

Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology
CRIJ 2365.02
Correctional Systems & Practices
Fall 2017

Professor: Elisa Toman, Ph.D.

Office: C209 — George J. Beto Criminal Justice Center

Telephone: 936-294-3627 (Please note that e-mail is the best way to reach me)

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Class Hours: T/R 11:00AM – 12:20PM

Classroom: A290 — George J. Beto Criminal Justice Center

Office hours: T/W 2:00PM - 3:30PM or by appointment

Teaching Assistant: Micaela Alvarado

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Appointments by request

GENERAL COURSE INFORMATION

Required Textbooks and Materials

- Clear, Todd R., Michael D. Reisig, and George F. Cole. American Corrections. 11th edition. ISBN: 9781305093300
- Conover, Ted. *Newjack: Guarding Sing Sing*. ISBN: 9780375726620
- Additional articles/chapters/excerpts provided on the course website

Course Description

This course will familiarize students with the field of criminal corrections. Students will learn about theories that inform corrections, the history of corrections, trends in criminal punishment, and individuals' and communities' experiences with the correctional system. The course is broken down into four units with an exam at the end of each unit.

Unit 1—Introduction and correctional theory. This unit will introduce students to the history of corrections. It will also examine the various theories that inform correctional practices and the different social and political contexts that led to the implementation of different correctional policies.

Unit 2—History and trends in corrections. In this unit, the development of correctional policies over time, trends in the use of the main types of sanctions, and comparisons of trends and practices internationally will be discussed. Various debates surrounding correctional policies

that include topics of race, ethnicity, gender, poverty, immigration, and the death penalty will also be explored.

Unit 3—Experiences with the correctional system. This unit will highlight the experiences individuals have with custodial and non-custodial sanctions as well as the impact of correctional sanctions on communities, families, and criminal justice personnel.

Unit 4—Understanding research on corrections and the future of punishment in America. In this final unit, the state of research and current issues facing researchers, practitioners, and policymakers in the field of corrections will be discussed.

Course Objectives

Upon successful completion of the course, students should:

1. Have an understanding of the history of the correctional system
2. Have an understanding of the various theoretical, political, and social contexts that have informed correctional practices
3. Be able to describe trends in America's use of correctional sanctions
4. Be able to describe the experiences that individuals, families, and communities have with correctional programs
5. Be able to demonstrate informed views about different aspects of the field of corrections and how different programs, practices, and policies might be improved

Course Requirements

The course will include four exams, one for each unit. Each unit will end with an exam, and exams will cover only the content from a given unit (i.e., non-cumulative exams).

Exams (80 percent of grade). There will be four exams. Each exam can consist of multiple-choice, true/false, and short-answer questions. **Note that each exam must be taken and there will be no dropping of the lowest score.**

The exams are **non-cumulative** and will cover material only from the given unit. Students should keep in mind that the ability to understand topics from earlier units is imperative to succeed on future units. Exams will cover materials discussed in class and in your readings, materials discussed exclusively in class, and materials discussed exclusively in your readings.

The final exam will take place on **Thursday, December 7 from 12:00PM-2:00PM.**

In-class essay quizzes (20 percent of grade). Over the course of the semester, students will be administered brief, in-class attendance essay quizzes. These quizzes typically involve writing a

brief response to a question based on recent readings and in-class discussions. The purpose of the attendance quizzes is to gauge critical thinking and students' participation in the course. **A missed quiz cannot be made up.** However, I will drop the **three** lowest scores and the end of the semester. This means that if you miss a class in which an in-class essay quiz was administered, you will be able to drop this score.

Extra credit. Over the course of the semester, there may be opportunities to earn extra credit. Extra credit may be offered at my discretion and only if it can be available to the entire class. I will not offer individual opportunities for extra credit. No credit will be given for late extra credit assignments.

Grading. The exams and in-class essays contribute to your grade using the following scheme and grading scale:

In-class essay quizzes	20%
Exam 1	20%
Exam 2	20%
Exam 3	20%
Exam 4	20%
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Total	100%

- A = 90 - 100%
- B = 80 - 89%
- C = 70 - 79%
- D = 60 - 69%
- F < 60

An important note on grades: **There will be no end-of-the-semester adjustments made to your grade.** Students who are having trouble in the course or who are worried about their grade should feel free and are encouraged to meet with me during office hours or contact me via e-mail. I am happy to discuss strategies and goals for improving learning in the course with you at any time during the semester, but I encourage you to do this sooner rather than later, before it becomes too late in the semester to improve understanding of course content, and in turn, performance on assessments. Also note that **course grades are not rounded.** That means, for example, an 89.1%, 89.5%, and 89.9% are all a B.

