

CRIJ 2365.03

Correctional Systems and Practices

Department of Criminal
Justice and Criminology College of Criminal Justice Spring 2018

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Class Hours: Online with each Session beginning and opening on Sunday morning at 12:00AM and closing at 11:59 PM the following Sunday night. Final Exam, which will open for a limited and specified time (Dec.4 - 7) with further details to be posted prior to final session.

Classroom: Online through SHSU website:
<http://distance.shsu.edu>/Office Hours: Primary contact through e-mail and telephone. In-office meeting may be
scheduled by request.

Required eTextbook: Richard P. Seiter, Corrections: An Introduction, Pearson, 2016. In an exciting agreement between our textbook publisher, Pearson and Sam Houston State University, the e-text is included at no additional cost to you for this course. You may choose to purchase a hardcopy of the textbook, but it is not necessary. Pearson will allow you to purchase a loose-leaf text at a low fee (less than \$25) through your Pearson account. The required access code will be provided on your first log in to the course and further information will be included on the home course page.

Course Description: This course is an overview of the corrections field; courts, detention, sentencing, adult institutions, probation, parole, offender, and personnel issues. This course will be an active and interactive learning experience providing an analysis and evaluation of contemporary correctional systems to include considering current and future challenges facing corrections. Students will gain a deeper understanding and appreciation of the many complexities of our current criminal justice system through sentencing and correctional practices today.

Course Objectives: At the conclusion of this course:

1. Students will be able to describe the evolution of corrections based on a variety of sentencing goals, and analyze current correctional practices and operations.
2. Students will be able to describe corrections as a system and understand the different components within the corrections field.
3. Students will be able to describe the dynamic nature of corrections from a sentencing and policy perspective and be able to describe the offender population explosion in the United States.
4. Students will be able to discuss the critical issues within corrections including special populations and management challenges.

5. Students will be able to discuss the need for reform of correctional options, and operations.

6. Students will be able to develop a model of future sentencing options and correctional alternatives.
7. Students will understand the issues resulting in decisions as offenders move through the sentencing and correctional process.

Lesson Checklist: Every session has a prescribed checklist of activities required to successfully complete the lesson. Follow this checklist, in the specified order, to complete each lesson. Activities: This course includes numerous graded and ungraded assignments, and activities listed below.

Graded Activities • Discussion Forums • Session Tests • Final Exam

Ungraded Activities • Online Practice • Reading Assignments

Session Tests (6 during the semester) represent 50% of your grade and will cover the assigned chapters from the text, the on-line course content as well as my lectures. Typically each session test will include multiple choice, fill-in-the blank, true-false, and potentially short answer questions. Posted on the course home page is a 24 hour help number to call if you have any problems. Please call the help desk immediately if you have a technical issue while taking a quiz. I will drop your lowest session test grade, so your best 5 grades will equal your final score for tabulation of your final grade.

Discussion Forums represent a significant portion of your grade and your timely participation in the forums do count towards your final grade as outlined below in the Grading Policy. Your original discussion post must be submitted by midnight on each Sunday during the corresponding session. Each session will provide you with the necessary information and guidance upon which to base your post. I will be looking for thoughtful, well-written posts based on the material provided of at least 8 sentences long. Any videos, lecture notes, or textbook readings required for that week must be referenced in your post. If presenting any outside information or facts, in-text citations and the source's citation are needed as well. You will also be required to provide at least two responses to other student's posts which must be completed by the last day of the session, typically Sunday night (again during the corresponding session). They must be appropriate responses and written in at least 4 full sentences furthering the discussion, rather than a simple response of "I agree" or "disagree." The quality and content of your discussion posts will determine your weekly grades. These discussion posts are considered a weekly learning opportunity to thoughtfully consider course material.

I will review your discussion posts at the end of the semester and certainly the quality of your posts may have a positive impact on your final grade if you are in between two grade levels. We will have discussion assignments each week and they must be completed within the designated session date. Discussion posts are worth the following points:

A maximum of 10 points for your original discussion post

A maximum of 5 points if your original post is submitted late. A maximum of 5 points each (up to 10 points total) for each response to your fellow students' discussion posts. TOTAL: A maximum of 20 points per week (15 points if original post is submitted late)

Final Exam. This will be a comprehensive exam and is worth 20% of your final grade, so please take the time to appropriately prepare. The exam will include only questions from the 6 Session Tests you have already completed. It will include 50 questions randomly selected from a

pool of questions, with each question worth two points for a total of 100 points. All questions are multiple choice. The Final Exam will open on your final session (Session 16) and will coincide with the on-campus finals week. Specific date and time information on when the exam will be available will be posted and e-mailed several weeks earlier so you can adequately prepare

Grading Policy: The following table shows the activity types contained within this course, and the assigned weighting to determine the final course grade.

