SYLLABUS


Course Description: Examination of the correctional strategies and facilities available in community settings including: diversion, probation, parole, halfway houses, restitution centers and other community corrections facilities. The course provides a study of the role of the community in developing correctional alternatives.

Course Objectives:
1. To define and discuss diversion, probation and parole in relation to community corrections;
2. To discuss and evaluate various alternatives to incarceration;
3. To discuss the role of the “community” in community corrections;
4. To analyze special problems and needs of certain offender groups.

Course Requirements:
1. Two Exams – (each worth ½ of the total test average and 60% of the semester average). The exams will include objective and essay questions. A minimum of one week’s notice will be given for these exams. Both exams must be taken, and any make-up exam(s) must be taken by November 9, 2011.

2. Comprehensive Final Exam – (worth 1/3 of the total exam average). The final exam will be optional.

3. One Article Critique – (worth 20% of the semester average). Class participants will be required to critique an article from a magazine or journal that directly relates to the subject matter of the course. The critique cannot be from a newspaper article. The minimum length of the critique will be 300 words. The critique may be handwritten if the writing is legible. The source of the critique must be cited. Any critique submitted late will have an automatic fifteen (15) points deducted from the final critique grade. The article critique may be submitted early, but it is due by November 9, 2011. The critique must be submitted by hard-copy in class, unless special arrangements have been made to e-mail it to the instructor prior to the deadline date. Without this prior approval, the critique is considered late.
Possible topics for the article critique include:

- Ethics in criminal justice
- Professionalism in criminal justice
- Community policing
- Supervision of the mentally ill offender
- Electronic monitoring
- House arrest
- Pretrial release programs
- Diversion programs
- Halfway houses
- Restitution centers
- Community service restitution programs
- Success or failure of probation or parole programs
- Intensive supervision probation/parole
- Specialized caseload programs
- Boot camps
- Shock probation
- Juvenile programs
- Supervision of sex offenders
- Gangs and violence
- Future correctional trends

4. **Student Class Participation** - (worth 10% of the semester average): Students will be expected to be knowledgeable of the reading assignments for all classes. Reading assignments will be announced in class and/or a reading list will be handed out. Verbal questions and possible unannounced short review tests will be used to determine the student’s knowledge of the reading assignments discussed in class on that date (at the end of the class).

5. **Group Project**: - (worth 10% of the semester average): Students will be assigned to a group to prepare and lead the discussion on one chapter of the text. Students may tie in outside readings, films, guest speakers, etc., if they wish. Students are encouraged to be creative. Chapters to be assigned for the group project include:

- Ch. 6: Offender Supervision: Control and Public Safety Issues
- Ch. 9: Problems and Needs of Drug and Alcohol-Abusing Offenders
- Ch. 10: Special Problem Offenders: Mentally Ill and Sex Offenders in Community Corrections
- Ch. 11: Problems and Needs of Female Offenders
- Ch. 12: Programs for Juveniles

If two groups want to prepare a group project on the same chapter, they may (if approved) as long as their “planned presentation” is different. There will be some class time set aside for the students to meet in their groups to decide on their “plan of action”, but groups may still need to meet outside of the class to finalize their team project.

* **NOTICE TO STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES**: Texas A & M University – Corpus Christi complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act in making reasonable accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. If you suspect that you may have a disability (physical
impairment, learning disability, psychiatric disability, etc.), please contact the Services for Students with Disabilities Office, located in Driftwood 101, at 825-5816. If you need disability accommodations in this class, please see me as soon as possible.

**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.

***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. 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.tamucc.edu/provost/university_rules/index.html](http://www.tamucc.edu/provost/university_rules/index.html). For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Office of Student Affairs.

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**CRIJ 3325.001: Community-Based Corrections**

**Readings and Assignments**

Aug. 24 – Introduction and syllabus discussed
31 - Ch. 1: Introduction to Community-Based Corrections

Sept. 7 – Ch. 2: Diversion, Pretrial Release and Community Courts
14 – Ch. 3: Probation and **Groups organized for group presentations**
21 - Ch. 4: Probation Supervision
28 - **Exam I**

Oct. 5 – Ch. 5: Parole and Other Prison Programs and **Exam I reviewed**
12 – Ch. 7: Economic Sanctions: Fines, Fees, Restitution and Community Service
19 – Ch. 8: Community Residential Centers (Halfway Houses)
26 – **Exam II**

Nov. 2 – **Group Presentation(s), Exam II reviewed**
9 - **Group Presentation(s), Article Critique due, and last day for make-up exam(s)**
16 - **Group Presentation(s)**
23 – No class, Happy Thanksgiving!
30 - **Semester Course Average and Review for Final**

Dec. 7 – **Reading Day, No class**
14 - **Comprehensive Final Exam** (7:15 p.m.) – final is optional