Course Outcomes Guide

Directions: Please complete this form to document your progress toward improving student learning. For each item, indicate your progress and your anticipated next steps. Thank you!

Course/Program Title: **ADJ - 104 – Corrections in America**

Semester: SP / 17

Instructor: Andrew B. Kramer

Expected Learning Outcomes

1. The student will be able to identify and explain the sentencing goals of corrections.
2. The student will be able to define the theories of specific and general deterrence.
3. The student will be able to identify how the goals of corrections are challenged by budgets, overcrowding, management, and legal liabilities.

Assessment (How do or will students demonstrate achievement of each outcome?)

Outcomes are assessed through a series of multiple choice, short answer & essay questions and group learning activities throughout the semester (including in both mid-term and final exams) I have elected to formulate my own test questions based upon the material and incorporating in-class discussions, issues and student inquiries. In this way, the questions represent more of a real-time snapshot of student interaction with the material.

Validation (What methods have you used or will you use to validate your assessment?)

Outcomes Nos. 1 & 2 suggest that the outcome is satisfied by an objective ability to "identify", "explain" and "define" certain concepts. Although these concepts (specific & general deterrence; and other goals of corrections) are reinforced throughout the semester, they are formally assessed in the final exam in a matching activity in which the student must achieve no less than 70% accuracy.

Outcome No. 3, is validated by the student's achievement of no less than 70% accuracy in a range of short answer, multiple choice questions, and a group activity in which the elements of this outcome are covered.

Results (What do your assessment data show? If you have not yet assessed student achievement of your learning outcomes, when is assessment planned?)

Outcome 1 – 92% of the students (26 out of 29) passed the sentencing goals of corrections outcome.

Outcome 2 – 92% of the students (26 out of 29) passed the questions on specific and general deterrence.

Outcome 3 – 90% (mean of total item scores) of the class (25 out of 29) passed the outcome on challenges the goals of corrections.

Follow-up (How have you used or how will you use the data to improve student learning?)

As this is my first semester teaching the course, I suggest certain improvements in the Student Learning Outcomes moving forward, as follows:

A. Outcomes Nos. 1 & 2 should be consolidated, as they both endeavor to assess mastery of the goals of sentencing & corrections – in which are included the concepts specific and general deterrence covered in outcome No. 2.

B. Outcome No. 3, while appropriately seeking to assess mastery of pivotal course issues and the manner in which they impact correctional goals, is broadly drafted and covers too many concepts for a single SLO ("budgets, overcrowding, management issues and legal liabilities"). My recommendation is to divide this goal into 2 more accessible and measureable SLOs.

Budget Justification (What resources are necessary to improve student learning?)

Nothing additional needed at this point.