elements, fundamental, objectives, and expectations of probation and parole supervision. With a crucial question: what is working and what is not working? | Chapter 10 |
| Week 13 | Special problems & programs in probation & parole Projects are due Focus: Examine critical problems and programs in the area of probation and parole; what programs should stay and what programs should be eliminated? With a focal question in mind: what are the best avenues for resolving the existing problems? | Chapter 11 |
| Week 14 | Intermediate punishments Focus: Explore the formalities, expectations, and effectiveness of intermediate sanctions. Central question: what modifications can be made to improve intermediate sanctions, and the correctional system as a whole? | Chapter 12 |
| Week 15 | Conclusion: Reflections and thoughts for the future Focus: As the final week of regular class, the various topics discussed during the semester will tied together, placing them within a broader framework; that is, globalization, to include the globalization of knowledge. Concluding with recommendations for the future, as we continue the discourse on probation and parole. | Concluding chapter Article by Urbina |
| Week 16 | Final Exam: TBA | |

*The syllabus is likely to be **amended** during the semester at the discretion of the Professor!

Note: Projects will be due at the beginning of the class, and no late assignments will be accepted. Please check Calendar on Blackboard for **due dates!**

Mini-Project Suggestions

1. With fellow students, family members, or friends, discuss what you consider to be the main benefits and ramifications of probation and parole.
2. With fellow students, family members, boy-friends, or girl-friends, discuss possible reform strategies in the penal system, particularly in the areas of probation and parole.
3. As a scholar of criminal justice, develop what YOU see as a **model** in either probation or parole. As any formal proposal, think about who is likely to support your proposed model, and who is likely to “attack” your plan.
4. With other criminal justice scholars, explore the sensitive and polemic argument of placing juvenile on either probation or parole, particularly those being waived to criminal court to be prosecuted as adults. (Note: you might want to read Urbina’s publications on juvenile waivers.)
5. Watch a documentary, video, or movie pertaining to either probation or parole then compare and contrast with what you’ve learn in class.