



Course Title:	Correctional Systems and Practices
Course Number:	CRIJ 2313
Course Section:	001
Course Meetings:	Monday and Wednesday; 2:30 PM to 3:45 PM
Department:	Criminal Justice & Law Enforcement Technology
Campus:	Levelland
Instructor	Ray Scifres
Contact Information:	SPC Email: jscifres@southplainscollege.edu

SOUTH PLAINS COLLEGE IMPROVES EACH STUDENT'S LIFE

I. GENERAL COURSE INFORMATION:

A. Course Description: This class is a study of the role of corrections in the criminal justice system. Topics include organization and theory of correctional systems, institutional operations, management, alternatives to institutionalization, treatments and rehabilitation, and current and future issues.

B. Course Learning Outcomes: The student will identify the organization and role of corrections; distinguish operations and procedure within correctional programs; and appraise rehabilitation, alternatives to institutionalization, and future issues.

Specific goals/objectives of this course are to:

- detail an overview of corrections including the purpose, ideologies and models of penology ;

- understand the relationship of the correctional system within the criminal justice system;
- explore the origins and evolutions of corrections in the United States;
- examine the philosophy of corrections in context of modern-day penology;
- formulate understanding of the role of sentencing alternatives;
- understand the make-up of the prison and jail facilities;
- examine the human factor of offenders in the system, special needs offenders, and other correctional clients;
- define prisoners' rights and other legal issues;
- define the role of correctional management and personnel and career opportunities;
- understand special challenges for corrections in the 21st century.

C. Course Competencies: Upon successful completion of this course, each student will have demonstrated through comprehensive examinations, with a score of 70% or better, a competent understanding of :

- the relationship of corrections with other criminal justice systems;
- historical origins of corrections and penology in the United States;
- the evolution of corrections;
- various sentencing alternatives and alternatives to incarceration;
- the need to balance the rights of society, the victim, and the offender;
- prisoners' rights and other legal issues associated with correctional systems,
- the role of correctional management;
- the role of other correctional personnel; and
- special challenges for corrections in the 21st century.

D. Academic Integrity: It is the aim of the Law Enforcement faculty of South Plains College to foster a spirit of complete honesty and a high standard of integrity. ***The attempt of any student to present as his or her own work which he or she has not honestly performed is regarded by the faculty and administration as a most serious offense and renders the offender liable to serious consequences, possibly suspension.*** Students should refer to the SPC General Catalog policy regarding consequences for cheating and plagiarism (see "Academic Integrity" as well as "Student Conduct" sections in college catalog). At times, working with other students is encouraged for some assignments and meets SCANS competencies C-9 through C-14. If you have a question as to whether you may work with other students on any assignment, ASK YOUR INSTRUCTOR.

E. SCANS and Foundation Skills. This course covers SCANS Occupational Competencies C-6,7,15,19 and Foundation Skills F-1,5,7,8, & 11. F.

F. Verification of Workplace Competencies. This course will transfer to a senior level institution that offers a Criminal Justice or related degree.

G. Blackboard: Students will utilize the South Plains College's Blackboard system for some of the assigned coursework. All students enrolled in the course have access to the system.

H. Instructor Availability / Office Hours: As an adjunct instructor, I do not keep regular office hours at the SPC Campus. However, I am able to meet with students at an arranged time on the campus at the Law Enforcement Technology Building.

II. SPECIFIC COURSE/INSTRUCTOR REQUIREMENTS:

A. Textbook: Seiter, R. (2020). *Corrections: An introduction* (6th Ed.). Pearson.

B. Class Attendance. Students are expected to attend all classes in order to be successful in a course. The student may be administratively withdrawn from the course when absences become excessive as defined in the course syllabus. Students will be subject to withdrawal upon missing four consecutive class meetings or five total class meetings during the semester.

