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CJ 568 (01.W): SEMINAR IN CORRECTIONS

Fall 2022

Online

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor:	Mike Tapia, Ph.D.
Office Location:	BA 102
Office Hours:	Tu/Th 12:00pm – 2:30pm
Office Phone:	Phone: TBA: Temporary Office Space this term
University Email Address:	michael.tapia@tamuc.edu
Preferred Form of Communication:	email
Communication Response Time:	Normally within 24-48 hours

COURSE INFORMATION

No Textbook: All Readings found online or on D2L

Course Description

We'll study the history, philosophy, and practice of corrections in America. This course examines theories of crime and punishment as well as the legal and administrative issues surrounding institutional and community-based corrections. We mainly use the most current and important published academic research in the subfield to do so, supplemented by slideshow presentations on various topics. We will cover management & supervision issues, eligibility for various correctional programs, and evaluate the research on their effectiveness. We will try to compare local and regional variations in correctional practice in the southwest and across the nation where possible. The course culminates in the writing of a term paper based on published academic research in this subfield.

Student Learning Objectives & Outcomes

- 1) To learn about concepts & theories of correctional practice;
- 2) To explore the nuances in institutional and community based corrections and their effectiveness;

- 3) To identify the various social forces related to correctional practice and its trends;
- 4) To understand how human behavior for both youth and adults is viewed & treated by the justice system.
- 5) To evaluate the classical and modern research in this subfield for use in a term paper.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS & GRADING

1. *Class Participation via 'Discussions' on D2L.* This course is a seminar, where theories, concepts, issues, and ideas are presented then debated and developed. Therefore, weekly online discussions of the readings, student summaries, student presentations, and lecture materials is essential. Early in the week, I post a series of 'Discussions' in D2L for student comment. Your job is to comment with valuable insights and provide files or internet links to relevant, outside material to support and supplement your comments. Superficial comments like "good job", "I liked the reading", and purely opinionated comments are not credited. General notes about the quality of class participation in Discussions are posted periodically on D2L throughout the term. Discussion comments are graded on a scale of 0-2 each week for a total maximum of 10 points for the term. As such, the quality of your Class Participation constitutes 10% of your course grade.
2. *Groupwork Presentation & Writeup:* To get you thinking critically about issues related to corrections, you'll work in small groups (pre-assigned alphabetically by the instructor) to brainstorm and develop an audio-narrated slideshow presentation (via a 'prezi', 'audacity', .ppt, VideoNote, or YouSeeU in D2L). You will send it to me for uploading to D2L for the class to view and post comments on. During weeks 2 & 3, groups will present on a topic or theme(s) of their choice from course materials and/or outside sources. Browse the entirety of the syllabus, slides, & reading list, and look to your prior CJ, Corrections, or Criminology courses to get ideas for topics. The quality of your presentation & write-up accounts for 20% of your course grade. (See the *Presentations handout on D2L for details*).
3. *Summaries of Readings:* To facilitate class discussion of course materials, and to develop your skills in critically reviewing published research for your term paper, you are required to summarize two (2) journal articles or book chapters this term. Sign up for any two readings on the Summaries Reading List on D2L, first-come first served. Try to make your selections conform to your term paper topic and vice-versa. . Check the list for reading availability before making your selections. Then, email the instructor with your selections and attach a copy of the article/reading. He will update the list on D2L and share the reading with the rest of the class for them to skim. Summaries are due on Sunday evening before the week the reading is scheduled for discussion. Each summary is worth 10% of your course grade. See the 1-page *Summaries handout on D2L for details.* Hit each bullet point on the summaries guidelines to earn a good grade.

* **Weekly Readings** are searched & located by students using *the Journals* link on the TAMUC Library Homepage or Google/Google Scholar online. Since you have the full citation for your chosen readings, use the 'Journals' link on the main library page to type in the journal name (appears in italics on the reading list). Select the Year, then search for the Volume & Issue number, and see if the article is available in full text for downloading. If it is not, use the Inter-Library Loan (ILL) link to enter the reading's citation info and you will receive a copy electronically as an email attachment within a few hours up to a few days (depending on librarians' availability and how difficult it is to find the reading). Consult with a reference librarian using the library's chat feature, an email, or a phone call if you are having trouble locating a reading. Often, one will have luck finding the reading using Google

Scholar or using a simple Google search. Once you obtain a copy of the reading, email it as an attachment to your instructor for sharing with the rest of the class.

