

## COURSE SYLLABUS

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# Foundations of Offender Reentry

Course Lecturer: Joseph Williams, MA,  
Executive Director of the Correctional Ministries and Chaplains  
Association

## Course Description

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This course will provide participants with knowledge of the biblical foundation for prisoner reintegration ministry and the practical application of reentry research. It will help participants describe the issues, barriers, and challenges to the successful reintegration of those transitioning from prison to society. The course will also describe the phases and key principles of prisoner reintegration with emphasis on making decisions related to practical planning for a ministry, along with the need to understand the various natures of individuals, churches, organizations, government entities and the community as it relates to reintegration from prison back into society.

## Course Objectives

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

- Summarize the biblical foundation for ministering to those reintegrating back into society from prison and practical implications for the individuals, families, the church and para-church ministries.
- Understand the factors that have led to the incarceration of a historical number of U.S. citizens and understand why the U.S. leads the world in the incarceration of its citizens.
- Describe the issues, barriers, and challenges involved with helping people to successfully reintegrate from prison to society.
- Summarize the impact of prisonization on people leaving the prison system and their families as they integrate back to their communities.
- Understand the various natures of individuals, churches, organizations and government entities related to reintegration from prison and make recommendations.

## Course Lecturer

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*Joseph Williams, MA*

**Education:**

- Wayne State University, MA
- William Tyndale College, BEd

**Teaching Career:**

- Wheaton College, Visiting Professor

**Other Career Highlights:**

- Founder and CEO of New Creations Community Outreach (formerly Transition of Prisoners), through which he has developed and implemented a number of innovative approaches that have helped others to experience total restoration
- Executive Director, Correctional Ministries and Chaplains Association
- Founder, Christian Association for Prison Aftercare (CAPA)
- Recognized as an outstanding social entrepreneur in 2006 by Ashoka: Innovators for the Public, a global organization that promotes unique ways of addressing pressing social problems, as a result of the innovation and success of the TOP program
- National advisory board, Institute for Prison Ministries

**Publications:**

- *Sheep in Wolves' Clothing: When the Actions of a Christian Turn Criminal*

## Recommended Reading

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Though not required, you may choose to read the textbooks shown below to supplement your learning.

Thompson, Anthony C. *Releasing Prisoners, Redeeming Communities: Reentry, Race, and Politics*. New York: NYU Press, 2009.

*Reentry Today: Programs, Problems, & Solutions*. Alexandria, VA: American Correctional Association, 2006. ISBN 1-56991-240-8

*What Works and Why: Effective Approaches to Reentry*. Lanham, MD: American Correctional Association, 2004. ISBN 1-56991-215-5

*Due Process—Prisoner Reentry: Breaking the Cycle* (Aired 2/12/12)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0udmYxCyjw4>

*After Prison: Responding with Faith*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8DqNT1kdPSI>

*Collaboration Between Faith-Based and Community Organizations and Corrections*. National Institute of Corrections, 2007. <http://www.nicic.gov/Library/022542>

Textbooks can be ordered through your local bookstore, various online bookstores, or through your preferred eReader when available.

## Course Methods

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Throughout this course, a number of methods will be used to engage you in understanding, processing and applying the information learned in this course to your life. These methods include the following:

- **Video-based teaching**  
The primary teaching session in each lesson is provided in video format. If you do not have the bandwidth required to view the video, we provide the option of listening to the lesson or reading the lesson from a transcript.
- **Additional Resources**  
Lessons may be accompanied by additional readings, images, etc. that you can use to supplement your learning.

## Course Requirements

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To earn a Certificate of Completion, you must complete the course requirements. Course requirements include:

1. Viewing the following for each lesson:
  - **Lesson Overview:** A brief outline of what the lecturer will cover in the lesson.
  - **Lesson Objectives:** Objectives describe the learning outcomes you should achieve by the end of the lesson.
  - **Reading:** Suggested readings that will supplement your learning.
  - **Lectures:** 25 minute lessons that can be viewed as many times as needed.
2. Responding to the discussion questions for each lesson.
3. Earning a 70% or higher score on each lesson Quiz and the Midterm and Final Exams. Quizzes and the Exams will cover the material presented in the lectures.