

**Community Corrections (SOC 345)**  
**Syllabus Fall 2020**

**Important Note:** This syllabus, along with course assignments and due dates, are subject to change. It is the student's responsibility to check Canvas for corrections or updates to the syllabus. Any changes will be clearly noted in a course announcement and/or through email.

**Course Information**

**INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION**

**Instructor:** Barb Jascor

**Office:** N/A this semester

**Virtual Office Hours:** *By appointment (please email or call my cell to schedule a meeting)*

**Office Telephone:** (715)572-1927

**E-mail:** [bjascor@uwsp.edu](mailto:bjascor@uwsp.edu)

**COURSE INFORMATION**

**Course Description:** An introduction to the field of Community Corrections including sentencing, probation, parole, fines, community service, and intermediate sanctions such as intensive supervision, house arrest/electronic monitoring, and boot camps.

Following a brief overview into the history of corrections, this course will highlight critical issues and trends in community corrections within today's criminal justice system. Particular emphasis will be placed on the assessment and evaluation of offenders, the availability and access to intermediate sanctions, and the supervision of those placed on community supervision. Through a variety of course assignments, students will be exposed to the "daily life" of a probation and parole agent.

**Credits:** 3

**Prerequisite:** none.

**Course Structure:** This course will be delivered entirely online through the course management system Canvas. You will use your UWSP account to login to the course from the [Canvas Login Page](#). If you have not activated your UWSP account, please visit the [Manage Your Account](#) page to do so.

**Textbook & Course Materials**

**Required Text:** Essentials of Community Corrections, Robert D. Hanser (2019). SAGE Publications, Inc., ISBN 9781506359762 \*\* this book is available via the college bookstore as a text rental.

**Course Learning Outcomes**

- Students will be able to examine modern day application of the primary goals of Corrections, with emphasis on those impacting community-based supervision.
- Students will be able to describe the legal framework under which Probation, Parole, and Extended Supervision function within today's criminal justice system.
- Students will demonstrate an awareness of key legal rulings related to community corrections.
- Students will describe how probation conditions are modified and under what circumstances.
- Students will examine how the use of contemporary sentencing philosophies differ from traditional criminal justice practices and the resulting impact on the offender, victim and community.
- Students will apply contemporary assessment and evaluation practice in the formulation of an offender case plan.

- Students will apply effective supervision strategies given a variety of case studies.
- Students will apply evidence-based practice in the evaluation of a community corrections program.
- Students will reflect upon the importance of cultural competence within community corrections.

You will meet the outcomes listed above through a combination of the following activities in this course: written assignments, discussion boards, individual projects, small group activities and quizzes/exam(s).

### **Chapter Order:**

This course is broken into three separate units (identified below). At the direction of UWSP leadership, this course has been modified from an in-person course to fully online instruction. Regardless of delivery modality, the content of the course will be split into the following units:

- Unit One: Chapters 1, 2, 4, 8, 9
- Unit Two: Chapters 3, 6, 7, 5
- Unit Three: Chapters 10, 11, 12, 13.

You will notice that in both unit 1 and 2 the orders for chapter reading do not follow in sequence as outlined by the author. ***Important Note:*** Refer to the Canvas course announcement page for the most up to date information related to updated course information. Assigned readings, discussion boards, and assignment details will be explained in detail within the Assignment links for the related chapter. If you have any questions, please contact your instructor.

### **Student Expectations**

In order to help you know course expectations, the following tasks will be required throughout the course:

- Utilize a computer to conduct research &/or basic internet searches.
- Download and upload documents to Canvas
- Read documents online
- View online videos
- Complete quizzes &/or tests online.
- Upload documents to Canvas to submit an assignment &/or exam.
- Participate in asynchronous online discussions. In some situations, synchronous online discussions may be required or necessary to complete an assignment.