When an unavoidable reason for class absence arises, such as illness, an official trip authorized by the college or an official activity, the instructor may permit the student to make up work missed. It is the student's responsibility to complete work missed within a reasonable period of time as determined by the instructor. Students are officially enrolled in all courses for which they pay tuition and fees at the time of registration. Should a student, for any reason, delay in reporting to a class after official enrollment, absences will be attributed to the student from the first class meeting.

Students who enroll in a course but have "Never Attended" by the official census date, as reported by the faculty member, will be administratively dropped by the Office of Admissions and Records. A student who does not meet the attendance requirements of a class as stated in the course syllabus and does not officially withdraw from that course by the official census date of the semester, may be administratively withdrawn from that course and receive a grade of "X" or "F" as determined by the instructor. Instructors are responsible for clearly stating their administrative drop policy in the course syllabus, and it is the student's responsibility to be aware of that policy.

It is the student's responsibility to verify administrative drops for excessive absences through MySPC using his or her student online account. Students must attend and/or participate in all classes for which financial aid is awarded. If it is determined that a student is awarded financial aid for a class or classes in which the student never attended or participated, the financial aid award will be adjusted in accordance with the classes in which the student did attend/participate and the Student will owe any balance resulting from the adjustment.

C. Assignment Policy. All required work must be turned in on time in order that the student may benefit from the corrections and study for future examinations. Assigned outside work is **DUE ON THE CLASS PERIOD ASSIGNED**. Late work generally is not acceptable; however, special consideration is subject to instructor discretion for exceptional circumstances. The instructor has sole discretion whether the exception is cleared and whether or not the work is acceptable.

D. Grading Policy/Procedure. An accumulative point system will be utilized to determine the final grade that the student will receive for the course. The student's grade will be determined by adding the total points earned during the semester from examinations and assignments. (Note: See the General College Catalog "Grade and Reports" for explanation of grades and grade point averages.) Points will be determined in accordance with the following outline:

TOTAL

Examinations (3)	300 points
Research Paper	150 points
Final/Presentation	150 points
Discussion Posts (4)	200 points
<u>Participation</u>	<u>100 points</u>
Total Points Possible	900 points

*Make-up tests may be administered at the discretion of the instructor; students are expected to be present and prepared for all announced examinations.

** Final Examination is required for all students and may not be made up.

GRADING GUIDELINE:

Total Points Accumulated = Grade Earned	
810 to 900 points	= A
720 to 809 points	= B
630 to 719 points	= C
540 to 629 points	= D
539 or fewer	= F

EXTRA CREDIT: Students may earn up to 50 points extra credit for completion of an additional research project. Students may complete a 500-750 word paper referencing a current criminal justice-related issue in the news. Students must use three (3) sources outside the textbook, and the paper must be properly formatted in APA Style (6th Edition). Any extra credit work is due no later than 12/2/2020.

EXAMINATIONS: This course will consist of two (3) examinations consisting of fifty (50) questions each. Each examination will be completed on the assigned date according to the course schedule below, and will require the use of a "Scan-Tron" form. The examination will consist of multiple choice and/or true/false questions, and will contain questions related to the reading assignments and lectures for all material during the section.

RESEARCH PAPER: Each student will complete a research paper of an approved topic within the field of corrections. Each student will submit a topic to be approved by the instructor. The format for the paper will be properly styled in APA format (6th Edition), be typed in Times New Roman, 12-point font, with one inch margins, and double spaced. A sample paper and grading

rubric may be viewed on the Blackboard system for the course. The length will be between 1250-1750 words, and the student must use a minimum of five (5) references other than the textbook. References should be from academic, peer-reviewed sources such as academic journals. Sources such as Wikipedia will not be used and will result in point reductions.

All papers will be uploaded via the Blackboard course. Each paper will be scanned into SafeAssign to verify originality and to ensure there is no intentional plagiarism. **If there is evidence of plagiarism, the instructor will discuss the issues with the student and a zero may be assigned for the paper.** *Students are strongly encouraged to speak with the instructor should they have any questions regarding the assignment prior to the due date.*

DISCUSSION POSTS: Students will complete four (4) weekly discussion forum posts covering specific chapters. Each student will complete one (1) initial discussion post in response to a question posed by the instructor. Then, each student will response to at least one (1) classmate's initial discussion post.