Make-Up Policy: There are no make-up exams, except in instances when there is an excused absence related to religious observances (when formal notification is given the first week of the semester) and medical emergencies (with notification prior to the exam and documentation). **Make-up exams will be administered in essay format.**

Other Requirements, Policies, and Recommendations

- General Information: Student academic policies concerning attendance, academic honesty, disabled student and services for disabled students, and absences on religious holy days may be found at: <http://www.shsu.edu/dept/academic-affairs/aps/aps-students.html>

- Attendance: In accordance with Academic Policy Statement 800401 attendance will be taken regularly. Although attendance is not mandatory, please remember that in-class essay quizzes require you to be present in class in order to receive credit for participation and completion of the assigned essay quiz. I strongly recommend students attend class regularly to succeed.
- Academic Honesty: Sam Houston State University's policy on academic honesty is as follows: "Sam Houston State University expects all students to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach and to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom" (see Student Guidelines Handbook, Section 5.3). Academic dishonesty is, therefore, prohibited. Academic dishonesty includes but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism—including self-plagiarism, collusion, falsification, and abuse of resource materials. Refer to the University's Code of Student Conduct and Discipline for the specific definitions associated with academic honesty at Sam Houston State University. **You assume full responsibility for the content and integrity of all academic work that you submit for a course requirement or grade.** Academic dishonesty in any form is regarded as a very serious matter and can lead to the failure of this course and dismissal from the University. I strongly recommend you review the University's policy on academic honesty and appeal procedures as needed. For a complete listing of the University's policy, see: <http://www.shsu.edu/dept/dean-ofstudents/index.html>
- Disabled Student and Services for Disabled Students: It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that no otherwise qualified disabled individual shall, solely by reason of their disability, be excluded from the participation in, be denied benefit of, or be subjected to discrimination under any academic program or activity. Any student with a disability that affects his/her academic performance should contact the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities in the SHSU Lee Drain Building Annex (936-294-3512; TDD 936-294-3786) to request accommodations. If you have a disability that may adversely affect your work in this class, then I encourage you to register with the SHSU Services for Students with Disabilities and 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/187f9029-a4c6-4fb4-aea9-2d501f2a60f3.pdf>
- Absences on Religious Holy Days: 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. 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. "Religious holy day" means a holy day observed by a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property taxation under Section 11.20, United States Tax Code. See: <http://www.shsu.edu/dotAsset/0953c7d0-7c04-4b29-a3fc-3bf0738e87d8.pdf>

- Use of telephones and text messages in academic classrooms and facilities: Mobile phones, tablets, laptops, etc. **must be silenced** during class. Those not heeding this rule will be asked to leave the classroom so as not to disrupt the learning environment. **Please do not text or otherwise use cell phones or other mobile devices in class.** Students who habitually disrupt the class by using a mobile device (via texting, using SnapChat, Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, or any other new social media outlet) and have been warned, will receive a reduction in their final class grade. As per the University's policy (100728), "any use of a telephone or text messenger or any device that performs these functions during a test period is prohibited, except when expressly permitted by the instructor. These devices should not be present during a test or should be stored securely in such a way that they cannot be seen or used by the student. **Even the visible presence of such a device during the test period will result in a zero for that test.** Use of these devices during a test is considered de facto evidence of cheating and could result in a charge of academic dishonesty." For more information see <http://www.shsu.edu/dept/academic-affairs/aps/aps-curriculum.html>
- Right to change syllabus: Adjustments to the content, timeline, and due dates for assignments may be required during the semester. If this is necessary, some components of this syllabus may change. However, any such changes will be announced to the students in class. Students are responsible for adhering to any such announced changes.
- Course schedule changes: The course schedule (below) is only tentative, and changes to the readings may occasionally be made. In instances when these changes are made, I will notify students in class and via email well in advance. Students should follow the included course schedule unless otherwise notified. The instructor, however, reserves the right to change the course schedule without notice.
- Course notes, materials, and recording policy: Students may take notes during lectures/class presentations. **Students may not make tape or audio recordings of the lectures/presentations.** Notes, handouts, or other materials provided by the instructor cannot be exchanged or distributed for commercial purposes or for any purpose not related to a student's study or enrollment without the expressed written authorization of the instructor. Materials for this course are considered proprietary and are copyrighted. Notes, PowerPoint slides, quizzes, and any written, audio, and video materials developed by the professor or provided to the students may not be sold or distributed to other persons.
- Tobacco and electronic cigarettes policy: The use of tobacco products (cigarettes, cigars, pipes, smokeless tobacco, and all other tobacco products) and electronic cigarettes/nicotine/THC devices is strictly prohibited. See: <https://www.shsu.edu/intranet/policies/administrative/documents/pre19tobaccopolicy.pdf>
- E-mail etiquette: Some basic courtesies sometimes get lost in modern electronic conversation. To ensure proper and courteous communication, here are a couple of basic rules regarding e-mail:
 - I will answer your e-mails as soon as possible, but I do not typically check my e-mail before 7:00AM or after 9:00PM. **Please allow at least 24 hours for an answer.**