### **EVALUATION DATA:**

**Chapter Readings:** A key to student success in this course is completing the chapter readings weekly as assigned. Throughout the semester, assigned learning activities will connect to the weekly readings. The assignment will serve as both a graded activity and as a foundation for online discussion. All assignments will be submitted via Canvas when due. To help the student anticipate the required assignment a Unit Schedule will be posted within the unit Module at the beginning of each unit. The point value of assignments will be identified on each assignment and exam.

**NOTE:** In reality, by semester end, the assignments connected to the readings will equate to the point value of an exam. Thus, students are strongly encouraged to not overlook the importance of homework.

## Discussion Boards:

- A. Current Events Discussion Board:** Each student will be assigned ONE week for which they are responsible to present on a 'Current Events in Corrections" (for this assignment, *Current* is defined as within the past 9 months). The chosen item **must** pertain to the assigned topic for this class (as much as possible, topics will align to the chapter assigned for a given week). Students may elect to include a link to media to illustrate their topic; however, "PG" content is a requirement. Additional directions will be posted to the Current Event Discussion Board. Grading will be based upon relevance, appropriateness to audience, organization and the overall preparedness of the student for the presentation. Point value: 25 points. The original post will be due on Thursday evening by 6:30 p.m. and remain open for classmates to post until the following Monday at 7:00 p.m.
- B. Chapter Discussion board:** In order for any online course to be successful, it is essential that all students remain engaged, even from a distance. Therefore, each week, I will post a discussion prompt related to the chapter content, including directions for student response. To help guide you in your response, Initial posts should be limited to no more than 250 words. Grading will be based upon critical thinking, organization, and connection to class content. Follow-up posts should be limited to no longer than 200 words. **Grade value: 8-12 points per week.** There is an expectation that the initial post is completed by Friday evening at 9:00 p.m., followed by TWO follow-up posts by all students to that of your peers. Note: each week the discussion board will close on Monday evening at 7:00 p.m. in order to allow time to begin the next chapter reading. In summary: each week plan to post a minimum of 3 times; one = original post. Two posts to original posts from your peers.

**Exams:** Throughout the semester unit assessments will occur. A final exam, based upon cumulative content, will occur at semester end. As you prepare for an exam, student collaboration is permitted; however, each exam submission is INDIVIDUAL. Therefore, no two submissions should look remotely similar. The point value of exams will vary. Quizzes may be utilized throughout the course to assess student's progress in the course.

**Mini-Projects:** As an alternative to a comprehensive research paper, this course will include the completion of two mini-projects. One will be due in mid-October; the second will be due near the end of November. Due dates, along with detailed directions will be provided to the students early in the semester. The goal of each project will be to explore in depth a topic related to Community Corrections. NOTE: each mini-project is worth 50 points, of which 5 points is awarded based upon the student completion of a self-evaluation utilizing a scoring rubric provided.

**FINAL EXAM:** This course will have a cumulative assessment at the conclusion of the semester. Due to the uncertainty of Covid, more details regarding the final assessment will be shared as we approach the end of term.

*NOTE: While every effort has been made to identify planned assessment activities, the instructor reserves the right to adjust (add or removed planned evaluation activities) based upon the progress of the class. Any changes will be shared with the class.*

**Instructor Assistance:** Due to Covid, I will offer virtual office hours this semester by appointment. The easiest method to reach me is to call my cell phone (listed on page one). Please do not hesitate to call

me if have questions on an assignment, if you are seeking feedback on a graded activity, or if you will be absent from the online course for more than a few days. If I do not answer, please leave a message.

**COURSE POLICIES:**

**PARTICIPATION:** In order to gain the most out of an online course, the expectation of this instructor is that students will make every effort to actively participate each week as scheduled. Students are expected to demonstrate commitment to the learning process and accept responsibility for the outcome of the effort they put forth in this class. Students are responsible for any content they missed when absent from class, including in a virtual class environment.

