
CRIJ2365: CORRECTIONAL SYSTEMS AND PRACTICE

SPRING 2018

Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology, Sam Houston State University

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Class Hours/Location: Online
Office Hours: By appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

This course is designed as an in-depth examination of historical and contemporary correctional practices in the United States and beyond. The course focuses on the philosophies, practices, and procedures of correctional institutions and the people housed and working within them. The course introduces students to a variety of issues relevant to the study of correctional systems, including: correctional and punishment theories, punishment and corrections as a product of historical, cultural, and political changes, rehabilitation, and community prevention strategies. By the end of the course, students should be able to:

1. Talk in specific terms about the basic elements of United States correctional systems;
2. Understand and compare the historical and current composition of correctional populations;
3. Think more deeply and critically from an empirical perspective about how correctional practices connect to philosophies of punishment, sentencing practices, victim's rights, and institutional limitations; and
4. Understand the contemporary challenges facing our correctional systems.

COURSE MATERIALS

There is no required text for this course. The required readings for this course include empirical, theoretical, and review articles as well as selected government reports. All readings for this course are available electronically via the course *Blackboard* page. Please routinely visit the page for this course. I recommend logging in once each day to review course-related materials, including readings, handouts, and assignments.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

DISCUSSION FORUMS

This course is divided into four parts:

- Corrections Past & Present
- Institutional Corrections
- The Culture of Corrections
- Corrections & The Community

Aligned with the four parts designed for this course, you will participate in four Discussion Forums over the course of the semester. Each Discussion Forum will require both an original post worth 35

points and a response post worth 15 points, for a total of 50 points per Discussion Forum. Your original post is due by 11:59 PM/CST on each Thursday of the assigned week. You must then post a thoughtful response to one student's original post by 11:59 PM/CST on Sunday of that week:

Original post due dates: 02/08, 03/01, 04/05, 04/26

Response post due dates: 02/11, 03/04, 04/08, 04/29

Taken together, the Discussion Forums comprise 200 points, or 47% of your final grade. Detailed instructions and specific requirements for each part's discussion forum will be provided via the course *Blackboard* page.

EXAMS

We will have two exams during this course—a mid-term exam and a final exam. Each exam consists of objective (multiple choice, true/false, matching) questions to test your knowledge of the reading(s) and other course material(s). Because the exams are not cumulative, a review sheet will be provided in advance of each exam to clearly outline the material covered on the respective exam. For this course, exams will comprise 47% of your final grade.

Make-Up Exams

If you miss an exam you will receive a zero grade. Make-up exams are not given.

GRADING

Course grades will be calculated according to the following formula:

Course Requirement	Point Formula	Possible Pts.
Discussion Introduction	1 post x 25 points per post	25
Discussion Forums	4 forums x 50 points per forum	200
Exams	2 exams x 100 points per exam	200
<i>Total Points</i>		300

Grade Scale: 090.00-100.00 = A 080.00-089.99 = B 070.00-079.99 = C
 060.00-069.99 = D 059.00 and below = F

EXTRA CREDIT OPPORTUNITIES

Extra credit opportunities will be provided two times during the course. At the time each opportunity is available, instructions will be posted to the course *Blackboard* page.

COURSE POLICIES

VIRTUAL OFFICE

Please use the Virtual Office to ask general questions about the course, course materials, and assignments. By posting to the Virtual Office you are guaranteed a response within 24 hours. Before posting a question or emailing the professor with a question, check the Virtual Office to be sure another student has not already posed the same question and received a response. If you need to ask a more private question, you should use e-mail to communicate with your professor. See the course *Blackboard* page for instructions related to the Virtual Office.

E-MAIL COMMUNICATION

You can expect a response to all e-mails within 48 hours, although I will likely respond sooner. To assure a timely e-mail response, your e-mail you should adhere to the following e-mail guidelines:

1. All e-mails sent to your professor should be professional. Professional e-mails have a subject heading, a proper salutation, a clear statement of the matter at hand, and a proper closing followed by your first and last names.
2. Use CRIJ2365 as the subject heading of your e-mail. Labeling your e-mail will assure we properly respond and in a timely manner.

UNIVERSITY POLICIES

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

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 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/academic-affairs/aps/aps-students.html>

USE OF TELEPHONES/TEXT MESSAGERS

If you consult with or use any unauthorized electronic devices or materials to aid in the completion of exams or assignments for this course, you will be assigned a failing course grade. For further information on the university policy, see <http://www.shsu.edu/dept/academic-affairs/aps/aps-curriculum.html>.

STUDENT 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. Section 51.011(a)(2) of the code defines a religious holy day: "a holy day observed by a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property taxation under Section 11.20." Sam Houston State University's Academic Policy Statement 861001 provides the procedures to be followed by the student and professor, see: <http://www.shsu.edu/dept/academic-affairs/aps/aps-students.html>

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

It is the policy of Sam Houston State University (SHSU) 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). 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/dept/academic-affairs/aps/aps-students.html>

SEE THE COURSE SCHEDULE FOR COURSE TOPICS, REQUIRED READINGS, AND ASSIGNMENTS

This syllabus, including the course schedule, is a plan and is subject to change at any time. If changes are made, you will be provided with a revised syllabus.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Correctional Systems and Practice

WEEK	TOPIC	REQUIRED READING	ASSIGNMENT	DUE DATE*
1 01/17	Course Introduction	• Course syllabus and schedule	Introduction Discussion Board	01/21
Part I. Corrections Past & Present				
2 01/22	Understanding Trends in U.S. Corrections	• Bureau of Justice Statistics (2016)	--	01/28
3 01/29	History and Origins of Corrections	• Woodham (2008)	--	02/04
4 02/05	Correctional Theories	• Collins et al. (2013)	Discussion Forum #1	02/11
Part II. Institutional Corrections				
5 02/12	Jails: Detention and Short-Term Incarceration	• Bureau of Justice Statistics (2015)	--	02/18
6 02/19	Prisons and Mass Incarceration	• Tonry (2014) • Shannon et al. (2017)	Documentary: <i>Solitary Nation</i>	02/25
7 02/26	Life Without Parole	• Leigey & Ryder (2015)	Discussion Forum #2	03/04
8 03/05	Midterm Exam			03/11
S P R I N G R E C E S S				
Part III. The Culture of Corrections				
9 03/19	The Correctional Environment	• Liebling (1999) • Ross et al., 2008	--	03/25
10 03/26	Correctional Staff and Administration	• Britton (2003) • Worley, Marquart, & Mullings (2003)	--	04/01
11 04/02	Legal Issues in Corrections	• Rembert & Henderson (2014)	Discussion Forum #3	04/08
Part IV. Corrections & The Community				
12 04/09	Special Populations	• Haney (2017)	Documentary: <i>The New Asylums</i>	04/15
13 04/16	Rehabilitation and Reentry	• MacKenzie & Farrington (2015) • Latessa, Cullen, & Gendreau (2002)	--	04/22
14 04/23	Community Supervision	• Taxman, Shepardson, & Byrne (2004)	Discussion Forum #4	04/30
15 04/30	Final Exam			05/06