Texas A&M-Corpus Christi
College of Liberal Arts
Department of Social Sciences
Summer II 2013

CRIJ 3320.W001 Issues in Corrections

Professor: Dr. Melissa L. Jarrell

Office: BH-345

Office Hours: I will not hold on campus office hours; please e-mail me and send me your phone number if you need to speak with me by phone. I will respond to emails within 24 hours.

Phone Number: 361-825-2188

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.

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**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.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.

**Getting started with your online class at TAMUCC**

Your online class will be using the Blackboard platform. Blackboard is an easy point and click interface. You cannot get access to the course until the summer term begins on Monday, July 8. Blackboard is incredibly easy to navigate! To access Blackboard and get around in the course beginning July 8, follow the steps below:

A. Follow the link to TAMUCC island online: https://iol.tamucc.edu/

B. On the lower right hand side of the screen you will see a log-in for Blackboard. Click on Blackboard and then enter your log-in information. Your log-in is your Banner ID (A number) and PIN. If you have trouble with your log-in, please contact Island Online Support;

- By Phone:
  - 361-825-2825 (Local)
  - 1-866-353-2491 (Long Distance)
- By E-mail: islandonline@tamucc.edu
- Hours of Operation:
  - 8:00 A.M. to 10:00 P.M. Everyday (U.S. Central)

C. Once in Blackboard, all of the classes you are currently taking will be listed in the middle of the screen. Look for **Issus in Corrections CRIJ-3320-W01**.
D. The first thing you will see in Blackboard is a welcome announcement from your instructor.

E. The course content is found by clicking on the tabs on the left hand side of the screen.

Some of the most important tabs are:

**Syllabus:** Click on this link in order to access the syllabus.

**Announcements:** I will post announcements frequently throughout the course.

**Discussions:** You are required to participate in weekly discussions. The discussion questions are listed under this link as well as in the Learning Modules.

**EXAMS:** Click on this icon to access the exam in the course.

**Grading:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Exam</strong> (due by 11:59pm on 8/4)</td>
<td>100 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Project</strong> (due by 11:59pm on 8/8)</td>
<td>100 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Assignments</strong></td>
<td>100 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Discussions (weekly)</strong> (Original posts due by Wednesday each week; responses must be posted by Sunday 11:59pm; all posts due by Friday in the final week of the course)</td>
<td>100 points (20 points per week)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Points Possible</strong></td>
<td>400 points</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A = 90-100% 360-400 points  
B = 80-89% 320-359 points  
C = 70-79% 280-319 points  
D = 60-69% 240-279 points  
F = 59% and below 239 and below

No extra credit will be given. No exceptions!!!
**Exam (100 points)**
One 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. Once you open the exam, you must complete it in one session (3 hours). The exam must be completed by Sunday, August 4 at 11:59pm.

**Project (100 points)**
The project will involve designing your own prison or correctional facility. Specific project guidelines are detailed in the Project tab. Projects will be due on Friday, August 8 by 11:59pm. While there is no specific length required, the most thorough and descriptive projects will earn higher grades.

**Assignments (100 points)**
Assignment details and due dates are posted in the Assignment tab.

**Weekly Discussions**
Each week, students are required to participate in class discussions. Participation in weekly discussions is very important as they make up 25% of your total grade in the course. Each week, two discussion topics will be presented. You are required to post ONE response to BOTH discussion topics and respond to at least one other student or instructor posts for each discussion topic (four posts minimum per week, two for each discussion topic). Responses to the questions must be posted by WEDNESDAY of each week. Responses to student and instructor posts should be posted by SUNDAY of each week. All students are expected to participate in the threaded discussions. The quality of your posts and responses will be evaluated to determine your weekly discussion grade (20 points possible each week).

Discussion posts and responses should be **thorough, critical, and well written**. Make sure to provide complete references (in APA) for authors you cite in the body of your response, including the textbook. Make sure references are correctly cited in APA, including websites. You need to provide the correct website link in APA so that it is easy for your classmates (and me) to locate. Whenever possible, apply textbook concepts to real world issues. I encourage you to provide examples and experiences from the real world; your own experiences, something you read in the news, etc. A more familiar, conversational tone is acceptable (unlike papers which require a more academic or professional tone). However, make sure to **proofread your responses** prior to posting. Look for spelling and grammatical errors. You are encouraged to critically examine what you read!

**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>WEEK</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Assigned Readings</th>
<th>Due Dates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 1    | Punishment  
History of American Correctional System  
Supermax | PowerPoint slides  
Chapter 1  
Chapter 7 | Chapter questions due by Sunday, July 14 at 11:59pm |
| 2    | Gender/race | Chapter 2  
Chapter 8 | Chapter questions due by Friday, July 19 at 11:59pm  
Assignment on Prison Rape due by Sunday, July 21 at 11:59pm |
| 3    | Drug offenders  
Health issues  
Riots/violence | Chapter 4  
Chapter 5  
Chapter 6 | Chapter questions due by 11:59pm on Friday, July 26  
Assignment on Prison Survival Guide due by Sunday, July 28 at 11:59pm |
| 4    | Privatization  
Death Row | Chapter 9  
Chapter 11 | Exam due by 11:59pm on Sunday, August 4 |
| 5    | Future of Corrections | PowerPoint slides | Project due by 11:59pm on Friday, August 8 |