AMERICAN PRISONS & PRISONERS
COURSE SYLLABUS
SPRING 2016

COURSE DESCRIPTION
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 OBJECTIVES
Upon completion of this course students will be able to:

• Understanding of Operation and Purpose of Criminal Justice System
• Ability to Critically Analyze Criminal Justice System
• Describe and evaluate the nature, function, history and development of punishment and correctional institutions over time.
• 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

COURSE 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 and place them out of sight, 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. Laptops are to be used only by students with special needs as determined by the campus office responsible for this and after receiving permission from the professor.
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. Degree plans are prepared in the CLA Academic Advising Center. The University uses an online Degree Audit system. Any amendment must be approved by the Department Chair and the Office of the Dean. All courses and requirements specified in the final degree plan audit must be completed before a degree will be granted. The CLA Academic Advising Office is located in Driftwood #203. For more information please call (361) 825-3466.

DISABILITY SERVICES
The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation 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 call or visit Disability Services at (361) 825-5816 in Corpus Christi Hall, Room #116.

If you are a returning veteran and are experiencing cognitive and/or physical access issues in the classroom or on campus, please contact the Disability Services office for assistance at (361) 825-5816.

GRADE APPEALS PROCESS
Students who feel that they have not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in this class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details on the process of submitting a formal grade appeal, please visit the College of Liberal Arts website, cla.tamucc.edu/students/studentinfo.html For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Associate Dean’s Office.

ATTENDANCE/TARDINESS
Attendance is required. Students who miss more than 1/3 of the classes will not receive a passing grade in the course. Students are required to arrive on time and depart at the end of the class, not before. If you have work obligations that interfere with your ability to do this, please change your work schedule or consider dropping the course. The final grade will be lowered 2 points with each absence after the third. Late arrivals and early departures without permission of the instructor will not count as full attendance. Attendance will be taken each class. If you miss class, please arrange with a fellow student to get handouts, notes and assignments.

LATE WORK AND MAKE-UP EXAMS
Make-up examinations are reserved for exceptional circumstances. If you find that you must miss an exam for any reason, please contact the instructor immediately, preferably before the exam is given. If you miss an exam for medical reasons, please provide a
doctor’s excuse or note from the campus health service. Make-up examinations will be given only with a doctor’s excuse or 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 the exam before the graded exams are returned. In fairness to fellow classmates, late assignments/papers will not receive full credit – 10 points will be deducted from the grade for each day late.

CELL PHONE/ELECTRONIC DEVICE USAGE AND CLASS COMPORMENT
Students are reminded that once they enter the classroom, they are expected to turn off cell phones and computer devices and place them out of sight, 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. The use of personal computers will be reserved for students with special needs and require a letter from Student Special Services. The teacher reserves the right to ask students to turn off all electronic devices and to remove them from their desks and laps.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY/PLAGIARISM
Students are reminded of the university's strict prohibition against cheating and plagiarism. University students are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the highest standards of academic honesty. Academic misconduct for which a student is subject to penalty includes all forms of cheating, such as illicit possession of examinations or examination materials, falsification, forgery, complicity or plagiarism. In this class, academic misconduct or complicity in an act of academic misconduct on an assignment or test will result in a grade of 0.

Plagiarism is the presentation of the work of another as one’s own work. 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. No academic dishonesty will be tolerated. If academic dishonesty is suspected, the disciplinary guidelines in the TAMUCC student code of conduct will be followed.