- Please begin your e-mails with a salutation (“Hello Dr. Toman”) and sign your name to the e-mail (“Thank you, [your name]”).
- **Please include your course name and number** in the subject of your e-mail.
- Be sure to write your e-mail as you would write a paper. That is, use capital letters where capital letters are supposed to go, use punctuation, and do not write like you are sending a text message.
- **I will not respond to e-mails if they are unprofessional**; please be sure to use appropriate respectful language and structure in your communications with me or you will not get a response.

COURSE SCHEDULE

TOPICS DISCUSSED IN CLASS		TO READ PRIOR TO CLASS
Unit I. Introduction and correctional theory		
August 24, R	Introduction to course, syllabus	NONE
September 5, T	Introduction to punishment Overview of corrections system	Clear—ch. 1 (pp. 5-12, 15-23)
September 7, R	<i>Correctional theory</i> Retribution, deterrence Labeling	Clear—ch. 2 (pp. 38-43), ch. 4 (pp. 72-73) “Marked” PDF (online)
September 12, T	<i>Correctional theory</i> Rehabilitation theory Incapacitation Conover Pt. 1 <i>Review for Exam #1</i>	Clear—ch. 4 (pp. 74-77) Conover—part 1 (pp. 1-94)
September 14, R	Exam #1	
Unit II. History and trends in corrections		
September 19, T	History of corrections in America	Clear—ch. 3 (all) SYSK Podcast (online)
September 21, R	Corrections Expansion Mass Incarceration	Clear—ch. 18 (all) “Crime Drop” PDF (online)
September 26, T	The Cost of Punishment International Perspectives	“State Correctional Expenditures” PDF (online) “Mauer Report” PDF (online)
September 28, R	The Corrections “Client”	Clear—ch. 6 (all)
October 3, T	Community Justice	Clear—ch. 21 (all)
October 5, R	Prison versus Jail Conover Pt. 2 Review for Exam #2	Clear—ch. 7 (all) Conover—pt. 2 (pp. 95-170)
October 10, T	Exam #2	
Unit III. Experiences with the correctional system		
October 12, R	No Class	No Readings (but a lot of readings coming up!)

October 17, T	“The” Prison Experience	Clear—ch. 11 (all) “A Prison Alliance” PDF (online)
October 19, R	Prisoners, Guards, and Prison Order Prisoner Reentry	Clear—ch. 13 (all) “Prison Life” PDF (online) Clear—ch. 16 (all) “Urban Institute” PDF (online)
October 24, T	Criminal Sentencing Disparities in Punishment	Clear—ch. 4 (pp. 77-87) Clear—ch. 19 (all)
October 26, R	Juvenile Justice Probation	Clear—ch. 17 (all) Clear—ch. 8 (all)
October 31, T	Victims, Families, Communities Conover Pt. 3 Review for Exam #3	Clear — ch. 9 (all) Conover — pt. 3 (pp. 171-241)
November 2, R	Exam #3	
Unit IV. Understanding corrections research and the future of punishment in America		
November 7, T	The Death Penalty	Clear—ch. 20 (all)
November 9, R	Corrections Privatization	Clear—ch. 10 (pp. 264-267) “New Yorker Private Prisons” PDF (online)
November 14, T	Supermax Prisons	“Mears and Reisig” PDF (online)
November 16, R	Last Days of Solitary Day 1	Clear—ch. 13
November 21, T	Last Days of Solitary Day 2	Clear—ch. 13
November 23, R	No Class — Thanksgiving	
November 28, T	Gender and Punishment	Clear — ch. 12 “Erin George” PDF (online)
November 30, R	Gender and Punishment Pt. 2 Review for Exam #4	Clear — ch. 12
December 7, R	Exam #4	