CM102: Dynamics of Working with Justice-Involved Persons

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Course Description

This course is designed to understand the corrections environment, people and culture. Common characteristics of justice-involved people, the specialized approaches to ministering within corrections and reentry, and Biblical perspective for transformation are examined. Special attention is given to the psycho-sociological factors that contribute to criminality, the pains of incarceration, the population, cultural competency, behavior change, and evidence-based and faith-based programs.

Course Objectives

Upon completion of the course, students should be able to do the following:

A. Assess the pathways and variables within the psychological make-up and sociological backgrounds of the justice-involved and identify programs and demonstrate skills leading toward rehabilitation.
B. Describe unique characteristics, attitudes, and behaviors of the justice-involved, life behind bars and the pains of imprisonment, and propose compassionate, culturally intelligent ministry approaches.
C. Describe the behavior change process, how to facilitate healing and behavior change.
D. Integrate evidence-based practices and faith-based programming to facilitate rehabilitation.
E. Demonstrate motivational interviewing.

Course Texts

The following textbooks are required:

Prison Ministry: Understanding Jail and Prison Culture (2020) by Lennie Spitale (Amazon)
Sentenced by Lennie Spitale and *Released* by Lennie Spitale and Karen Swanson (sent by CMI)

Course Requirements

This course consists of two virtual meetings, readings, mentor meetings, lecture videos, quizzes, group discussions, and assignments. The information regarding these course components and expectations is as follows:

Virtual Meetings. The two virtual meetings are **Tuesday, January 5, 2027 at 6:00 pm (Central) and Tuesday, February 2, 2027 at 6:00 pm (Central).** Links and information will be emailed to you.

Readings. Reading assignments should be read in the module in which they are assigned.

Mentor Meetings. Meet with your mentor in-person or by phone two times to share what you are learning and hearing from God. This mentor does not have to have correctional ministry experience. Enter your Mentor Meetings Report in Week 8.

Lecture/Videos. Each module will include lecture/videos from the instructor or field experts.

Quizzes. Each module includes a multiple-choice quiz over the readings and lectures for that module.

Discussion Forums. Discussion questions are provided in each module. The Discussion Forum for each week begins on Monday at 12:01 a.m. Central Standard Time (CST), and your first post is required by Wednesday each week. All posts must be submitted prior to the following Sunday at 11:59 p.m. CST. You are required **to post an initial response and respond to two other posts** (total of 24 posts for the course)**.**

Number of posts that meet the criteria will be counted.

A	22-24		A-	21		B+	20
B	19		B-	18		C+	17
C	16		C-	15		D+	14
D	13		D-	12		F	0-11

Assignment. Special Population and Ministry
Submit a fact sheet, infographic, or article (downloaded from Internet) on a special population/topic of your choice. Describe how this knowledge informs your ministry in the text box provided.

Due Dates. Each week of the course begins on Monday at 12:01 a.m. CST and ends on Sunday at 11:59 p.m. CST. Unless noted otherwise, all quizzes and assignments are due at 11:59 p.m. CST on the Sunday of the week in which the assignment is due. It is at your professor's discretion to penalize late work. *Contact the professor prior to the deadline if there is a problem.*

Course Grading

Grades will be issued within one week of the end of the course. Your grade for the course will be determined as follows:

Discussion Forum and Virtual Meetings	30% of Course Grade
Assignment	30% of Course Grade
Quizzes	30% of Course Grade
Mentor Meetings	10% of Course Grade

Grading scale will be as follows:

A	92-100		A-	90-91		B+	87-89
B	84-86		B-	80-81		C+	77-79
C	72-76		C-	70-71		D+	67-69
D	62-66		D-	60-61		F	0-59

Weekly Topics and Assignments

Module 1: Criminology — DUE: January 10

VIRTUAL MEETING

Tuesday, January 5th at 6:00 pm Central

1.1 Welcome and Syllabus

LISTEN

1.2 Crime Causation

1.3 Typologies and Pathways

READ

1.0 Corrections Programming Principles

1.1 Assignment Options

1.2 Crime Causation

1.3 Typologies

1.4 Pathways

1.5 Crime Victimization 2021

Prison Ministry (Preface and Part I: Feelings)

DISCUSS

How does knowing the feelings of the incarcerated impact your ministry? What feelings do you think could be added to the list?