**LATE WORK POLICY:** All assignments for this course will be submitted electronically through Canvas. Assignments must be submitted by the given deadline or special permission must be requested from instructor *before the due date*. All discussion board assignments must be completed by the assignment due date and time. Due to the format of the online discussion board, make-up work related to missed discussion boards are not permitted.

In the event you are absent from class (even in an online environment), you are still responsible to submit your assignment on or before the scheduled due date. Any other arrangement must receive prior permission from the instructor. Late assignments will be assessed a penalty (2 points per day for weekly assignment; 5% per day for mini-project). Assignments will not be accepted more than one week beyond the scheduled date due unless prior arrangements have been made with the instructor. The intent of this policy is to treat all students consistently and fair.

**GRADE:** Your grade will be based on a cumulative percentage as follows:

A	=	94 – 100%	C	=	74 – 76%
A-	=	90 – 93%	C-	=	70 -73%
B+	=	87 – 89%	D+	=	67 - 69%
B	=	84 – 86%	D	=	64 - 66%
B-	=	80 – 83%	D-	=	60 - 63%
C+	=	77 – 79%	F	=	Below 60%

**NOTE:** Viewing Grades in Canvas: Points you receive for graded activities will be posted to Grades. Click on the Grades link to view your points.

**HOMEWORK FORMAT:** All assignments are to be completed using “single space, size 12 font” for all assignments. Students are highly encouraged to proofread your papers prior to submission to ensure your work reflects your own effort and best effort. All assignments will be submitted via Canvas.

**Expected Instructor Response Times & General Course Questions:**

Throughout the semester, I will attempt to respond to student emails within 24-48 hours. If you have not received a reply from me within 48 hours, please resend your email or message. I will attempt to grade written work within 72 hours of the posted due date; however, longer written assignments may take me longer to read and assess.

**MISCELLANEOUS:** Students are encouraged to do independent research on the subject of Community Corrections. Students are encouraged to share this information during classroom activities. This class is

intended to be engaging. In order for this to occur, students are encouraged to take an active role in participating in class each week, complete out of class readings/learning activities, participate in class discussions / small group activities, ask questions, seek answers, and challenge yourself to learn new ideas. We will read the text near entirety.

### **Netiquette Guidelines:**

Netiquette is a set of rules for behaving properly online. Your instructor and fellow students wish to foster a safe online learning environment. All opinions and experiences, no matter how different or controversial they may be perceived, must be respected in the tolerant spirit of academic discourse. You are encouraged to comment, question, or critique an idea but you are not to attack an individual. Working as a community of learners, we can build a polite and respectful course community.

The following netiquette tips will enhance the learning experience for everyone in the course:

- Allow other students the opportunity to join in the discussion. Avoid dominating any one thread.
- Do not use offensive language. Present ideas appropriately.
- Be cautious in using Internet language. For example, do not capitalize all letters since this suggests shouting. Avoid using vernacular and/or slang language as this can lead to misinterpretation. Similarly, emojis such as 😊 can be helpful to convey your tone but do not overdo or overuse them.
- Never make fun of someone's ability to read or write.
- Keep an "open-mind" and be willing to express even your minority opinion. Minority opinions have to be respected.
- Think and edit before you push the "Send" button.
- Do not hesitate to ask for feedback.
- Using humor is acceptable.

### Adapted from:

Mintu-Wimsatt, A., Kernek, C., & Lozada, H. R. (2010). *Netiquette: Make it part of your syllabus*. Journal of Online Learning and Teaching, 6(1). Retrieved from [http://jolt.merlot.org/vol6no1/mintu-wimsatt\\_0310.htm](http://jolt.merlot.org/vol6no1/mintu-wimsatt_0310.htm)

Shea, V. (1994). Netiquette. Albion.com. Retrieved from: <http://www.albion.com/netiquette/book/>.

### **Build Rapport**

If you find that you have any trouble keeping up with assignments or other aspects of the course, make sure you let your instructor know as early as possible. As you will find, building rapport and effective relationships are key to becoming an effective professional. Make sure that you are proactive in informing your instructor when difficulties arise during the semester so that we can help you find a solution.