Initial posts must be properly APA formatted with in-text citations and references properly utilized. Plagiarism will result in an automatic zero for the assignment that week. Initial posts must have 250-350 words, and responses to fellow students should be over 150 words and should add to the discussion.

Each week that a post is due, the initial discussion will be due on Thursday of that week at 11:59 PM. Responses will be due by Saturday at 11:59 PM that week.

FINAL EXAMINATION: The final examination will consist of seventy-five (75) questions and will be completed on the assigned date according to the college final exam schedule. It will require the use of a "Scan-Tron" form. The examination will consist of multiple choice and/or true/false questions, and will contain questions related to the reading assignments and lectures for all material during the section.

E. Special Requirements--Safety Policy. Students should adhere to safety standards established in the SPC Student Handbook. Students in law enforcement/criminal justice must follow all safe practices in the Firing Range and other laboratory work areas. Further, chemical hazards and appropriate MSDS safety practices will be covered by the instructor during the first class session if potential for exposure exists.

III. COURSE OUTLINE

Date	Reading Assignment	Discussion	Assignments
Week of 8/24 – Week 1	Chapter 1	Introduction/Syllabus History of Crime and Corrections	
Week of 8/31 – Week 2	Chapter 2	Sentencing and Correctional Processes	Discussion 1 Due 9/3
Week of 9/7 – Week 3	Chapter 3	Jails	Paper Topics Due 9/9

Week of 9/14 – Week 4	Chapter 3	Jails	Discussion 2 Due 9/17
Week of 9/21 – Week 5	Chapter 4	Probation and Intermediate Sanctions	Exam 1 9/23 – CH 1-3
Week of 9/28 – Week 6	Chapter 5	Prison Systems	
Week of 10/5 – Week 7	Chapter 6	Parole and Prisoner Reentry	Discussion 3 Due 10/8
Week of 10/12 – Week 8	No Class This Week. Review for Exam 2 – CH 4-6		
Week of 10/19 – Week 9	Chapter 11	Prison Life for Inmates	Exam 2 10/19 – CH 4-6
Week of 10/26 – Week 10	Chapter 12	Prison Staff	
Week of 11/2 – Week 11	Chapter 9	Special Offenders	Discussion 4 Due 11/5
Week of 11/9 – Week 1	Chapter 9	Special Offenders	Exam 3 11/11 – CH 11, 12, and 9
Week of 11/16– Week 13	Chapter 15	Legal Issues	
Week of 11/23 – Week 14	Chapter 16	Current and Future Issues	Research Paper Due 11/25 before 11:59 PM
Week of 11/30 – Week 15	Course Recap and Review		Extra Credit Due by 12/2 at 11:59 PM
Week of 12/7 – Week 16	FINAL EXAMINATION		

IV. ADA STATEMENT:

Students with disabilities, including but not limited to physical, psychiatric, or learning disabilities, who wish to request accommodations in this class should notify the Disability Services Office early in the semester so that the appropriate arrangements may be made. In accordance with federal law, a student requesting accommodations must provide acceptable documentation of his/her disability to the Disability Services Office. For more information, call or visit the Disability Services Office through the Guidance and Counseling Centers at Reese Center (Building 8) 716-4606, or Levelland (Student Services Building) 716-2577.

V. COVID-19

A. Mask / Face Covering. It is the policy of South Plains College for the Fall 2020 semester that as a condition of on-campus enrollment, all students are required to engage in safe behaviors to avoid the spread of COVID-19 in the SPC community. Such behaviors specifically include the requirement that all students properly wear CDC-compliant face coverings while in SPC buildings including in classrooms, labs, hallways, and restrooms. Failure to comply with this policy may result in dismissal from the current class session. If the student refuses to leave the classroom or lab after being dismissed, the student may be referred to the Dean of Students on the Levelland campus or the Dean/Director of external centers for Student Code of Conduct Violation.