

# Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology

CRIJ 2365-01

## Correctional Systems and Practices

Fall 2017

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Professor: H. Daniel Butler

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Class Hours: Monday/Wednesday 11:00am-12:20pm

Classroom: A290 – George J. Beto Criminal Justice Center

Office Hours: Monday/Wednesday 9:30-10:45am and by appointment

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### Required Text and Course Materials:

1. Stohr, M. K., & Walsh, A. (2017-2018). *Corrections: From research, to policy, to practice*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications. (ISBN: 978-1-4833-7337-9)
2. TopHat (<https://app.tophat.com>)
3. Other readings/articles that may be uploaded to Blackboard

### Course Description:

The United States criminal justice system is comprised of three major components: police, courts, and corrections. The corrections component is responsible for the oversight and management of offenders who are awaiting trial or who have been convicted in a court of law. The correctional system functions at the local, state, and federal level with a variety of services, such as community supervision, pre-trial detainment, and the institutional management of inmates.

This course will introduce students to the goals, purpose, and history of the corrections system within the United States. Students will learn how the American correctional system became a hallmark for the punishment and management of offenders with one of the highest incarceration rates in the world. Students will also examine current issues that professionals in the field of corrections encounter, such as the management of inmates with mental health needs. Examples of topics covered in this class include the establishment of community corrections, the societal impact of mass imprisonment, and the management of inmates with special needs.

### Course Objectives:

1. Develop a greater understanding of the criminal justice system by learning about the management and supervision of offenders within corrections.
2. Hone critical thinking skills by discussing assigned book chapters and other current topics associated with the corrections system.

3. Understand how the assigned material relate to “real world” problems that criminal justice professionals or treatment providers will encounter on the job.

### **Course Requirements and Grading:**

Students are expected to read the assigned material and come to class prepared to discuss the relevant readings. The structure of the class is lecture/discussion, and reading the assigned material is essential in performing well throughout the semester. Students grades will be based on three exams and class participation. The three exams will each include 60 multiple choice questions. The course exams and class participation will be worth the following points:

Exam 1	30 points
Exam 2	30 points
Exam 3	30 points
Class Participation	10 points
<b>Course Total</b>	<b>100 points</b>

### **Course Exams:**

Each student will be tested on their retention, understanding, and ability to grasp key concepts within the course. Three exams will be given throughout the semester. Each exam is worth 30% of the final grade. Material from class lectures and assigned readings will be used as possible test questions. In total, there will be approximately 60 questions on each exam.

All exams will be administered through Blackboard and will require the use of the Respondus Lockdown Browser (you will need to install the application on your desktop or laptop – a link will be provided on Blackboard to download this application in addition to e-mail reminders). Exams will be available for 48 hours, ending at 11:59pm the day it is due. We will not meet in class on scheduled exam days. You will take the exam on your personal laptop, desktop, university library desktop, or somewhere where you can find privacy to complete the exam. Exams are only available for the length of the class (80 minutes). Once you begin the exam, you will be allowed 80 minutes to complete the exam. In other words, you cannot answer a few questions and then return to taking the exam 3 hours later because you only have 80 minutes to complete the entirety of the exam from the moment you start. It is also important that students complete the exam well before the 11:59pm submission deadline. For instance, you cannot start the exam at 11:50pm on the night the exam is due because you will not have time to complete the exam (e.g., you would only have 10 minutes until the exam is no longer available).

Students should not take the exam with others or in groups. Any collusion (e.g., working together during or after the exams) is considered cheating and will be treated as academic dishonesty. The test taking system provides metrics that allow professors to identify instances of academic dishonesty, and instances of cheating will result in an immediate failure in the course in addition to possible removal from the university (see Academic Honesty statement below).

### **Class Participation:**

Class participation is worth 10% of the final grade. Class participation will be recorded by use of the TopHat application. TopHat is a smartphone (works with regular cell phones) and laptop application that allows the instructor to receive answers to class questions from students in “real time.” This application will help facilitate class discussion and record attendance. Purchase of the TopHat application is required for this class. TopHat is mandatory to earn points towards

class participation and to be recorded for attendance. Please see the TopHat website ([www.tophat.com](http://www.tophat.com)) for pricing and additional information.