### **Technology:**

#### **Protecting your Data and Privacy**

UW-System approved tools meet security, privacy, and data protection standards. For a list of approved tools, visit this website. <https://www.wisconsin.edu/dle/external-application-integration-requests/>

Tools not listed on the website linked above may not meet security, privacy, and data protection standards. If you have questions about tools, contact the UWSP IT Service Desk at 715-346-4357.

Here are steps you can take to protect your data and privacy.

- Use different usernames and passwords for each service you use
- Do not use your UWSP username and password for any other services
- Use secure versions of websites whenever possible (HTTPS instead of HTTP)
- Have updated antivirus software installed on your devices

**NOTE:** This course requires posting of work online that is viewable only by your classmates. None of the work submitted online is intended to be shared publicly. By participating in these assignments, you are giving consent to sharing of your work with others in this class and you recognize there is a small risk of your work being shared online beyond the purposes of this course. If you elect to not participate in these online assignments due to confidentiality concerns, then an alternate assignment will be offered to you. [UWSP Handbook Chapter 9 Section 5]


### Course Technology Requirements

View this website to see [minimum recommended computer and internet configurations for Canvas](#). A stable internet connection is vital (don't rely on cellular). In addition, you may need access to the following tools to participate in this course: a webcam and a microphone.

### UWSP Technology Support

- Visit with a [Student Technology Tutor](#)
- Seek assistance from the [IT Service Desk](#) (Formerly HELP Desk)
  - o IT Service Desk Phone: 715-346-4357 (HELP)
  - o IT Service Desk Email: [techhelp@uwsp.edu](mailto:techhelp@uwsp.edu)

### Canvas Support

Click on the  button in the global (left) navigation menu and note the options that appear:

Support Options	Explanations
<a href="#">Ask Your Instructor a Question</a> Submit a question to your instructor	Use <b>Ask Your Instructor a Question</b> sparingly; technical questions are best reserved for Canvas personnel and help as detailed below.
<a href="#">Chat with Canvas Support (Student)</a> Live Chat with Canvas Support 24x7!	<b>Chatting with Canvas Support (Student)</b> will initiate a <i>text chat</i> with Canvas support. Response can be qualified with severity level.
<a href="#">Contact Canvas Support via email</a> Canvas support will email a response	<b>Contacting Canvas Support via email</b> will allow you to explain in detail or even upload a screenshot to show your particular difficulty.
<a href="#">Contact Canvas Support via phone</a> Find the phone number for your institution	Calling the Canvas number will let Canvas know that you're from UWSP; phone option is available 24/7.
<a href="#">Search the Canvas Guides</a> Find answers to common questions	<b>Searching the <a href="#">Canvas guides</a></b> connects you to documents that are searchable by issue. You may also opt for <a href="#">Canvas video guides</a> .
<a href="#">Submit a Feature Idea</a> Have an idea to improve Canvas?	If you have an idea for Canvas that might make instructions or navigation easier, feel free to offer your thoughts through this <b>Submit a Feature Idea</b> avenue.

## **General Information regarding UWSP course enrollment & support:**

### **Understand When You May Drop This Course**

It is the student's responsibility to understand when they need to consider unenrolling from a course. Refer to the UWSP [Academic Calendar](#) for dates and deadlines for registration. After this period, a serious and compelling reason is required to drop from the course. Serious and compelling reasons includes: (1) documented and significant change in work hours, leaving student unable to attend class, or (2) documented and severe physical/mental illness/injury to the student or student's family.

### **Incomplete Policy**

Under emergency/special circumstances, students may petition for an incomplete grade. Eligibility for an incomplete grade will follow college policy/procedure.

