Instructor: Dr. Melissa L. Jarrell  
Days/Time: M-TH 12-3:45pm  
Class Location: BH-234  
Office: BH-345  
Office Hours: M-Th 3:45-4:15pm or by appointment  
Phone Number: 825-2188  
E-mail Address: Melissa.Jarrell@tamucc.edu

Required Texts:


Course Description:

*Issues in Corrections* is an overview course designed to familiarize students with the reality of punishment in America and major issues in the American correctional system. The course will focus on a wide range of critical issues pertaining to the history and philosophy of punishment and the American correctional system, drawing on material from researchers, practitioners, and inmates. Students should gain an introductory understanding of past and present issues in American corrections as well as a critical understanding of the American correctional system through lectures, readings, videos, assignments and guest speaker presentations.

Learning Objectives

*Student learning objectives will be assessed and evaluated based on class discussions of lecture material, assigned readings, news articles, and films, as well as specific written evaluations of homework assignments, in-class group activities and a research project and oral presentation.*

1. Identify and discuss the various goals of punishment and the ways in which the United States punishes individuals who violate criminal laws.

2. Critically analyze and discuss the various American correctional theories, practices, and policies.
3. Discuss and examine the role of empirical research and its impact on the American Criminal Justice System and, in particular, correctional policies.

4. Discuss the origin, history, and development of the corrections in the United States with a particular emphasis on issues such as race, class, gender, and culture.

5. Identify and discuss historical and contemporary issues related to punishment in American society.

6. Discuss and analyze the social, psychological, and economic costs associated with incarceration.

7. Identify, analyze, and develop solutions to the problems associated with the administration of justice in the American Correctional System.

**DISABLED STUDENT POLICY**

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact the Disability Services Office at (361) 825-5816 or visit the office in Driftwood 101. Students with a disability which affects their academic performance are expected to arrange for a conference with the instructor in order that appropriate strategies can be considered to ensure that participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired.

**GRADE APPEAL PROCESS**

**Grade Appeal Process:** As stated in University Rule 13.02.99.C2, Student Grade Appeals, a student who believes that he or she has not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in the class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. The burden of proof is upon the student to demonstrate the appropriateness of the appeal.

A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. If the problem cannot be resolved at this level, the student may take the steps below.

1. Presentation of grievance to instructor. (This step must be taken within fourteen calendar days after the beginning of the next term.)
2. Appeal to department chair or area coordinator.
3. Written appeal to the University Academic Standards Grievance Committee.
4. Preliminary review and advising by an ombudsman appointed by the Provost.
5. Submission of file by department chair to the chair of the University Academic Standards Grievance Committee.
6. Review of file by committee chair and submission of case to committee.
7. Proceedings of the University Academic Standards Grievance Committee. (Committee holds hearing, reviews data, presents findings to all parties, and makes recommendation to Provost.)
8. Decision by Provost.
9. Final appeal in writing to the Provost if student or instructor thinks appropriate procedures have not been followed.

For complete details, including the responsibilities of the parties involved in the process and the number of days allowed for completing the steps in the process, see University Rule 13.02.99.C2, Student Grade Appeals, and University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.01, Student Grade Appeal Procedures. These documents are accessible through the University Rules Web site at http://www.tamu.cc/provost/university_rules/index.htm. For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Office of Student Affairs.

**Student Responsibilities:**
- TURN OFF CELL PHONES!!!
- Pay attention during class. Private conversations, sleeping, and reading non-class related material will not be tolerated.
- Learn something! Participate in class discussions.

**Students with Disabilities/Religious Needs:**
If you are a student with a disability or have special needs, please let me know during the first week of class. In addition, students observing religious holidays that conflict with class exams must let me know during the first week of class.

**Academic Honesty:**
Students are expected to be academically honest. If unsure of what honesty entails, please refer to the University Catalog.

**Academic Advising**
The College of Liberal Arts requires that students meet with an Academic Advisor as soon as they are ready to declare a major. The Academic Advisor will set up a degree plan, which must be signed by the student, a faculty mentor, and the department chair. The College's Academic Advising Center is located in Driftwood 203E, and can be reached at 825-3466.
Grading:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attendance (10 pts per class)</td>
<td>100 points total</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exam</td>
<td>150 points total</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group Project</td>
<td>150 points total</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paper</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Model/Presentation</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assignments</td>
<td>100 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Points Possible</td>
<td>500 points</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

A = 90-100% 450-500 points  
B = 80-89%  400-449 points  
C = 70-79%  350-399 points  
D = 60-69%  300-349 points  
F = 59% and below 299 and below

No extra credit will be given. No exceptions!!!