QUIZ

Quiz 1 on readings and lectures (open notes)

Module 2: Characteristics of the Justice-Involved — DUE: January 17

LISTEN

2.1 Profiles of Justice-Involved People

2.2 Special Populations

2.3 Risks, Needs, and Protective Factors

READ

2.1 Profiles of Justice-Involved People

2.1a Fact Sheet on Justice-Involved Women

2.2 Special Populations

2.3 Risks, Needs and Protective Factors

Prison Ministry (Part II: Perspectives)

DISCUSS

How have the readings increased your understanding of the incarcerated and how it impacts your practical approach to ministry?

QUIZ

Quiz 2 on readings and lectures (open notes)

ASSIGNMENT

Identify your special population/topic.

Module 3: Culture Behind Bars — DUE: January 24

LISTEN

3.1 Culture Behind Bars

3.2 Recognizing and Responding to Manipulation I
3.3 Recognizing and Responding to Manipulation II

READ
3.1 Adult and Youth Culture Behind Bars
3.1a The Village of Juvenile Hall
3.2 Recognizing and Responding to Manipulation
3.3 Safeguard Against Manipulation Scale
Prison Ministry (Part III: Dynamics)
DISCUSS
Describe a time when you have been manipulated or attempted to be manipulated and your response, what did you learn? OR take the Safeguard Against Manipulation Scale and reflect on your score.
QUIZ
Quiz 3 on readings and lectures (open notes)

Module 4: Cultural Competency DUE: January 31

LISTEN
4.1 Cultural Intelligence
4.2 Socioeconomic Status I
4.3 Socioeconomic Status II
4.4 LGBTQI Competency

READ
4.1 Cross-cultural intelligence
4.2 Socioeconomic Status I
4.3 Socioeconomic Status II
4.4 LGBTQI Competency
Prison Ministry (Part IV: Engaging in the Culture)
DISCUSS
What two Scripture passages guide how you work with people who are different from you? What resources or training would you recommend for developing cultural competency?
QUIZ
Quiz 4 readings and lectures (open notes)

Module 5: Programs: What Works? DUE: February 7

VIRTUAL MEETING
Tuesday, February 2nd at 6:00 pm Central
LISTEN
5.1 Change Process and Strengths-based
5.2 Motivational Interviewing I
5.3 MI Video Example
5.3a Motivational Interviewing II
5.4 Integration of Faith and MI

READ
5.1 Change Process and Strengths-based
5.2 Motivational Interviewing
5.3 MI Video Transcript

5.3a MI Glossary
5.4 Integration of Faith and MI

DISCUSS

None

QUIZ

Quiz 5 readings and lectures (open notes)

Module 6: Trauma and Addiction — DUE: February 14

LISTEN

6.1 Understanding Trauma
6.2 Trauma Care and Healing
6.3 Addiction and Recovery

READ

6.1 Understanding Trauma
6.1a ACE Questionnaire
6.2 Trauma Care and Healing
6.3 Addictions and Recovery

DISCUSS

What are your concerns with working with those with addictions or trauma? OR What have you found helpful when helping others heal from trauma or recover from addiction?

QUIZ

Quiz 6 readings and lectures (open notes)

Module 7: Transformation — DUE: February 21

LISTEN

7.1 CBT and Renewing Your Mind
7.2 Personal Growth: A Biblical Perspective
7.3 Helping without Hurting

READ

7.1 CBT and Renewing Your Mind
7.1a Thinking Errors Defined
7.2 Personal Growth: A Biblical Perspective
7.3 Helping without Hurting
Sentenced

DISCUSS

Have you ever been the monkey or the fish? Tell us about it and how it felt. How have you experienced transformation in your own life?

QUIZ

Quiz 7 readings and lectures (open notes)

Module 8: Reentry — DUE: February 28

LISTEN

8.1 Reentry Feelings and Perspectives
8.2 Reentry: Connecting with Family
8.3 Reentry: Connecting with the Faith Community

READ

8.1 Reentry Feelings and Perspectives

8.2 Reentry Communications Checklist and Agreement

8.3 Reentry: Connecting with the Faith Community

Released

DISCUSS

What are challenges for churches welcoming formerly incarcerated people into their congregations? What advice would you give a new congregant (from incarceration) and the church for increasing connection?

QUIZ

Quiz 8 readings and lectures (open notes)

ASSIGNMENT

Special Population and Ministry

MENTOR MEETING

Enter your mentor meeting report through the online course.