

Las Positas College
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Course Outline for AJ 78

INTRODUCTION TO PROBATION AND PAROLE

Effective: Fall 2019

I. CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

AJ 78 — INTRODUCTION TO PROBATION AND PAROLE — 3.00 units

The history, evolution and current state of probation and parole in the United States, with an emphasis on the differences and similarities of both. Modern trends, such as the justice model, determinate sentencing, restorative justice, "broken windows" supervision, and intensive supervision in the adult and juvenile system are also examined. The course includes discussion of the community resources that can be brought to bear on the correctional task and the concept of shock probation. Designed for students interested in the field of law enforcement or probation/parole.

3.00 Units Lecture

Strongly Recommended

AJ 50 - Intro to Admin of Justice
with a minimum grade of C

Grading Methods:

Letter Grade

Discipline:

- Administration of Justice

	MIN
Lecture Hours:	54.00
Expected Outside of Class Hours:	108.00
Total Hours:	162.00

II. NUMBER OF TIMES COURSE MAY BE TAKEN FOR CREDIT: 1

III. PREREQUISITE AND/OR ADVISORY SKILLS:

Before entering this course, it is strongly recommended that the student should be able to:

- A. AJ50

IV. MEASURABLE OBJECTIVES:

Upon completion of this course, the student should be able to:

- A. Identify and explain the history of probation and parole
- B. Discuss the differences and similarities of probation and parole
- C. Explain the role of community corrections
- D. Discuss the role of probation and parole within the larger criminal justice system
- E. Explain the role and responsibilities of a probation officer
- F. Explain the role and responsibilities of a parole agent
- G. Discuss the family and societal costs of continued criminal activity by repeat offenders
- H. Explain the psychology behind criminal behavior

V. CONTENT:

- A. Probation and the courts: history and administration
 - 1. Alms houses
 - 2. Suspended sentences; benefit of clergy
 - 3. John Augustus
 - 4. Growth in the U.S. and California
- B. Crime and the criminal justice system
 - 1. Historical development
 - 2. Current trends
 - 3. Federal involvement
- C. The criminal justice system
 - 1. Governmental structure
 - 2. Agencies of the criminal justice system

3. The criminal justice process
- D. The causes of crime
 1. The classical view of personal responsibility
 2. Biological theory
 3. Sociological theories
 4. Conflict theory
- E. Laws pertaining to Community Corrections
 1. 601 and 602 Welfare and Institution code
 2. 1203 Penal code – major subsections
 3. Diversion law
 4. Determinate sentencing law
- F. Probation and Parole
 1. Probation judicial based
 2. Parole prison (executive) based
 3. Similarities
 4. Differences
- G. Adult Courts
 1. Role of adult probation
 2. Review of records and reports
 3. Pre-sentence investigations
 4. Granting probation – conditions
 5. Plea bargaining and sentencing guidelines
- H. Juvenile Courts
 1. History of the juvenile court
 2. Juvenile court dispositions
 3. Probation supervision
- I. The Case Load
 1. Size
 2. Legal mandates
 3. Priorities
- J. Treatment Theories
 1. Sociological theories
 2. Psychological theories
 3. Social casework
- K. Classification and Supervision
 1. Risk and needs assessment
 2. The parole agent change agent
 3. The probation officer as a change agent
 4. The parole agent as a law enforcement officer
 5. The probation officer as a law enforcement officer

VI. METHODS OF INSTRUCTION:

- A. **Lecture** -
- B. **Written exercises and case studies** -
- C. **Guest Lecturers** -
- D. **Discussion** -
- E. **Field Trips** -

VII. TYPICAL ASSIGNMENTS:

- A. Answering end of chapter questions
- B. Interview a probation officer or parole agent
- C. Complete a semester long research project
- D. Write a research paper

VIII. EVALUATION:

Methods/Frequency

- A. Exams/Tests
 - Periodic chapter exams
- B. Quizzes
 - Periodic pop quizzes to gauge student learning
- C. Research Projects
 - Complete a semester long assigned project
- D. Papers
 - Write one research paper on an assigned topic
- E. Oral Presentation
 - One to two per semester per student
- F. Field Trips
 - Visit a probation office or a parole office.
- G. Other
 1. Interview a person on probation or parole

IX. TYPICAL TEXTS:

1. Abadinsky, H. (2018). *Probation and Parole: Corrections in the Community* (13th ed.). New York, NY: Pearson.
2. Morgan, K. (2016). *Probation, Parole and Community Corrections Work* (1st ed.). Durham, NC: Carolina Academic Press.
3. Kratcoski, P.C. (2017). *Correctional Counseling and Treatment* (6th ed.). New York, NY: Springer Publishing.

X. OTHER MATERIALS REQUIRED OF STUDENTS: