

Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology

CRIJ 2365-01

Correctional Systems and Practices

Spring 2018

Professor: H. Daniel Butler

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Class Hours: Tuesday/Thursday 11:00am-12:20pm

Classroom: A290 – George J. Beto Criminal Justice Center

Office Hours: Tuesday/Thursday 9:30-10:45am and by appointment

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 relates 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 five in-class quizzes. The three exams will each include 60 multiple choice questions. The course exams and class quizzes will be worth the following points:

Exam 1	25 points
Exam 2	25 points
Exam 3	30 points
Class Quizzes	20 points
Course Total	100 points

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. Exam 1 and Exam 2 are each worth 25 points, and Exam 3 is worth 30 points. 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 8 hours, beginning at 9:00am on the day of the scheduled exam and ending at 5:00pm on the same day. 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. Eight hours provides plenty of time for students to take the exam, and students can also take the exam during class time (please plan accordingly!). 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 5:00pm submission deadline. For instance, you cannot start the exam at 4:50pm on the day 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).

Top Hat and Class Quizzes:

Class quizzes are worth 20% of the final grade. Class quizzes and attendance 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/class quizzes. Purchase of the TopHat application is required for this class. TopHat is mandatory to earn points for class quizzes and to be recorded for attendance. Please see the TopHat website (www.tophat.com) for pricing and additional information.

There will be a total of 8 class quiz opportunities. Five of the highest class quiz scores will be counted towards the 20 percent grade. In other words, each quiz is worth approximately 4 points ($4 * 5 = 20$ points). Students who do not do well or miss a quiz have opportunities to still earn full points by doing well on the remaining quizzes. For example, Dr. Butler is sick and misses two class quizzes, and he does not do well on another class quiz. Dr. Butler decides to study very hard for the subsequent quizzes, so he can still earn the maximum number of points on each quiz (4 points).

In total, students will answer short-answer and multiple choice questions on the quizzes that are based on the previous lecture/chapter assignment. Students should study for these quizzes as they are designed to help you on the exams! There are no makeups for missing class quizzes. I will not accept any excuses for missing a class quiz because you have three “drop” grades for quizzes. Please do not be late to class for class quizzes! You have advance notice of when they are going to happen (see syllabus). It is not the professor’s responsibility to ensure you are in class to take the quiz, so please be prepared for each class. The dates for each quiz are provided in the syllabus, but this may be subject to change if class is cancelled or we are behind schedule.

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 be present to complete in-class quizzes. 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). 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
January 18	Thurs.	Introduction and discussion of syllabus Class expectations; Read Ch. 1
January 23	Tues	Lecture: Philosophical Underpinnings of Corrections Reading: Ch. 2
January 25	Thurs.	Lecture: Early Corrections and Corrections History Reading: Ch. 3 & Ch. 4
January 30	Tues	Lecture: Early Corrections & Ethics (Cont.) Reading: Ch. 5 <u>Quiz #1: Ch. 4</u>
February 1	Thurs.	Lecture: Sentencing and Punishment Reading: Ch. 6

February 6	Tues	Lecture: Sentencing (Cont.) Reading: Finish Ch. 6
February 8	Thurs.	Lecture: Jails and Detention Centers <u>Quiz #2: Ch. 6</u>
February 13	Tues	Lecture: Jails and Detention Centers Cont. Study for Exam #1
February 15	Thurs.	Exam #1: Exam is Available on Blackboard on February 15 at 9:00am and Closes February 15 at 5:00pm NO CLASS – EXAM DAY
February 20	Tues	Lecture: Special Problem-Solving Courts in Corrections Reading: Ch. 7 & Ch. 8
February 22	Thurs.	Lecture: Community Corrections: Probation Reading: Ch. 8 & Ch. 9
February 27	Tues	Lecture: Community Corrections (Cont.) Reading: Ch.9 <u>Quiz #3: Ch. 8</u>
March 1	Thurs.	Lecture: Prisons and the Correctional Client Reading: Ch. 10
March 6	Tues	Lecture: Classification and Assessment Reading: Ch. 11 <u>Quiz #4: Ch. 9</u>
March 8	Thurs.	Lecture: Correctional Programming and Treatment Reading: Ch. 12
March 13	Tues	Spring Break – No Class!
March 15	Thurs.	Spring Break – No Class!
March 20	Tues	Lecture: Treatment (Cont.) Reading: Finish Ch. 12
March 22	Thurs.	Lecture: Parole and Prisoner Reentry <u>Quiz #5: Ch. 11</u>

March 27	Tues	Lecture Parole and Prisoner Reentry (Cont.) Study for Exam #2
March 29	Thurs.	Exam #2: Exam is Available on Blackboard on March 29 at 9:00am and Closes March 29 at 5:00pm NO CLASS – EXAM DAY
April 3	Tues	Lecture: Corrections Organizations and Management Reading: Ch. 13
April 5	Thurs.	Lecture: Corrections Organizations and Management (Cont.) Reading Ch. 13 & Ch. 14
April 10	Tues	Lecture: Correctional Staff Reading: Ch. 14 <u>Quiz #6: Ch. 13</u>
April 12	Thurs.	Lecture: Correctional Staff (Cont.) Reading: Ch. 15
April 17	Tues	Lecture: Women in Corrections Reading: Ch. 15
April 19	Thurs.	Lecture: Legal Issues in Corrections Reading: Ch. 18 <u>Quiz #7: Ch. 15</u>
April 24	Tues	Lecture: Legal Issues in Corrections (Cont.) Reading: Ch. 19
April 26	Thurs.	Lecture: Death Penalty Reading: Finish Ch. 19 <u>Quiz #8: Ch. 18</u>
May 1	Tues..	Lecture: Death Penalty (Cont.) Reading: Ch. 21
May 3	Thurs.	Lecture: Corrections in the 21 st Century Study for final exam!
May 10	Thurs.	FINAL EXAM (Available May 10 at 9:00am and Closes on May 10 at 5:00pm) NO CLASS – EXAM DAY