

a) Why do you suppose that there is such wide variation, across states within the U.S., in both the rates of incarceration as well as the rates of being under some form of correctional control? Please elaborate.

b) Next, in your opinion, is this a good that there is such a wide variation of punishment rates across the states, or should there be more uniformity? Take a position either way and fully defend it. Also, when considering the U.S. as a whole, are we as a society too punitive, not punitive enough, or just about right? Again, take a position and fully support it.

c) Next, as William Kelly argues in this book, the local jail is likely the de facto mental health institution in any given city. Assuming you became the sheriff and were in charge of the local jail in your city, identify and describe at least one novel innovation that you would implement in order to make your facility more equipped to serve persons with serious mental illnesses. Elaborate. Your idea should be creative, but also realistic.

d) Next, William Kelly discusses how the crime decline of the 1990s coincided with the historic escalation of incarceration rates. In your opinion, is this merely a coincidence or is there a causal relationship between incarceration rates and low crime rates? In other words, does mass incarceration make society a safer place? Please take a position either way, and fully support it.

e) Next, please point to one aspect of the assigned readings that you found to be of interest. Be sure to explain what this particular aspect of the reading has to do with our understanding of criminal justice policy.

f) Finally, once you have answered all of the above questions, please pose an original thinking question to the class. Your question should truly reflect graduate level thinking and it should be intended to bring out the best in your classmates.

Remember to cite all sources properly using APA.

For this week only freely interact until the due date Sunday, August 29th, 11.PM. (After Week 1 you will be required to post your initial post by Wednesday of the week and follow up comments

Proctor U

<http://www.proctoru.com/privacy.html>

YouTube

https://www.youtube.com/static?template=privacy_guidelines

APPENDIX 1

CRIJ 5310

ONLINE DISCUSSION RUBRIC

All work will be submitted to *Safe*. If it is evident that a discussion assignment has been plagiarized in any way, it will not be graded and will be assigned a "zero."

As a reminder, I will drop the lowest discussion grade for every student regardless of the reason. However, because I am doing this, I will not drop any other discussion grade regardless of the reason (e.g. due to illness, family emergency, or enrolling in the class late). Late assignments will not be accepted. Please be sure to keep track of when assignments are due. Below is a rubric that the instructor will utilize to evaluate discussion posts.

Discussion Topic	Percentage Points Possible
Originality: Is the student approaching the topic from an original angle? Is he/she providing a unique scholarly analysis? Is the argument well-constructed? Does the student answer all questions asked?	30%
Content: Does the student answer the question or questions with thought and detail, well-supported using course reading materials and/or other supporting current articles? Does the student use their own words, referring to course material when appropriate; avoid quoting the text verbatim? In addition: Does the student avoid posting all responses at the last minute on the last day the assignment is due? Does the student post initial comments to the prompt by Wednesday 11.59 PM?	20%
Peer Responses: [read and respond to the discussions of at least two peers with thoughtful and detailed comment (not just "good post" or something similar)?	20%