Attendance (100 points)
Attendance is absolutely critical, especially since this class only meets for NINE days. Attendance will be taken every class meeting. Attendance points cannot be made up; therefore, class attendance is very important. Attendance is worth TEN points per class. Leaving early or arriving late will result in a loss of daily attendance points. If you know you will miss any classes during the Maymester it would be best to take this course at another time. The prison field trip is worth an additional ten points. If you miss more than one class, you will automatically fail the course, no exceptions!

Exam (150 points)
One take-home exam will be administered in this course and will include multiple choice, short-answer and essay questions. The exam will cover the assigned readings, class discussions, and videos. The exam will be distributed on Thursday, May 17 and must be turned in during class on Tuesday, May 22. Students may work together on the exam but answers must be original. If I observe plagiarism, you will fail the exam. No exceptions!

Group Project (150 points)
Students will work in groups of THREE for this project. The project will involve designing your own prison or correctional facility. Specific project guidelines will be distributed in class. Projects will be due on Thursday, May 24. As part of your project grade, students will be required to present their project to the class on Thursday, May 24. Some class time will be devoted to working on the class project but students may need to make arrangements to meet outside of class. Papers should be typed and double-spaced (one-inch margins, 12 point font). While there is no specific length required, the most thorough and descriptive projects will earn higher grades.
**Assignments (100 points)**
In-class group activities and take-home assignments will be given throughout the duration of this course. Assignments are designed to offer you the opportunity for relatively “easy” points **IF** you keep up with the assigned readings.

Chapter Questions: 35 points  
Group Activities: 15 points  
Assignments: 50 points

**Concluding Remarks**
If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, do not hesitate to speak with me after class or to give me a call/send me an e-mail. I am available to assist you with information pertaining to this course and to the criminal justice system in general.

The instructor reserves the right to modify the syllabus throughout the semester.  
**Students will be given advanced notice of any syllabus modifications.**

**Note:** Assigned Readings should be completed prior to the date listed on the syllabus.  
Additional readings may be assigned during class.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Readings/Assignments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Thursday  | Course Overview  
Punishment  
- Definitions  
- Philosophies | Group Project Assigned  
Group Activity (5 points) |
| May 10    |                                                                 |                                             |
| Monday    | Punishment  
American Correctional System History  
American Correctional System  
- Sentencing and criminal sanctions  
America’s imprisonment binge | Chapter 1  
Chapter 1 questions due (5 points) |
| May 14    |                                                                 |                                             |
| Tuesday   | American Correctional System  
- Jails/Prisons  
- Characteristics of inmates  
- Supermax | Chapter 7  
Chapter 7 questions due (5 points)  
Group Assignment (10 points):  
http://sentencingproject.org/pdfs/9039.pdf |
| May 15    |                                                                 |                                             |
| Wednesday | Federal Court House Tour  
Meet at 12:45pm; dress appropriately. No cell phones! Need a photo ID! |                                             |
| May 16    |                                                                 |                                             |
| Thursday  | Issues in Corrections  
- Gender/Race  
- Drug offenders  
- Health issues/AIDS  
- Riots/violence | Chapters 2 & 8  
Chapter 2 & 8 questions due (5 points)  
Chapters 4, 5 & 6  
Chapters 4, 5, & 6 questions due (10 points) |
<p>| May 17    |                                                                 |                                             |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Monday</strong></td>
<td>Issues in Corrections</td>
<td>Chapters 9 and 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>May 21</strong></td>
<td>- Privatization</td>
<td>Chapters 9 and 11 questions due (5 points)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>- Capital punishment/Death row</td>
<td>Homework due on Prison Survival Guide (10 points)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Tuesday</strong></td>
<td>Future of Corrections</td>
<td>Homework due on International Perspectives (20 points)</td>
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<td><strong>May 22</strong></td>
<td>- Recidivism</td>
<td><strong>EXAM #1 DUE</strong></td>
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<td>- Reiman: <em>The Rich Get Richer and the Poor Get Prison</em></td>
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<td>- Alternatives to incarceration</td>
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<td>Release from prison</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Wednesday</strong></td>
<td><strong>Prison Field Trip</strong></td>
<td>Chapter 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>May 23</strong></td>
<td>Meet at 9:45am</td>
<td>Chapter 12 questions due (5 points)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Thursday</strong></td>
<td>Prison Project Presentations</td>
<td><strong>Prison Projects due</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>May 24</strong></td>
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