

FINAL RESEARCH EXAM

Your final research exam requires you to thoroughly discuss the following quote by Todd Clear: “America’s mass incarceration experiment failed” (Clear, 2014). In doing so, you will discuss incarceration in the 20th and 21st centuries in the United States and make suggestions regarding what should be done going forward to address the “issue” of mass incarceration in the United States, supporting Clear’s argument that mass incarceration in America is a failed experiment.

You will produce a research paper where you thoroughly discuss the following:

- Define incarceration and why it is used
- Discuss trends in incarceration since the 1930s through today
- Identify eras of incarceration and the causes of incarceration in each era
- Define and discuss the “era of mass incarceration”
- Discuss why Clear makes the claim that “America’s mass incarceration experiment failed!”
 - The impact of incarceration on offenders (including reentry and recidivism), families and communities
- Discuss where we go from here – what can and should be done regarding “mass incarceration”?
 - This is your opportunity to use empirical research to make arguments regarding what changes, if any, should be made to policies regarding incarceration and reentry to address incarceration rates
 - Changes to sentencing policies (i.e., legislative changes or alternative sanctions) and their potential effectiveness
 - Changes to programming for offenders and their potential for effectiveness
 - Reentry programming and their potential for effectiveness

Your research paper should be a “stand alone” piece of work that assumes the reader is unfamiliar with incarceration in the United States.

Additional Paper Requirements:

This final research exam will be graded on organization, clarity of ideas, grammar/spelling/punctuation, and your ability to appropriately describe and apply empirical research to support arguments made.

- 1) You should address all parts of the paper thoroughly.
- 2) Papers MUST be 10-12 pages (excluding title page and references), double-spaced, Times New Roman 12 point font with 1 inch margins.

- 3) Include a title page with the title of your final research exam, your name and the date.
- 4) Papers should include an Introduction (with a thesis statement) and a Conclusion (summation of your arguments). You should also create sections of your paper with headings (and subheadings, if appropriate) based on required elements of the paper.
- 5) Papers should reference course readings (and properly cite!) when applying course material.
- 6) You should include a minimum of 5 empirical (research) articles not assigned in class to support your arguments. You may also refer to other additional sources for review and information.
- 7) Students must follow APA citation style of citation and references (including reference page). Avoid using direct quotes. Paraphrase and cite the source instead. When using direct quotes, page numbers are required.
- 8) Papers should be grammatically correct and free of typos and other errors. Carefully proofread your paper before submitting it. You can also take advantage of UTSA writing resources and the UTSA Writing Center.
- 9) Papers should be written in a formal tone.