GROSSMONT COLLEGE

Official Course Outline

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE 143 – GANGS AND LAW ENFORCEMENT

1. Course Number Course Title Semester Units Semester Hours

AOJ 143 Gangs and Law 3 3 hours lecture: 48-54 hours

Enforcement 96-108 outside-of-class hours

144-162 total hours

2. Course Prerequisites

None

Corequisite

None

Recommended Preparation

None.

3. Catalog Description

This course is designed to provide students with a base of knowledge as it relates to the impact of gangs in both correctional and community settings. It includes a review of the types of gangs, history, and criminal activities associated with gangs.

4. Course Objectives

The student will:

1. Describe and discuss the history and evolution of gangs in society.
2. Analyze current gang problems, concepts of gang membership, and implications of gang activity on society.
3. Describe and discuss the principles and techniques of gang intervention.
4. Relate contemporary gang issues to law enforcement and corrections theory and practice.
5. Analyze intervention, suppression, and prevention modalities used to target community and prison-based gang activities.
6. Compare and contrast similarities and differences in street gang and prison gang value systems and ideologies.
7. Explain the implementation process of court-initiated gang injunctions.
8. Assess the best practices of institutional management of gangs and disruptive groups.

5. Instructional Facilities

Standard classroom.

6. Special Materials Required of Student

Access to a computer with Internet capabilities.

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7. Course Content

1. Overview of street gangs in the United States.
2. Overview of prison gangs.
3. Youth violence in the United States.
4. Characteristics of disruptive groups.
5. Gang growth, studies, and migration.
6. Gang behaviors.
7. Psychological and sociological dynamics of gangs.
8. Gangs and corrections theory and practice.
9. Institutional management of gangs.
10. Future trends in intervention and technology.

8. Method of Instruction

1. Lecture
2. Group work
3. Class discussion
4. Multi-media presentations

9. Methods of Evaluating Student Performance

1. Written exercises that measure the students’ ability to analyze current gang problems and the impact of gang activity on society.
2. Case analysis and research assignments which measures students’ ability to relate contemporary gang issues to law enforcement and corrections theory and practice
3. Class exercises and role playing that demonstrate students’ ability to manage disruptive groups in a correctional setting.
4. Quizzes that measure the student’s ability to apply principles related to gang prevention.
5. Exams including a comprehensive written final exam, which measure students’ ability to assess the best practices of institutional management of gangs and disruptive groups.

10. Outside Class Assignments

a. Students will be required to read text and supplementary materials.

b. Written assignments will be a combination of:

(1) exercises which include the analysis of current gang problems in law enforcement and corrections.

(2) exercises that assess disruptive group behavior

(3) the analyses of best practices of institutional management of gangs.

11. Texts

a. Required Text(s):

Delany, Tim. *American Street Gangs.* 2nd ed. Prentice Hall, 2014.

Peterson, Rebecca D. *Understanding Contemporary Gangs in America: An Interdisciplinary Approach*. Columbus, Ohio: Prentice Hall, 2004.

Valdez, Al. *Gangs, a Guide to Understanding Street Gangs.* 5th ed. San Clemente, CA: Law Tech, 2009.

Addendum: Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, our students will be able to do the following:

1. Describe the evolution of gangs in society.
2. Assess how gangs impact institutional security.
3. Analyze intervention and prevention modalities used to target community and prison gangs.

Date approved by the Governing Board: December 13, 2019