

Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology

CRIJ 6372 Seminar in Criminology and Corrections Spring 2018

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Class Hours: Online

Classroom: Online

Office Hours: By appointment

Please note that the best way to contact me is via email.

TEXTBOOKS

Richard P. Seiter. (2017). *Correctional Administration: Integrating Theory and Practice*, 3rd Edition, Pearson. ISBN 9780133770766

Cullen, F. T., & Jonson, C. L. (2016). *Correctional theory: Context and consequences*. Sage Publications. ISBN: 9781506306520

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will explore the administration of corrections from a number of critical perspectives – from a leadership perspective providing background and leadership theory that guides practice and the administration of correctional agencies as well as understanding how correctional theory guides the goals, policies, and practices of the correctional system, emphasizing the importance of using evidence- based information to guide decisions rather than relying on nonscientific common sense or ideologically-based beliefs.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

By the end of the semester, students will:

- Understand the major correctional theories that influence and impact correctional administration, strategies, and policies.
- Gain insight into executive correctional leadership from an administration perspective and from a policy perspective
- Understand and describe the issues facing corrections that must be addressed to make progress into the future.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Lesson Checklist: Every lesson has a prescribed checklist of activities. Follow this checklist, in the specified order, to complete each lesson.

Activities: This course includes the following graded assignments and activities.

Graded Activities:

- Discussion Forums
- Mid-Term exam
- Final Exam
- Policy Paper

Discussion Forums. These forums represent a significant portion of your grade. I will expect your discussion posts to be thoughtful, well-written, and based on the text, lectures, external articles, other cited articles, and any relevant experience. Your initial discussion post must be at least 300 words and **must be submitted by midnight on each Wednesday**. Each session will provide you with the necessary information and guidance upon which to base your post.

You will 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. They must be appropriate responses written in full sentences (minimum of 100 words) furthering the discussion, rather than a simple response of "I agree" or "disagree". 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 discussion posts are worth the following points:

A maximum of 10 points for your original discussion post (when posted by Wednesday).
A maximum of 5 points if your original post is submitted late (after Midnight Wed).

5 points each (10 total) for each response to your fellow students' answers.

TOTAL: 20 points per week (15 points if original post is submitted late)

Mid-Term and Final Exam. The mid-term and final exam will primarily include essay questions based on our texts, lectures, and external articles that are assigned during different sessions. Additional information will be posted prior to the each exam.

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.

Policy Paper. The paper shall identify and focus on a significant correctional or criminal justice issue, challenge, problem or policy and based on your review of relevant literature suggest

improved, alternative, or enhanced policy.

The paper should meet the following guidelines and expectations:

- 1) Identify, describe, and fully develop the identified issue and why it is critical to address from a public safety perspective
- 2) Analyze, discuss, and cite the scientific literature regarding your topic and potential implications. Discuss the different correctional theory applications within your issue and policy recommendations.
- 3) Formulate and present your policy recommendations supported by evidence drawn from applicable research within the correctional field.
- 4) Structurally the paper will meet the following requirements:
 1. Length of paper will be at least 10 pages, not including title page, charts/tables, footnotes, bibliography, and table of contents.
 2. Font size will not be greater than 12 point.
 3. Meet APA formatting.
- 5) Organization, style, syntax, grammar, etc. should reflect graduate level scholarship
- 6) **Identified topic and outline of paper is to be submitted by March 11th, and your final paper is due April 22nd. The paper must be submitted through the course site, no emailed papers will be accepted to avoid any errors in transmission.**

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

Course Component	Weights (%)
Discussion Forums	30%
Policy Paper	30%
Mid Term and Final Exam (20% each)	40%
Total: 100%	

Letter grades for the course will be based on the grade scale below. Please note that students at the graduate level who receive 2 or more grade of C are dismissed from the program as per SHSU policy.

