

Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology
CRIJ 2365.05
Correctional Systems and Practice
Fall 2017

Instructor: Thomas Warren
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Class Hours: Monday 6:00 – 8:50 pm
Classroom: CJC – A115
Office Hours: Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday from 5:00 to 6:00 or by appointment

Required Text:

Stohr, M., Walsh, A., & Hemmens, C. (2013). *Corrections: A Text/Reader*. 2nd edition
Los Angeles, California: Sage Publications, Inc.

Course Description:

This class will provide the student with a better understanding of correctional systems and practices to include probation, parole, incarceration, juveniles, and the death penalty. The objective will be to analyze the current procedures and practices in the field of corrections, help the students to think critically and logically, and provide the ability to plan for the future of corrections.

Course Objectives:

1. Learning fundamental principles, generalizations, or theories concerning corrections.
2. Describe the history and background of American and Texas corrections.
3. Learning how to find and use resources for answering questions or solving problems.
4. To increase understanding of the correctional environment and how it impacts our lives and society as a whole.
5. Learning to analyze and critically evaluate ideas, arguments, and points of view concerning corrections.
6. To learn different methodologies concerning handling crisis in a correctional environment.

Course Requirements:

Tests: Tests will be multiple choice and will cover material presented in class as well as material from the required text. Students will be required to bring scantron answer sheets to class for exams.

Extra Credit: Sections I to XIV reading questions and answers with point total to be announced at a later date.

Class project: Students will complete one of the following possible projects:

- A. Controversial Issue project: Identify a controversial issue in corrections today and detail its impact in relation to correctional staff, offenders, communities, and society. Compare and contrast the negative as well as potential positive impact in relation to the issue. Develop a strategy for correctional management to control and handle this issue. Write a 3-5 page paper concerning this issue and provide at least three references.

- B. Interview a Correctional officer in relation to current correctional practices and techniques. Identify what is involved in a typical correctional officer's day, training opportunities, and safety concerns for staff and offenders. This will also be a 3-5 page paper describing the issues faced by correctional staff daily.

Grading:

Student course grades are calculated on:

Test 1	100	A = 358-400
Test 2	100	B = 318-357
Test 3	100	C = 278-317
Class project	100	D = 238-277
		F = 237 and below

Make-Up Exams: Make up exams will only be given if a student has contacted the instructor prior to the exam and has a University recognized absence which includes illness documented by a physician, religious observance, or participation in University activities at the request of University authorities. Official documentation must be provided.

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>

USE OF TELEPHONES AND TEXT MESSAGES IN ACADEMIC CLASSROOMS AND FACILITIES:

<http://www.shsu.edu/dept/academic-affairs/aps/aps-curriculum.html>

Course Outline of topics to be covered in class:

This outline is subject to change according to the needs of the course and the students. The outline serves as a general overview of daily activities.

***Note: It is recommended that reading of the chapter(s) be completed PRIOR to the class to assist in the understanding of the material and participation in class.**

Monday: August 28th

Read the Foreword and Preface to the text, Orientation, Overview of Course Syllabus, and expectations for the semester. **Heritage video**

Monday: September 4th – Labor day – No class

Monday: September 11th

Read: Section I – The Philosophical and Ideological Underpinnings of Corrections

Read: Section II – A History of Corrections

Monday: September 18th

Read: Section III – Jails and the Inmate Experience

Monday: September 25th

Read: Section IV – Sentencing: The Application of Punishment

Monday: October 2nd

Test 1 – Covers Section I through Section IV. Please remember to bring scantrons on this day to take the test.

Monday: October 9th

Read: Section V – Probation and Community Corrections

Monday: October 16th

Read: Section VI – Prisons and the Inmate Experience

Read: Section VII – Parole and Prison Reentry

Monday: October 23rd

Read: Section VIII – The Corrections Experience for Staff

Monday: October 30th

Read: Section IX – Legal Issues in Corrections

Class project due.

Monday: November 6th

Test 2 – Covers Section V to IX – Please remember to bring scantrons to take the test.

Monday: November 13th

Read: Section X – Correctional Programming and Treatment

Read: Section XI – Women and Corrections

Monday: November 20th

Read: Section XII – Minorities and Corrections

Monday: November 27th

Read: Section XIII – Juveniles and Corrections

Read: Section XIV – Corrections in the 21st Century

Review for final

Monday: **December 4th – Test 3 – 8:30 pm – 10:30 pm**

Final Exam – Covers sections X – XIV – please bring scantrons to take test.

Class Discussions and Mutual Respect:

Each person in this course has unique prior experiences and a unique viewpoint to share. This offers a great opportunity for us to learn from each other throughout this course. Though disagreement and even conflict may occur, I encourage you to discuss your own personal experiences and relate them to other classmates. However, I do expect your cooperation in maintaining an atmosphere of mutual respect. Conflict is not negative, as long as there is a commitment to mutual respect. Hateful and demeaning speech will not be tolerated.

The use of electronic devices is restricted during class time. Cell phones are to be off or on vibrate and text messaging is not permitted. If use is necessary, please leave the classroom quietly. Notebook computers are allowed in as much as it does not interfere with the learning environment.