

SOC 2211S+GE: Corrections
Final Paper Guidelines
Due Dates: Wednesday, December 4 (Inside Students) and Friday, December 6
(Outside Students)

The final paper will have two main dimensions to it: **process** and **content**. Your general task is to consider the entire experience shared by the class over the past semester and write about, in detail, several observations of our experience. In this paper you will explain and analyze what we learned this semester.

Section One: Process

In the first part of the paper, specifically focus on the following issues (you may do these items in any order):

- 1) the **group dynamics** (in themselves) and how/whether these dynamics seemed to change over the course of the semester -- and why
- 2) your own **individual process**, including your participation in the class, as well as your reflections on and feelings about the whole experience -- note any shifts that may have taken place in how you look at things; be sure to explain the effect that this experience has had on you
- 3) **perceptions of others** and how these perceptions might have changed (for example, your perceptions about other individuals, as well as their perceptions of you)
- 4) your observations about **prison life**, both from our discussions and from going in and out of the facility on a weekly basis (**for outside students only**). **Be sure to address** how the concepts and empirical research we read and discussed supports and/or fails to support the realities of your weekly experiences in the prison (**Expected Learning Outcome 1**).

Section Two: Content

Part I: We explored the following **topics** during some of our sessions together:

- 1) the role of prisons (what are prisons for?)
- 2) criminological influences (why do people commit crime?)
- 3) myths and realities of prison life
- 3) a critical analysis of the criminal justice system (police, courts, parole, etc.)
- 4) punishment and rehabilitation

- 5) victims and victimization
- 6) restorative justice and new directions

Please take at least FOUR of these topics and, supported by the assigned readings, explain what you have come to understand about each one. Focus especially on new dimensions of the topic that you have come to realize through the course discussions and/or the readings. Demonstrate your understanding of the issues, resources, assets, and cultures of the prison environment (**Expected Learning Outcome 2**).

Part II:

Explore – at some length – the group project idea your class created to address one or more elements of the criminal justice system in the state of Ohio. Tie in quotes from the readings.

Discuss at least three important issues that emerged **for you** in our development of the group project ideas. Be sure, as with all of Section Two, to tie in quotes from the readings.

IF YOU WISH..... you can do this section in the following format. Cover each of the issues that you were going to cover, but write it as a memo to those who are making the decisions at ODRC and SCC. For example, it could start out something like this: “To ODRC Director Gary C Mohr/ SCC Warden Sheri Duffey -- After extensive study of the issues, I would like to mention the following points for your consideration.” Then, you would discuss the points that are of concern to you, while trying to be as convincing as possible in your argument.

Specifications of the Paper:

The paper should be at least 10 pages in length for the outside students (typed, double-spaced, with one-inch margins, **bolded quotes**, and references) and 15 pages for the inside students (only write on one side of the page and skip lines; if you are typing your paper, it should follow the typed guidelines above). You must incorporate at least 15 quotes (with citations) from the readings in the content portion of the paper (Section Two).

Please take your time planning and writing this paper so that the result has the depth that it deserves. Provide **an introduction and conclusion**. The introduction AND/OR the conclusion must give concrete examples of the impact that the Inside-Out experience has had on you, your classmates, and the contributions that you have made to the goals and aims of SCC/ODRC (Expected Learning Outcome 3).

The paper will have five parts:

- 1) Introduction
- 2) Section One -- Process
- 3) Section Two, Part I -- Content (Topics)
- 4) Section Two, Part II -- Content (Group Project)
- 5) Conclusion