Class participation will be recorded by attending class, participating in group discussions, and submitting responses via the TopHat application. Students are allowed to miss a total of three classes without penalty. However, any class that is missed beyond the third will result in a 2-point penalty for each missed class after the third absence. For instance, a student who misses five classes will be penalized 4 points. A student who misses six classes will be penalized 6 points and so forth. Due to students receiving several absences without penalty (i.e., 3), there will be no exceptions for missing any class beyond the third absence unless documentation is provided by the Office of the Dean of Students. Several checks will be given during a class to ensure students are attending the entirety of the lectures. Students who leave a class early will not be given credit towards class participation and will be counted absent. Please be respectful and never leave a class during the middle of a lecture.

### **Make-up Exam Policy:**

For missed exams, there will be NO make-up exams in the absence of an extreme documented medical or personal emergency. In the case of such an emergency, I must be notified prior to the date of the exam. Students must also obtain an excused absence from the Office of the Dean of Students, but early notification and/or proper documentation does not necessarily guarantee that a make-up exam will be granted. This decision will be at my discretion, and the make-up exam will differ from the exam that is given to the class. In other words, the make-up exam will differ in structure, and the questions themselves will be different.

### **Attendance Policy:**

In accordance with Academic Policy Statement 800401, attendance will be taken regularly. Your attendance is necessary to succeed in the class by taking notes and learning the class material. I strongly recommend students attend class regularly to succeed and to also receive full class participation points. If you are unable to attend class, you are responsible for obtaining any information/material that you may have missed. Do not ask for my notes from any class that you missed. I will not, under any circumstances, give out my lecture notes.

### **Religious Holy Day Policy:**

Section 51.911(b) of the Texas Education Code requires that an institution of higher education excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. Section 51.911 (a) (2) defines a religious holy day as: “a holy day observed by a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property taxation under Section 11.20....” A student whose absence is excused under this subsection may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence.

University policy 861001 provides the procedures to be followed by the student and instructor. A student desiring to absent himself/herself from a scheduled class in order to observe (a) religious holy day(s) shall present to each instructor involved a written statement concerning the religious holy day(s). The instructor will complete a form notifying the student of

a reasonable timeframe in which the missed assignments and/or examinations are to be completed. For a complete listing of the university policy, see:  
<http://www.shsu.edu/dept/academic-affairs/documents/aps/students/861001.pdf>

### **Academic Etiquette:**

In this class, you are required to conduct yourself in an appropriate, responsible, and professional manner. Disruptive behavior (in the form of arriving late/leaving early, private discussions with other students, text messaging, disruptive newspaper reading, etc.) is not appropriate and will not be tolerated in this course. Students are expected to be respectful of others and when another student is speaking, do not interrupt that student. Please raise your hand if you have a question during class.

### **Academic Honesty:**

All students are expected to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action. The University and its official representatives may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work which is to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of resource materials. For a complete listing of the university policy, see: <http://www.shsu.edu/dept/dean-of-students/documents/2016-2018%20Student%20Guidelines.pdf>

### **Use of Telephones and Text Messages In Academic Classrooms and Facilities:**

The use of electronic devices for telephone calls and text messaging during class-time is prohibited. Arrangements for handling potential emergency situations may be granted at my discretion. If you know that you are going to receive a call/text message regarding an emergency situation during this class, you must let me know before class begins. Failure to comply with this policy can result in expulsion from the classroom or with multiple offenses, failure of the course.

Any use of a telephone or text messenger or any device that performs these functions during a test period is prohibited. These devices should not be present during a test. They must be stored securely in such a way that they cannot be seen or used by the student. Use of these devices during a test is considered de facto evidence of cheating and could result in a charge of academic dishonesty. For a complete listing of the university policy, see:  
<https://www.shsu.edu/dotAsset/6d35c9c9-e3e9-4695-a1a1-11951b88bc63.pdf>

### **Disability Accommodation:**

It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that individuals otherwise qualified shall not be excluded, solely by reason of their disability, from participation in any academic program of the university. Further, they shall not be denied the benefits of these programs nor shall they be subjected to discrimination. Students with disabilities that might affect their academic performance should register with the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities located in the Lee Drain Annex (telephone 936-294-3512, TDD 936-294-3786, and e-mail [disability@shsu.edu](mailto:disability@shsu.edu)). They should then make arrangements with their individual instructors so

that appropriate strategies can be considered and helpful procedures can be developed to ensure that participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired.

