CRIJ-4321_001
American Prisons & Prisoners p.m.

Criminal Justice 4321.001
Monday 4:20 p.m. - 6:50 p.m.
Bay Hall 206
Email: dorothy.mcclellan@tamucc.edu
Office Telephone: 361-825-2697

Dr. Dorothy S. McClellan
Office: Bay Hall 340
Office Hours:
Monday: 2:15 p.m. - 4:15 p.m.
7:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
Tuesday: 8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.
12:30 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Thursday: 8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.

AMERICAN PRISONS & PRISONERS
COURSE SYLLABUS
SPRING 2020

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:
- 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
Frank Schmalleger & John Ortiz Smykla
Corrections in the 21st Century, 8th Edition (or 7th)
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, computers and ear pods, 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.

GRADE APPEALS PROCESS
As stated in University Procedure 13.02.99.C0.03, Student Grade Appeal Procedures, 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 Procedure 13.02.99.C0.03, Student Grade Appeal Procedures. These documents are accessible through the University Rules Web site at:
http://academicaffairs.tamucc.edu/rules_procedures/assets/13.02.99.c0.03_student_grade_appeals.pdf
For assistance or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Dean’s office in the college in which the course is taught or the Office of the Provost.

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.
ATTENDANCE/TARDINESS
Attendance is required. Students who miss 1/3 or more of the classes cannot expect to 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. 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 must miss an exam, please contact the instructor immediately, preferably before the exam is given. If you miss an exam for medical reasons, you must provide a doctor’s excuse or note from the campus health service. Make-up examinations are 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, you must notify the professor within 24 hours. The university now charges up to $50 for a proctor if make-up exam is agreed to. 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 COMPORTEMNT
Students are reminded that once they enter the classroom, they are expected to turn off cell phones, computer devices, remove ear pods and Bluetooth 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. With regard to take-home examinations, students are on their honor to do their own work and not to consult with others. Violation of this rule constitutes academic misconduct. 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.

DROPPING A CLASS
I hope that you never find it necessary to drop this or any other class. However, events can sometimes occur that make dropping a course necessary or wise. Please consult with your academic advisor, the Financial Aid Office, and me, before you decide to drop this course. Should dropping the course be the best course of action, you must initiate the process to drop the course by going to the Student Services Center and filling out a course drop form. Just stopping attendance and participation WILL NOT automatically result in your being dropped from the class. April 10 is the last day to drop a class with an automatic grade of “W” this term.

STATEMENT OF CIVILITY
Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi has a diverse student population that represents the population of the state. Our goal is to provide you with a high-quality educational experience that is free from repression. You are responsible for following the rules of the University, city, state and federal government. We expect that you will behave in a manner that is dignified, respectful and courteous to all people, regardless of sex, ethnic/racial origin, religious background, sexual orientation or disability. Behaviors that infringe on the rights of another individual will not be tolerated.

STATEMENT OF ACADEMIC CONTINUITY
In the event of an unforeseen adverse event, such as a major hurricane and classes could not be held on the campus of Texas A&M University–Corpus Christi; this course would continue through the use of Blackboard and/or email. In addition, the syllabus and class activities may be modified to allow continuation of the course. Ideally, University facilities (i.e., emails, web sites, and Blackboard) will be operational within two days of the closing of the physical campus. However, students need to make certain that the course instructor has a primary and a secondary means of contacting each student.
## COURSE SCHEDULE