CLASSROOM/PROFESSIONAL BEHAVIOR
Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, as an academic community, requires that each individual respect the needs of others to study and learn in a peaceful atmosphere. Students are expected to behave courteously and respectfully to everyone. Under Article III of the Student Code of Conduct, classroom behavior that interferes with either (a) the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or (b) the ability of other students to profit from the instructional program may be considered a breach of the peace and be subject to disciplinary sanction outlined in Article VII of the Student Code of Conduct. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior may be instructed to leave the classroom. This prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including traditional classrooms, electronic classrooms, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc.
# COURSE SCHEDULE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>TOPIC</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 21</td>
<td><strong>Introduction and Overview</strong>&lt;br&gt;The Corrections - Prison Explosion&lt;br&gt;Reading: S&amp;S: Chapter 1</td>
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<td>January 26</td>
<td><strong>Corrections &amp; the Criminal Justice System</strong>&lt;br&gt;Reading: S&amp;S: Chapter 1&lt;br&gt;Film clip: <em>The Power of the Social Situation</em></td>
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<td>January 28 &amp; February 2</td>
<td><strong>A Social History of Punishment &amp; Corrections</strong>&lt;br&gt;Reading: S&amp;S, Chapter 2 &amp; Chapter 7 (part 1)</td>
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<td>February 4, 9 &amp; 11</td>
<td><strong>The Southern Prison</strong></td>
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<td>February 16</td>
<td><strong>Sentencing: To Punish or Reform?</strong>&lt;br&gt;Reading: S&amp;S: Chapter 3</td>
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<td>February 18 &amp; 23</td>
<td><strong>The Contemporary Prison: Statistics &amp; Administration</strong>&lt;br&gt;Reading: S&amp;S: Chapter 7 (part 2)</td>
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<td>February 25</td>
<td><strong>Examination One</strong></td>
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<td>March 1 &amp; 3</td>
<td><strong>The Social World of Prisoners</strong>&lt;br&gt;Reading: S&amp;S: Chapter 10 (part 1)&lt;br&gt;<em>Life Behind Bars: Former Prisoner Guest Speaker</em></td>
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<td>March 8 &amp; 10</td>
<td><strong>Prison Classification</strong>&lt;br&gt;Reading: S&amp;S: Chapter 7 (part 3)&lt;br&gt;<strong>High Security Units/Super Max Prisons</strong>&lt;br&gt;Reading: S&amp;S: Chapter 13&lt;br&gt;<strong>Special Prison Populations:</strong>&lt;br&gt;The Elderly, HIV/AIDS, and the Mentally Challenged&lt;br&gt;Reading: S&amp;S: Chapter 12</td>
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<td>March 14-18</td>
<td><strong>Spring Break! Be happy and safe!</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>March 22 &amp; 24</td>
<td><strong>Prison Overcrowding, Violence &amp; Riots</strong>&lt;br&gt;Reading: S&amp;S: Chapter 13</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 29 &amp; 31</td>
<td><strong>The Staff World: Managing the Prison Population</strong>&lt;br&gt;Reading: S&amp;S: Chapter 9</td>
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DATE | TOPIC
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April 5 | Hostage Taking Negotiations
| Readings: Handouts

April 7 | Examination Two

April 12 & 14 | Prisoners’ Rights & Inmate Litigation
| Reading: S&S: Chapter 11
| Death: The Ultimate Sanction
| Wrongful Convictions
| Reading: S&S: Chapter 15

April 19 | Women in Prison
| Reading: S&S: Chapter 10 (part 2) and handout

April 21 | Security Threat Groups
| Reading: S&S: Chapter 13

April 26 & April 28 | American Prisons on Foreign Soil

May 3 | Conclusions & Review

Schedule subject to change

DATES TO REMEMBER
February 25 | Examination One
March 14 - 18 | Spring Break!
April 7 | Examination Two
April 28 | Event Response Analysis due anytime
May 6 (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
AMERICAN PRISONS & PRISONERS
Criminal Justice 4321
Course Requirements

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. If you will miss an exam for any reason, please contact the instructor immediately before the scheduled exam. If you miss an exam for medical reasons, please provide a doctor’s excuse or note from the campus health service.

2. EVENT RESPONSE ANALYSIS
Students will be asked to prepare a report on any presentation by a guest speaker in our class.

This report calls for:

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

   Item 2) An in-depth analysis of the impressions, thoughts, and feelings engendered by hearing 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 four pages in length, doubled-spaced, word processed, grammatical, and spell-checked. Three pages should be devoted to item 1, one page to item 2.

In fairness to fellow classmates, late papers will not receive full credit – 10 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 and after the presentation. Students are invited and encouraged to visit during office hours to preview the material for presentations. 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 26 & 28).

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. Students who miss more than 1/3 of the classes will not receive a passing grade for the course. For standard absences, 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 |
| Event Response Analysis | 25% |
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 U.S. 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.

Explain the justifications for punishment and the nature of sentencing in the U.S.

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

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

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.

The final exam will include questions related to material covered for the first two examinations.