- A = 89.5 – 100%
- B = 79.5 – 89.4 %
- C = 69.5 – 79.4%
- D = 59.5 – 69.4%
- F = 59.4 % or less

STUDENT ACADEMIC POLICIES

ATTENDANCE POLICY

It is important to understand that this is not an entirely self-paced class. There are important

deadlines and students are expected to make routine progress. It will be very likely MORE difficult to learn the material in this class if you have only devoted a short time to the class and try to cram a week's worth of material into a single day. Please make a strong attempt to work on the class material and log into the class throughout the semester. You will probably learn the material more effectively and you may have a more enjoyable experience with the class. Regular and ongoing participation is *required* in this course. You are expected to check the course throughout each week. Among other things, this means that exams **MUST** be completed during the scheduled time and that assignments/discussion board posts must be completed within the specified time. Make up exams and assignments will **NOT** be given unless the student notifies the professor *prior to* the absence. Rare situations arise when it is impossible to notify the professor in advance. If this occurs, the student must provide the professor with a typed description of the reason for the absence. This must be provided to the professor within five school days of the absence. The professor may request documentation (e.g., a doctor's note, police report, etc.) to excuse an absence that has conflicted with a scheduled test or assignment/discussion post. Attendance is required and critical to your performance in this class. Class attendance requirements will be followed in accordance with Academic Policy Statement 8004001 http://www.shsu.edu/~vaf_www/aps/documents/800401_001.pdf

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY/HONESTY

Academic dishonesty in the form of cheating, falsification, fabrication, multiple submissions, plagiarism, and abuse of academic materials will not be tolerated. Students caught exhibiting such behavior will receive a **failing grade in the course**. If you have any questions with regard to what constitutes academic dishonesty (e.g., what is plagiarism/cheating?), please see me. For a complete listing of the university policy, see: http://www.shsu.edu/~vaf_www/aps/documents/810213.pdf

DISABILITY ACCOMMODATION

SHSU adheres to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. For a complete listing of the University policy, see: http://www.shsu.edu/~vaf_www/aps/documents/811006.pdf For information on services provided, see: <http://www.shsu.edu/~counsel/sswd.html>

RELIGIOUS/HOLY DAY POLICY

In accordance with SHSU policy 861001, students who wish to be absent from class on a religious holy day may provide a written statement to the professor concerning their absence. For a complete list of the university policy, see: <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>

ACADEMIC (ONLINE) ETIQUETTE

In this class, you are required to conduct yourself in an appropriate, responsible, and professional manner. The objective in an online discussion is to be collaborative, *not* combative. Be sure to 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 properly composed, grammatically correct discussion posts. Discussion responses will be graded for content, but spelling/grammatical errors will result in point reductions.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

This course requires regular, dependable access to the Internet as well as Microsoft Word, and Adobe PDF files. If you do not know how to use Blackboard or if you encounter technical difficulties with the course website, contact the SHSU technical team ASAP. They are staffed Monday through Saturday (except for Holidays) from 7am to Midnight. They can be reached by email (delta@shsu.edu) or phone (936-294-2780). Updated information can be found in the “Need Help” link on the left navigation bar on Blackboard.

MANDATORY REPORTING FOR TITLE IX

As a professor at SHSU, I am under federal obligation to relay information regarding victimization disclosure to our University’s Title IX Coordinator for the purpose of ensuring appropriate services and accommodations are provided to anyone who has disclosed victimization. It is important that you know, should you disclose ongoing or past victimization in writing assignments, during class, or to me personally, I am legally obliged to relay this information to the Dean of Students’ Office.

MANDATORY REPORTING OF KNOWN OR SUSPECTED ABUSE OF OTHERS

Texas law* says anyone who thinks a child, or person 65 years or older, or an adult with disabilities is being abused, neglected, or exploited must report it to DFPS. A person who reports abuse in good faith is immune from civil or criminal liability. The Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) keeps the name of the person making the report confidential. Anyone who does not report suspected abuse can be held liable for a misdemeanor or felony. Time frames for investigating reports are based on the severity of the allegations. Reporting suspected abuse makes it possible for a family to get help. Here is a link to allow for such reporting and for further information: http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/Contact_Us/report_abuse.asp

ADDITIONAL POLICIES

1. **ALL** emails to the professor must be written in a formal style to receive a response. This means that you must include a greeting and sign the email.
2. Class grades are **NOT** negotiable. Any attempt to negotiate grades (e.g., coaxing, bargaining) will be considered a violation of academic integrity.
3. As this is an online class, all communication will take place online. This means that if you have questions/concerns or I need to contact you, I will do so via email.
4. I am available via email, but if you contact me electronically after 5:00pm, on the weekend or a University holiday, expect a response the next working business day after 8:00am.

