Spring 2012
Criminal Justice 4321.001
Tuesday & Thursday 9:30 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.

AMERICAN PRISONS & PRISONERS

Instructor: Dr. Dorothy S. McClellan
Office Hours: Monday 2:45 p.m. – 4:15 p.m.
Bay Hall 340
Phone: 825-2697
And by appointment
e-mail: dorothy.mcclellan@tamucc.edu

Tuesday 8:30 – 9:30 a.m., 12:30 – 2:00 p.m.

Course Description & Objectives
This course will provide an analysis of the history, philosophy, and function of American correctional institutions. The goals of the course also include a careful examination of the control and treatment of offenders in institutional settings. The course will describe and evaluate current developments, controversies, and management issues in American prisons, foreign and domestic.

Student Learning Outcomes
Upon completion of this course students will be able to:

• Describe and evaluate the nature, function, history and development of punishment and correctional institutions.

• Describe and evaluate the treatment and management of prisoners in contemporary institutions and the social world of imprisonment.

• Describe and evaluate the legal challenges of contemporary correctional institutions at home and abroad.

Required Reading

DATE	TOPIC
January 12	Introductions and Overview
The Corrections - Prison Explosion
Reading: S&S: Chapter 1

January 17	Corrections & the Criminal Justice System
Reading: S&S: Chapter 1
Film clip: The Power of the Social Situation
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<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>TOPIC</th>
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<tr>
<td>January 26 &amp; 31</td>
<td>Sentencing: To Punish or Reform?</td>
<td>S&amp;S: Chapter 3</td>
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<td>February 2, 7 &amp; 9</td>
<td>The Southern Prison</td>
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<td>February 14</td>
<td>Examination One</td>
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<td>February 16</td>
<td>The Contemporary Prison: Statistics &amp; Administration</td>
<td>S&amp;S: Chapter 7 (pp. 222-230 &amp; 240-262)</td>
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<td>February 21 &amp; 23</td>
<td>The Social World of Prisoners</td>
<td>S&amp;S: Chapter 10</td>
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<td>February 28</td>
<td>Prison Classification</td>
<td>S&amp;S: Chapter 7 (pp. 230-239)</td>
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<td>March 1, 6 &amp; 8</td>
<td>Prison Overcrowding, Violence &amp; Riots</td>
<td>S&amp;S: Chapter 13</td>
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<td>March 10 - 18</td>
<td>Spring Break! Be happy and safe!</td>
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<td>March 20 &amp; 22</td>
<td>New Mexico Prison Uprising</td>
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<td>Hostage Taking Negotiations</td>
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<td>March 27</td>
<td>The Staff World: Managing the Prison Population</td>
<td>S&amp;S: Chapter 9</td>
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<td>March 29 &amp; April 3</td>
<td>Special Prison Populations: The Elderly, HIV/AIDS, and the Mentally Challenged</td>
<td>S&amp;S: Chapter 12</td>
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<td>High Security Units/Super Max Prisons</td>
<td>S&amp;S: Chapter 13</td>
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<td>April 5</td>
<td>Examination Two</td>
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<td>April 10 &amp; 12</td>
<td><strong>Prisoners’ Rights &amp; Inmate Litigation</strong></td>
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<td>Reading: S&amp;S: Chapter 11</td>
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<td><strong>Death: The Ultimate Sanction</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Wrongful Convictions</strong></td>
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<td>Reading: S&amp;S: Chapter 15</td>
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<td>April 17</td>
<td><strong>Women in Prison</strong></td>
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<td>Reading: S&amp;S: Chapter 10 (pp. 345-356) and handout</td>
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<td>April 19</td>
<td><strong>Security Threat Groups</strong></td>
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<td>Reading: S&amp;S: Chapter 13</td>
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<td>April 24, 26 &amp; May 1</td>
<td><strong>American Prisons on Foreign Soil</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Conclusions &amp; Review</strong></td>
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Schedule subject to change
1. EXAMINATIONS
Three examinations, including final. Examinations include multiple choice, true/false, short answer questions. Make-up examinations are reserved for exceptional circumstances to be determined by the professor.

2. EVENT RESPONSE ANALYSIS
Students will be asked to prepare a report on the presentation of State Department guest speaker.

This report calls for:

1) A detailed, accurate description of the event, and

2) An in-depth analysis of the impressions, thoughts, and feelings engendered by hearing the presentation.

3) Answers to specific questions that will be distributed after the presentation.

This exercise will help students develop the important professional skills of:

1) Preparing clear, factual descriptions of events and individuals, and

2) Distinguishing personal feelings, thoughts, prejudices, and concerns from accurate presentation of facts.

3) Developing analytical responses to substantive, subject matter questions.

The paper should be at least five pages in length, doubled-spaced, word processed, grammatical, and spell-checked.

In fairness to fellow classmates, late papers will not receive full credit – 5 points off for each day late.

3. EXTRA CREDIT CLASS PRESENTATION (15 points)
Students will be invited to do a class presentation on the legal issues surrounding American prisons on foreign soil. Topics will be selected in consultation with the professor. A list of recommended topics will be distributed and will provide specific issues that need to be addressed by the student.