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| January 27 & February 3 | **Introduction and Overview**  
**The Corrections - Prison Explosion**  
Reading:  S&S: Chapter 1  
**Corrections & the Criminal Justice System**  
Reading:  S&S: Chapter 1  
**A Social History of Punishment & Corrections**  
Reading:  S&S, Chapter 2 & Chapter 7 (up to p. 225) |
| February 10     | **The Southern Prison**  
**The Social World of Prisoners**  
Reading:  S&S: Chapter 10 (part 1)  
**Life Behind Bars: Former Prisoner Guest Speaker**  
**Prison Classification**  
Reading:  S&S: Chapter 7 |
| February 17     | **The Social World of Prisoners**  
Reading:  S&S: Chapter 10 (part 1)  
**Life Behind Bars: Former Prisoner Guest Speaker**  
**Prison Classification**  
Reading:  S&S: Chapter 7 |
| February 24     | **Examination One**  
**Sentencing: To Punish or Reform?**  
Reading:  S&S: Chapter 3  
**The Contemporary Prison: Statistics & Administration**  
Reading:  S&S: Chapter 7 (up to page 225)  
**The Staff World: Managing the Prison Population**  
Reading:  S&S: Chapter 9  
Film clip:  *The Power of the Social Situation* |
| March 2         | **Spring Break! Be happy and safe!** |
| March 9-13      | **Spring Break! Be happy and safe!** |
| March 16        | **Operation Prison Cell - Prison Staff Corruption**  
Guest Speakers: Homeland Security/ICE  
Special Agent Vic Rowley  
Security Threat Groups  
Sgt. Elbert Perry |
| March 23 & 30   | **Prison Overcrowding, Violence & Riots**  
Reading:  S&S: Chapter 13 (6th & 7th edition of text),  
Chapter 7 (8th edition of text)  
**Films: Attica: A Time to Die**  
**Death in a Southwest Prison** |
**DATE** | **TOPIC**
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April 6 | Security Threat Groups  
Hostage Negotiations  
Review for Examination 2  
Reading: Handout  
Women in Prison  
Reading: S&S: Chapter 10 (part 2) and handout

April 13 | Examination Two

April 20 | Prisoners’ Rights & Inmate Litigation  
Reading: S&S: Chapter 11  
High Security Units/Super Max Prisons  
Reading: S&S: Chapter 13 (6th & 7th edition of text),  
Chapter 7 (8th edition of text)  
Special Prison Populations:  
The Elderly, HIV/AIDS, and the Mentally Challenged  
Reading: S&S: Chapter 12

April 27 | Prison Management  
Prison Escapes  
Guest: Douglas J. Dretke, Executive Director  
Correctional Management Institute of Texas

May 4 | Death: The Ultimate Sanction  
Wrongful Convictions  
Reading: S&S: Chapter 15 (6th & 7th editions), Chapter 3 (8th edition), Chapter 11 (8th edition)  
Conclusions & Review

**DATES TO REMEMBER**
February 24 | Examination One
April 13 | Examination Two
March 9-13 | Spring Break!
May 5 | Event Response Analysis due by 9 a.m. (morning)
May 11 (Monday) | Final examination 4:30 p.m. SHARP
The final course grade will be determined as follows:

- Examinations (3) 25% each
- Event Response Analysis 25%

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
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.
- Item 3) A summary of research of literature into the area you are covering, citing research sources using proper bibliographical format (a minimum of 2 pages in length, citing a minimum of two sources).

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.
4) Researching scholarly literature in the field of criminal justice.

The paper should be a minimum of 5 pages in length, doubled-spaced, word processed, grammatical, and spell-checked. At least 2 pages should be devoted to item 1, at least one page to item 2, and at least 2 pages to item 3.

In fairness to fellow classmates, late papers will not receive full credit—10 points off for each day late.

3. **ATTENDANCE**

Attendance is required. Students who miss 1/3 or more of the classes cannot receive a passing grade in the course since the course depends on student participation and learning from class events.
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.

Describe the differences in the development of Southern and Northern prisons in the U.S.

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

Define 'prison classification' and discuss its significance. Be familiar with the Adult Inmate Management System (AIMS) and be able to apply its principles of designating appropriate housing, education and staff supervision to different categories of the inmate population.

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

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

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

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

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

Describe Operation Prison Cell and its significance.

Describe the distinctive problems of women in prison.
FOR FINAL EXAMINATION - STUDENTS SHOULD BE ABLE TO DO THE FOLLOWING:

Describe the distinctive problems of dealing with special prison populations: The elderly, HIV/AIDS, and the mentally challenged. Define the term 'special-needs inmate'. Describe the key problems faced by the elderly, HIV/AIDS-infected, and the mentally challenged in prison.

Evaluate the importance of professionalism in the management and operation of the prison system. Discuss the problem of preventing prison escapes.

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 and discuss the key issues surrounding the death penalty and wrongful convictions for murder.

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