DISCLAIMER: The class schedule in this syllabus is subject to change. Announcements of any changes to the schedule will be made via email and/or posted in Blackboard. These announcements are considered proper notice of change.

ANNOTATED OUTLINE OF TOPICS TO BE COVERED FOR EACH CLASS MEETING

WEEK	TOPICS	READ	ASSIGNMENTS DUE	DUE DATE
01/17-01/21	Course Introductions	Syllabus, Professor information	Discussion Post and Response	Discussion post due by Friday at 11:59p. Response posts for Discussion due by Sunday at 11:59p
01/22-01/28	1) Correctional Administration 2) From Theory to Policy: Evidence-Based Corrections	Seiter: Chapter 1 Cullen/ Jonson: Chapter 1	Discussion Post and Response	Discussion post due by Wednesday at 11:59p. Response posts for Discussion due by Sunday at 11:59p
01/29-02/04	1) Theories and Leadership 2) Leadership and Management	Seiter: Chapters 2 & 3	Discussion Post and Response	Discussion post due by Wednesday at 11:59p. Response posts for Discussion due by Sunday at 11:59p
02/05-02/11	1) Vision, Mission, Strategic Planning 2) Correctional Theory in Crisis: America's Changing Context	Seiter: Chapter 4 Cullen/ Jonson: Chapter 2	Discussion Post and Response	Discussion post due by Wednesday at 11:59p. Response posts for Discussion due by Sunday at 11:59p
02/12-02/18	1) Just Deserts 2) Deterrence 3) Incapacitation	Cullen/ Jonson: Chapters 3, 4, & 5	Discussion Post and Response	Discussion post due by Wednesday at 11:59p. Response posts for Discussion due by Sunday at 11:59p
02/19-02/25	1) Restorative Justice 2) Rehabilitation	Cullen/ Jonson: Chapters 6 & 7	Discussion Post and Response	Discussion post due by Wednesday at 11:59p. Response posts for Discussion due by Sunday at 11:59p
02/26-03/04	1) Role of Staff 2) Human Resource Management for Corrections 3) Staff Organization	Seiter: Chapters 5, 6, & 7	Discussion Post and Response	Discussion post due by Wednesday at 11:59p. Response posts for Discussion due by Sunday at 11:59p
03/05-03/11	1) Supervising and Empowering Employees 2) Fiscal Management	Seiter: Chapters 8 & 9	Discussion Post and Response	Discussion post due by Wednesday at 11:59p. Response posts for Discussion due by Sunday at 11:59p Policy Paper topic and Outline due – March 11
03/12-03/18	Spring Break			Work on Term Papers Review Readings and notes for Mid-Term Exam

03/19-03/25	Mid-Term Exam	Seiter: Chapters 1-9 Cullen/ Jonson: Chapters 1-7	Complete Mid-term Exam	Mid-term Exam Due Sunday by midnight
03/26-04/01	Managing Risk through Classification	Seiter: Chapter 10	Discussion Post and Response	Discussion post due by Wednesday at 11:59p. Response posts for Discussion due by Sunday at 11:59p
04/02-04/08	1) Managing the External Environment 2) Early Intervention 3) Four Correctional Lessons	Seiter: Chapter 11 Cullen/ Jonson: Chapters 8 & 9	Discussion Post and Response	Discussion post due by Wednesday at 11:59p. Response posts for Discussion due by Sunday at 11:59p
04/09-04/15	1) Security 2) Programs 3) Basic Services	Seiter: Chapters 12, 13, & 14	Discussion Post and Response	Discussion post due by Wednesday at 11:59p. Response posts for Discussion due by Sunday at 11:59p
04/16-04/22	Policy Paper Due April 22nd			Policy paper due April 22 nd by Midnight
04/23-04/29	Critical Issues	Seiter: Chapter 15	Discussion Post and Response	Discussion post due by Wednesday at 11:59p. Response posts for Discussion due by Sunday at 11:59p
04/30-05/06	Future of Correctional Administration	Seiter: Chapter 16 Cullen/ Jonson: Chapter 10	Discussion Post and Response	Discussion post due by Wednesday at 11:59p. Response posts for Discussion due by Sunday at 11:59p
05/07-05/10	Final Exam	Seiter: Chapters 1-16 Cullen/ Jonson: Chapters 1-10	Complete Final Exam	Final Exam Due Thursday 5/10 by 5PM