4. *Term Paper Drafts & Progress Updates:* At two points in the semester (11/27/22 and 12/4/22) I will gauge your progress on the term paper, assign a grade ranging from 0 to 3.33, and provide feedback. For the first draft, include: 1) a general statement of the purpose of your work and how it is progressing to date; 2) key concepts in your topic 3) summaries of published research on your topic you've found so far 4) identify other key resources for examining the topic 5) problems that you have encountered, or expect to encounter, and 6) a works cited/references page. These write-ups are due on the dates listed above and the written feedback I provide throughout the term should be reflected in your final term papers. These term paper progress updates constitute 10% of your final grade.

5. *Term Paper:* Your primary assignment for the course is to develop a term paper (8-10 pp., double-spaced). This is a critical literature review on a relevant topic in corrections using the format for summaries for each reading you use. For best results in the class as a whole, make your group project topic and reading summaries topics overlap as much as possible for use on your term paper (i.e. try to make all of your assignments have the same or a similar topic). While you will learn about many topics in corrections via Discussions and others' presentations of material, it is best to focus and specialize on a single topic for your own term paper for such a short class duration of 5 weeks.

Towards the end of the paper, include a research design section with proposed data and methodology subsections. This is where you design a hypothetical study *detailed how you would conduct actual research on the topic by gathering & analyzing data.* A preliminary description of the paper idea (2 page minimum), plus a list of references collected to date is due on Sunday Nov. 27th. A second update is due Sunday, Dec. 4th. The quality of your term paper will count as 40% of your course grade.

Term Paper Due on Sunday, Dec. 11th

To summarize, course requirements are weighted as follows:

Participation in Weekly Discussions	10%
Groupwork Presentation	20%
Journal Article Summaries	20%
Term Paper Progress Updates & Drafts	10%
Term Paper	<u>40%</u>
TOTAL	100%

Final grades are determined as follows:

A = 90%-100%	D = 60%-69%
B = 80%-89%	F = 59% or Below
C = 70%-79%	

Minimal Technical Skills Needed:

1. Ability to use Microsoft Word

2. Ability to navigate the D2L Learning System
3. Ability to navigate TAMUC Library Resources to find journal articles/readings per the instructions above
4. Ability to navigate the internet to find journal articles/readings and items for discussion posts

Instructional Methods

This is a fully online graduate seminar delivered on the D2L/Brightspace Platform.

Student Responsibilities and Tips for Success in the Course

1. Read this syllabus with great care and pay attention to its details. Mark assignment due dates and other important notes in your personal calendar. Revisit the syllabus periodically and ask questions if you have them.
2. The key to doing well in an online class is to thoroughly and carefully review all content on the D2L course page.
3. **The class is designed for you to use your assignments to build towards your final project**, so please start reviewing readings, slides, etc., and brainstorming ideas for your projects a.s.a.p. I am always willing to discuss your ideas.
4. The reading list contains a broad set of items from which to choose to fulfill the summaries assignment (far more readings than we can cover in 5 weeks).
 - Use a handpicked set of readings for your Term Paper as well as for Group Projects & Summary requirements.
5. You should conduct internet searches to contribute high-quality (informative) entries to online Discussions. Do the same for your Presentation and the Final Paper.
 - When selecting readings and presentation topics, make them coincide with your final project topic wherever possible. This will greatly increase your efficiency in the class.
6. Avail yourself of resources at the TAMUC Writing Center for proofreading and advice: [TAMUC Writing Center](#)

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

LMS

All course sections offered by Texas A&M University-Commerce have a corresponding course shell in the myLeo Online Learning Management System (LMS). Below are technical requirements

LMS Requirements:

<https://community.brightspace.com/s/article/Brightspace-Platform-Requirements>

LMS Browser Support:

https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser_support.htm

YouSeeU Virtual Classroom Requirements:

<https://support.youseeu.com/hc/en-us/articles/115007031107-Basic-System-Requirements>

ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or helpdesk@tamuc.edu.