The reports will be based on research of scholarly and professional publications (online and from the library). Students will sign up for presentations through a list distributed after the first examination.
Class presentations will be approximately 10 minutes in length and must rely on typed notes and PowerPoints that will be submitted for review in advance of the presentation. Students are invited and encouraged to visit during office hours to preview the material for presentations and for paper submissions. A list of references/sources will be required.

For presentations, students should include key information from their readings and may also use a short video clip that offers supportive material on the subject.

In fairness to fellow classmates, presentations must be made on the dates assigned (April 24, 26 & May 1).

This exercise will help students develop the important professional skills of:

1) Preparing clear, factual descriptions of events and legal cases based on scientific review of research literature and reliable investigative reports.

2) Distinguishing personal feelings, thoughts, prejudices, and concerns from accurate presentation and social scientific evaluation of facts.

3) Learning to present material in an interesting, compelling way.

4. ATTENDANCE
Attendance is required. The final grade will be lowered 2 points with each absence after your third.

The final course grade will be determined as follows:

Examinations (3) 25% each
Presentation or paper 25%

Dates to Remember

February 14 Examination One
March 10 - 18 Spring Break!
April 5 Examination Two
May 3 (Thursday) Final examination

Final course grades will be assigned based on the following total percentages.

Over 90% = A
80 – 89% = B
70 – 79% = C
60 – 69% = D
Below 60 = F
POLICIES

CLASSROOM ETIQUETTE
Students are reminded that once they enter the classroom, they are expected to behave courteously and respectfully to everyone. They are expected to turn off cell phones, refrain from talking to neighbors and eating, and they should not leave the classroom unless absolutely necessary to use the bathroom or in case of emergency. They are to use computers only to facilitate note taking not for Internet browsing. The teacher reserves the right to decide if computers should be used and to ask students to turn off computers.

EXPECTATIONS
Classes will begin at the scheduled time and run the full session (until 12:15 p.m.) Please be certain to arrive on time and be prepared to stay until class is dismissed. If you have work obligations that interfere with your ability to do this, please change your work schedule or consider dropping the course. Students are expected to avoid private conversations with their classmates during class. As if you were on an airplane, please turn off your electronic devices upon entering the classroom. Attendance will be taken each class. Please arrange with a fellow student to get handouts, notes and assignments if you miss class. Make-up examinations will be given only with a doctor’s excuse and under exceptional circumstances that should be discussed with the professor before the examination. If a true emergency arises and you miss an examination, please notify the professor within 24 hours so that we can arrange an alternate time for you to take an exam.

ACADEMIC HONESTY
Students are reminded of the university's strict prohibition against cheating and plagiarism. Students should be aware that all quoted material must be put in quotation marks and the reference cited. Paraphrasing requires completely rewriting the material, putting it into your own words. Passing off others’ work as your own is a violation of university academic policy, as is submitting the same paper to another class. Punishment for same may include expulsion from the university and a grade of F. No academic dishonesty will be tolerated. If academic dishonesty is suspected, the disciplinary guidelines in the TAMUCC student code of conduct will be followed.

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.

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.

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.tamucc.edu/provost/university_rules/index.htm.
For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Office of Student Affairs.
TO ASSIST IN STUDYING FOR EXAMINATIONS

FOR EXAMINATION ONE - STUDENTS SHOULD BE ABLE TO DO THE FOLLOWING:

Explain why prison populations continue to rise even though the rate of serious crime in the US has been declining.

Describe the size, cost, and characteristics of the contemporary prison system.

Describe who comes to prison and the crimes for which they are convicted.

Explain how rising prison populations affect the costs of corrections and the character of correctional institutions.

Describe the history of punishment over time and explain the development of imprisonment as a response to crime.

Evaluate the significance of the Milgram Study and the Stanford Prison Experiment for understanding power relationships in the prison setting.

Describe and evaluate the social world of imprisonment using the best sociological studies.

FOR EXAMINATION TWO - STUDENTS SHOULD BE ABLE TO DO THE FOLLOWING:

Describe the problems of violence in institutional settings, including riots and hostage taking. Discuss the causes and effects of the Attica and New Mexico prison uprisings.

Describe the role and function of the Emergency Response Team in a riot situation.

Describe and evaluate the role of correctional officers in managing the prison population, the difficulties of this work, and define the concept of ‘officer subculture’.

Define the term ‘special-needs inmate’. Describe the key problems faced by the elderly, HIV/AIDS-infected, and the mentally challenged in prison.

FOR FINAL EXAMINATION - STUDENTS SHOULD BE ABLE TO DO THE FOLLOWING:

Define what is meant by ‘prisoners’ legal rights’. Describe the major changes that have taken place in regard to prisoners’ rights since Ruffin v. Commonwealth.

Describe the distinctive problems of women in prison.
Define ‘Security Threat Group’. Describe the problem of Security Threat Groups in the contemporary prison and the institutional response to it.

Evaluate the importance of professionalism in the management and operation of the prison system.

Describe and evaluate the legal and constitutional challenges of American prisons abroad.