### **Inform Your Instructor of Any Accommodations Needed**

If you have a documented disability and verification from the [Disability and Assistive Technology Center](#) and wish to discuss academic accommodations, please contact your instructor as soon as possible. It is the student's responsibility to provide documentation of disability to Disability Services and meet with a Disability Services counselor to request special accommodation *before* classes start.

The Disability and Assistive Technology Center is located in 609 Albertson Hall and can be contacted by phone at (715) 346-3365 (Voice) (715) 346-3362 (TDD only) or via email at [datctr@uwsp.edu](mailto:datctr@uwsp.edu).

### **Statement of Policy**

UW-Stevens Point will modify academic program requirements as necessary to ensure that they do not discriminate against qualified applicants or students with disabilities. The modifications should not affect the substance of educational programs or compromise academic standards; nor should they intrude upon academic freedom. Examinations or other procedures used for evaluating students' academic achievements may be adapted. The results of such evaluation must demonstrate the student's achievement in the academic activity, rather than describe his/her disability.

*If modifications are required due to a disability, please inform the instructor and contact the Disability and Assistive Technology Center in 609 ALB, or (715) 346-3365.*

### **Commit to Integrity**

As a student in this course (and at this university) you are expected to maintain high degrees of professionalism, commitment to active learning and participation in this class and also integrity in your behavior in and out of the classroom.

## **UWSP Academic Honesty Policy & Procedures**

### **Student Academic Disciplinary Procedures**

UWSP 14.01 Statement of principles

The board of regents, administrators, faculty, academic staff and students of the university of Wisconsin system believe that academic honesty and integrity are fundamental to the mission of higher education and of the university of Wisconsin system. The university has a responsibility to promote academic honesty and integrity and to develop procedures to deal effectively with instances of academic dishonesty. Students are responsible for the honest completion and representation of their work, for the appropriate citation of sources, and for respect of others' academic endeavors. Students who violate these standards must be confronted and must accept the consequences of their actions.

## UWSP 14.03 Academic misconduct subject to disciplinary action.

- (1) Academic misconduct is an act in which a student:
  - (a) Seeks to claim credit for the work or efforts of another without authorization or citation;
  - (b) Uses unauthorized materials or fabricated data in any academic exercise;
  - (c) Forges or falsifies academic documents or records;
  - (d) Intentionally impedes or damages the academic work of others;
  - (e) Engages in conduct aimed at making false representation of a student's academic performance;or
  - (f) Assists other students in any of these acts.
  
- (2) Examples of academic misconduct include, but are not limited to: cheating on an examination; collaborating with others in work to be presented, contrary to the stated rules of the course; 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; submitting a paper or assignment that contains ideas or research of others without appropriately identifying the sources of those ideas; stealing examinations or course materials; submitting, if contrary to the rules of a course, work previously presented in another course; tampering with the laboratory experiment or computer program of another student; knowingly and intentionally assisting another student in any of the above, including assistance in an arrangement whereby any work, classroom performance, examination or other activity is submitted or performed by a person other than the student under whose name the work is submitted or performed.

**Intellectual Property:** Lecture materials and recordings for the Community Corrections class for which you are enrolled are protected as intellectual property at UW-Stevens Point. Students in this course may use the materials and recordings for their personal use related to participation in this class. Students may also take notes solely for their personal use. If a lecture is not already recorded, you are not authorized to record my lectures without my permission unless you are considered by the university to be a qualified student with a disability requiring accommodation. [Regent Policy Document 4-1]. Students may not copy or share lecture materials outside of class, including posting on internet sites or selling to commercial entities. Students are prohibited from providing or selling their personal notes to anyone else or being paid for taking notes by any person or commercial firm without the instructor's express permission. Unauthorized use of these copyrighted lecture materials and recordings constitutes copyright infringement and may be addressed under the university's policies, UWS Chapters 14 and 17, governing student academic and non-academic misconduct.

### **Religious Beliefs**

Relief from any academic requirement due to religious beliefs will be accommodated according to UWS 22.03, with notification within the first three weeks of class.