Note: Personal computer and internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, office service companies, Starbucks, a TAMUC campus open computer lab, etc.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

Technical Support

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778. Other support options can be found here:

<https://community.brightspace.com/support/s/contactsupport>

Interaction with Instructor Statement

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your Instructor. His preferred method of contact is TAMUC email: michael.tapia@tamuc.edu, or via D2L's messaging program.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Syllabus Change Policy

The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance.

University Specific Procedures

Student Conduct

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. The Code of Student Conduct is described in detail in the [Student Guidebook](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/Admissions/oneStopShop/undergraduateAdmissions/studentGuidebook.aspx>

Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum: <https://www.britannica.com/topic/netiquette>

TAMUC Attendance

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the [Attendance](#) webpage and [Procedure 13.99.99.R0.01](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx>

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/academic/13.99.99.R0.01.pdf>

Academic Integrity

Students at Texas A&M University-Commerce are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all of their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures:

[Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03](#)

[Undergraduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/documents/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyForm.pdf>

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/academics/graduateschool/faculty/GraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyFormold.pdf>

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/undergraduates/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

Students with Disabilities-- ADA Statement

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 have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services

Texas A&M University-Commerce

Velma K. Waters Library Rm 162

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu

Website: [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/>

Nondiscrimination Notice

Texas A&M University-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free

from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

Campus Concealed Carry Statement

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M-Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations.

For a list of locations, please refer to the [Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus](#) document and/or consult your event organizer.

Web url:

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

A&M-Commerce Supports Students' Mental Health

The Counseling Center at A&M-Commerce, located in the Halladay Building, Room 203, offers counseling services, educational programming, and connection to community resources for students. Students have 24/7 access to the Counseling Center's crisis assessment services by calling 903-886-5145. For more information regarding Counseling Center events and confidential services, please visit www.tamuc.edu/counsel

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

Detailed Schedule (Subject to Minor Adjustments)

Week 1: Course Orientation, Intros, Corrections Foundations, Browse & Brainstorm Topics

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topics / Duties</u>
11/8: (Tues.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Carefully read the Syllabus & browse all Course Materials on D2L▪ Post a brief Self Intro/Bio per the instructions on the professor's emailed intro notes
11/9: (Wed.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Browse the Weekly Reading List & choose two (2) Articles to Summarize▪ Use TAMUC Online Library resources or Google Scholar to find a copy of your Articles▪ Send the Instructor a copy of each article you wish to Summarize
11/10: (Thurs.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Review Slides on General Overview, Philosophy & History, and Legal Issues in Corrections▪ Contact Group members to coordinate / brainstorm for the Group Presentation project.
11/11: (Fri)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Browse readings & other class materials to inform your comments on Week 2's Discussion

- 11/12: (Sat) ▪ Review the Slides on Sentencing & Classification, Jails, & the Pre-Trial Phase.
 ▪ Groups 1, 2 & 3: Spend the weekend putting together your Presentation. Email the instructor with ideas, questions, and issues.

- 11/13: (Sun.) ▪ Groups 1, 2, & 3: Presentations due by 11:59 pm.
 ▪ Those who signed up for Week 2 Readings, submit 2-page summary by 11:59pm.