SHSU adheres to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. If you have a disability that may affect adversely your work in this class, then I encourage you to register with the SHSU Services for Students with Disabilities and to talk with me about how I can best help you. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential. NOTE: No accommodation can be made until you register with the Services for Students with Disabilities. For a complete listing of the university policy, see: <http://www.shsu.edu/dotAsset/7ff819c3-39f3-491d-b688-db5a330ced92.pdf>

**Class Schedule:** The following schedule is tentative and subject to change if class runs short or a subject requires further discussion.

Date	Day	Assignment/Lecture
August 23	Wed.	Introduction and discussion of syllabus Class expectations; Read Ch. 1
August 28	Mon.	Lecture: Philosophical Underpinnings of Corrections Reading: Ch. 2
August 30	Wed.	Lecture: Early Corrections and Corrections History Reading: Ch. 3 & Ch. 4
September 4	Mon.	LABOR DAY – NO CLASS
September 6	Wed.	Lecture: Early Corrections & Ethics (Cont.) Reading: Ch. 5
September 11	Mon.	Lecture: Sentencing and Punishment Reading: Ch. 6
September 13	Wed.	Lecture: Sentencing (Cont.); Jails Reading: Finish Ch. 6
September 18	Mon.	Lecture: Jails and Detention Centers Reading: Ch. 7
September 20	Wed.	Lecture: Special Problem-Solving Courts in Corrections Study for Exam #1
September 25	Mon.	<b>Exam #1: Exam is Available on Blackboard on September 24 at 12:01am and Closes September 25 at 11:59pm NO CLASS – EXAM DAY</b>
September 27	Wed.	Lecture: Community Corrections: Probation

		Reading: Ch. 8 & Ch. 9
October 2	Mon.	Lecture: Community Corrections (Cont.) Reading: Ch.9
October 4	Wed.	Lecture: Prisons and the Correctional Client Reading: Ch. 10
October 9	Mon.	Lecture: Classification and Assessment Reading: Ch. 11
October 11	Wed.	Lecture: Correctional Programming and Treatment Reading: Ch. 12
October 16	Mon.	Lecture: Treatment (Cont.); Parole and Prisoner Reentry Reading: Finish Ch. 12
October 18	Wed.	Lecture: Parole and Prisoner Reentry Reading: Ch. 13
October 23	Mon.	Lecture: Correctional Organizations and Management Study for Exam #2
October 25	Wed.	<b>Exam #2: Exam is Available on Blackboard on October 24 at 12:01am and Closes October 25 at 11:59pm NO CLASS – EXAM DAY</b>
October 30	Mon.	<u>Guest Lecture</u> ; Lecture: Correctional Staff Reading: Ch. 14
November 1	Wed.	Lecture: Correctional Staff (Cont.) Reading: Ch. 15
November 6	Mon.	Lecture: Women, Minorities, and Corrections Reading: Ch. 16
November 8	Wed.	Lecture: Women, Minorities, and Corrections (Cont.) Reading: Ch. 18
November 13	Mon.	Lecture: Legal Issues in Corrections Reading: Ch. 19
November 15	Wed.	PROFESSIONAL CONFERENCE – NO CLASS Reading: Article Uploaded to Blackboard
November 20	Mon.	Lecture: Death Penalty

		Reading: Finish Ch. 19
November 22	Wed.	THANKSIGIVING HOLIDAY – NO CLASS
November 27	Mon.	Lecture: Death Penalty (Cont.) Reading: Ch. 21
November 29	Wed.	Lecture: Corrections in the 21 <sup>st</sup> Century
December 6	Wed.	<b>FINAL EXAM (Available December 5 at 12:01am and Closes on December 6 at 11:59pm) NO CLASS – EXAM DAY</b>

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