Activity Types Weights (%)

Discussion Forums 30%

Session Tests Final Exam 20% Total: 100%

Letter grades for the course will be based on the following grading scale.
Letter Grade Percentage

A B C D F

90 - 100% 80-89% 70 - 79% 60 - 69%

<60%

50%

Course Participation/Attendance Policy: Unlike a traditional, instructor-led course, you do not need to show up to class at a specific time every day to earn your class participation/attendance grade. Instead, you need to make a constant effort to complete the online assignments and participate in the class discussions. Although some of your activities will be ungraded, your ability to effectively participate in the discussion forums may be based on any of the assignments, lectures, readings or videos that are included in each of the sessions. Your participation within the discussion forums equates to classroom attendance and participation requirements.

Make-up Exams: Generally make-up session tests/exams will not be

allowed since each session is open for a week (seven days) providing ample time for you to schedule your time appropriately to complete all activities including the assigned quiz. If exceptional circumstances exist, please contact me for any special consideration.

Online Etiquette: The objective in an online discussion is to be collaborative, not combative. Please, proofread your responses carefully before you post them to make sure that they will not be offensive to others. Use discussions to develop your skills in collaboration and teamwork. Treat the discussion areas as a creative environment where you and your classmates can ask

questions, express opinions, revise opinions, and take positions just as you would in a more “traditional” classroom setting. Do not use “text” shorthand or any other inappropriate abbreviations – as stated earlier, I expect well written, grammatically correct discussion posts. **Outline of Topics/Class Schedule:** All required activities and assignments for each session are posted in the session tab on the home page.

01 Jan 17 Introductions. Overview of course and syllabus. Read Syllabus/Schedule

02 Jan 21 The History of Crime and Corrections.

- Defining Corrections • Theories of Crime and Punishment • Development of the Prison • Sentencing Goals of Corrections

03 Jan 28

Sentencing and the Correctional Process. • Pretrial/Pre-sentencing Activities • The Sentencing Decision • Reforming Sentencing Options

- Creative Sentencing Options Chapter 2:

Session Test 1

04 Feb 4 Jails.

- Jail Operations • Design and Supervision in Jails • Issues in Jails

Chapter 3:

05 Feb 11 Probation and Intermediate Sanctions.

- Probation Operations • Issues Regarding Probation • Defining and Effectiveness of Intermediate Sanctions

Chapter 4: Session Test 2

06 Feb 18 Prison Systems.

- Role and Mission of Prisons • Growth of Prisons Population • Adult Prison Systems in the United States: 1. Federal 2. State 3. Private

Chapter 5:

07 Feb 25 Parole and Prisoner Reentry

- History and Current Status of Parole • Operations and Effectiveness of Parole • Prisoner Reentry: Issues and Improving through a Systems Approach

Chapter 6: Session Test 3

The Clients of Adult Correctional Agencies Prison Life for Inmates.

- Overview of Adult Offenders • Male Offenders • Female Offenders

Chapter 7: Chapter 11

09 Mar 4 The Juvenile Correctional System.

- Juvenile Crime • Juvenile Justice Process • Legal Issues Affecting the Juvenile Justice System • Issues in Juvenile Justice

Chapter 8: Session Test 4

10 Mar 11 Special Offenders.

- Juvenile Offenders in Adult System • Prisoners with Substance Abuse Needs • Mentally Ill Offenders • Aging Offenders • Sex Offenders • Infectious Diseases

Chapter 9:

11 Mar 18 Management of Prisons. World of Prison Staff

- Organizations of Prisons • Controlling Inmate Behavior • Role of Prison Staff • Prison Culture for Staff

Chapter 10: Chapter 12: Session Test 5

12 Mar 25 Custody Within a Prison.

- Security and Custody Functions • Inmate Accountability Processes • Inmate Riots and Disturbances • Emergency Management

Chapter 13:

13 Apr 1 Treatment and Programs within a Prison.

- Define Rehabilitation • Identifying Treatment Needs • Types of Prison Programs • Evidence-Based Practices

Chapter 14 Chapter 16.6

14 Apr 8 Legal Issues and the Death Penalty.

- Bill of Rights/Rights of Prisoners • History of Capital Punishment • Legal and Statutory Provisions for the Death Penalty • Reasons for Capital Punishment

Chapter 15: Session Test 6

15 Apr 15 Current and Future Issues in Corrections.

- Prison and Jail Populations • Politics and Policy • Impact of Budgets on Correctional Policies

- Private Prisons • Importance of Staff Diversity • Issues for the Future

Chapter 16: Apr 22

May 7-10 Final Exam

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> SSD

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USE OF TELEPHONES AND TEXT MESSAGERS IN ACADEMIC

CLASSROOMS AND

FACILITIES: <http://www.shsu.edu/dotAsset/6d35c9c9-e3e9-4695-a1a1-11951b88bc63.pdf> <http://www.shsu.edu/dept/registrar/calendars/final-exam-schedules.html>