Week 2: Discussions over 1st set of Group Presentations & Article Summaries

- | <u>Date</u> | <u>Topics / Duties</u> |
|----------------------------|--|
| 11/14: (Mon.) | ▪ Week 2 Article Summaries Posted for Class Discussion
▪ Groups 1, 2, & 3 Presentations Posted for Class Discussion |
| 11/15: (Tues.) | ▪ View Group Presentations & Article Summaries.
▪ Review the Slides on Probation, Rehabilitative Treatment, and Intermediate Sanctions
▪ Link the content in Group Presentations & Article Summaries to slides, readings, and internet research to inform your Week 2 Discussion comments. |
| 11/16 – 11/18: (Wed.-Fri.) | ▪ If you haven't done so yet, continue to Sign up for Article Summaries for Weeks 3, 4, & 5.
▪ Groups 4, 5, & 6: work on Presentation
▪ Week 3 Article Summary writers: read your selection(s) & draft your 2-page Summary(ies). |
| 11/20 (Sun.) | ▪ Week 2 Discussion Posts Due by 11:59pm.
▪ Week 3 Article Summaries, Due by 11:59pm.
▪ Groups 1, 2, & 3 Project Write-ups Due by 11:59pm. |

Week 3: Discuss 2nd set of Presentations, Summaries, & Prelim. Term Paper Statement Due

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|--------------------------------|---|
| 11/21: (Mon.) | ▪ Week 3 Article Summaries Posted for Class Discussion
▪ Presentations for Groups 4, 5, & 6 Posted for Class Discussion |
| 11/22: (Tues.) | ▪ Link the Presentations & Reading Summaries content to slides, readings, and internet research to inform your Week 3 Discussion comments.
▪ Continue to Sign up for Article Summaries for Weeks 4 & 5 (or change selections to better fit your term paper topic). |
| 11/23: (Wed.) | ▪ Work on 2-page preliminary term paper statement: See description on p. 3 above and on handout in D2L |
| 11/24 – 11/25: (Thurs. – Fri.) | ▪ Thanksgiving Holiday Break |
| 11/27: (Sun.) | ▪ Groups 4, 5, & 6: Project write-ups due by 11:59pm.
▪ Week 3 Discussion Posts due by 11:59pm (entire class)
▪ Week 4 Article Summaries Due by 11:59pm.
▪ 2-page prelim term paper statement/draft due by 11:59pm (entire class). |

Week 4: Prison & Parole, Term Paper Feedback and 2nd Draft Due.

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| 11/28: (Mon.) | ▪ Review Slides on Prisons & Inmate Characteristics, Prison Management & Programs, Parole & Re-Entry.
▪ Browse Week 4 Readings |
|---------------|---|

- 11/29: (Tues.) ▪ Week 4 Article Summaries Posted for Class Discussion
- 11/30: (Wed.) ▪ Review Graded Prelim Term Paper Statement & Feedback
- 12/1 – 12/2: (Thurs. – Fri.) ▪ Begin revising Term Paper for 2nd Draft
- 12/4: (Sun.) ▪ Week 4 Discussion Posts due by 11:59pm (entire class)
 ▪ Week 5 Article Summaries Due by 11:59pm.
 ▪ Term Paper 2nd Draft due by 11:59pm (entire class).

Week 5: *Special Topics in Corrections, Final Draft of Term Paper Due.*

- 12/5: (Mon.) ▪ Review Slides on Females & Corrections, The Death Penalty & LWOP, & Juvenile Corrections
 ▪ Browse Week 5 Readings
- 12/6: (Tues.) ▪ Week 5 Article Summaries Posted for Class Discussion
- 12/7: (Wed.) ▪ Review Graded Term Paper 2nd Draft & Feedback
- 12/8: (Thurs.) ▪ Revise Term Paper for Final Draft
- 12/9: (Fri.) ▪ Work on Term Paper Final Draft
- 12/11 (Sun.) ▪ Week 5 Discussion Posts Due by 11:59pm.
 ▪ Term Paper Final Draft Due by 11:59pm.

Final “Exam”: Due Tuesday, Dec. 13th, 11:59pm.

The final “exam” is a brief reflection regarding 1) your final project and 2) the class as a whole. Answer these additional Qs: 3) What did you learn from writing the paper, 4) any regrets, 5) different approaches you would’ve taken, 6) what would be the next steps in continuing on with your research?, and finally, 7) If your work schedule and location permitted it, gauge your interest in / preference for in taking in-person master’s level courses vs. the online program.

There is no page requirement for this reflection. It will constitute the last portion of your grade for the Term Paper Progress Updates. Each entry is worth 3.33 points total x 3 ~ 10 pts.