



CJ 468 (01.b): CORRECTIONS

Fall 2023

Meets 8/28/2023 through 12/15/2023
Mon, Wed, Fri 1:00p-1:50p EDS Room: 129

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor:	Mike Tapia, Ph.D.
Office Location:	Ferguson SS 231
Office Hours:	M/W/F 4:00pm – 5:00pm
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 hours

COURSE INFORMATION

Textbook: Matt Delisi and Peter Conis (2019). *American Corrections* 3rd Edition. Burlington, MA, Jones & Bartlett.

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 will cover management & supervision issues, eligibility for various correctional programs, and evaluate the research on their effectiveness. We will compare local and regional variations in correctional practice in the southwest and across the nation. Finally, we will interact with local corrections professionals and tour area facilities wherever possible to gain real world perspectives. In class exams are used to evaluate the knowledge students gain throughout the semester. Students will also become quasi-expert in a particular area of corrections via the writing of a term paper.

Student Learning Objectives & Outcomes

- 1) To learn extensively about concepts & theories of correctional practice;
- 2) To distinguish between institutional and community based corrections and know the purpose of each

- 3) To identify and evaluate the various social forces related to correctional practice and their trends;
- 4) To understand how human behavior for both youth and adults is viewed by the justice system.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS & GRADING

Exams

- There are four (4) in-class tests based on readings, lectures, and other relevant materials.
- Each test is worth 20 percent of the final grade.

Tests are a combination of multiple choice and short answer. Bring the green Scantron form (882-E) and a Blue Book to test dates (items available at the bookstore). Make-up exams are allowed only for verifiable emergencies and you must contact me prior to the regularly scheduled test date to be eligible to take one. Make up exams are essay-format.

Term Paper

The term paper should be 4 to 5 pages in length plus cover sheet and references. You will use library & web-based research to write about a corrections topic of your choosing. See the course *D2L* page for a detailed handout. The term paper is worth 20 percent of the final grade.

******Term Papers are Due in class on Friday 12/8/23 (Last Regular Class Meeting)******

Presentation Project (Alternative to Term Paper)

See the course *D2L* page for a detailed handout. The presentation project is worth 20 percent of the final grade.

******Presentation Projects will take place the 3rd week of class, with write-up due at any point after the presentation.*

The final exam (Test #4) is an in-class, non-comprehensive test based on readings, lectures, and other relevant materials presented in the final part of the term.

To summarize, course requirements are weighted as follows:

In-Class Exams	80%
Term Paper or Presentation Project	<u>20%</u>
TOTAL	100%

Final grades are determined as follows:

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

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
4. Ability to navigate the internet

Instructional Methods

This is a traditional, in-person lecture course. Exams are based on lecture slides and class discussion. 1-page study guides for exams are provided no less than one week before the date of the exam. All slides are made available in clearly labeled modules in D2L, organized into four major sections of the course. Material on the exam is emphasized in the slides and in lecture.

Student Responsibilities and Tips for Success in the Course

1. Read this syllabus, handouts, slides, and all other material on the D2L page with great care and pay attention to their details. Mark test dates and other important notes in your personal calendar. Revisit the syllabus periodically and ask questions if you have them.
2. Students should attend each class or as often as possible.
3. Before each class, students should review slides and skim sections of the textbook chapter(s) scheduled for coverage in class per the weekly schedule (below).
4. To prepare for exams, students should use lecture slides to locate all items appearing on the study guide. Use the textbook's index to locate test items and skim those sections. Also review the notes you take during class.
5. To do well on the Term Paper requirement, students should select a topic as early in the term as possible and run it by the instructor for approval if the student is unsure about its suitability. Students should not wait until the end of the term to begin writing papers. Your instructor is always willing to provide feedback on early drafts. Finally, stick closely to guidelines on the Term Paper handout on D2L for best results, grade-wise.
6. Avail yourself of resources at the TAMUC Writing Center for proofreading and advice: <http://www.tamuc.edu/academics/colleges/humanitiessocialsciencesarts/departments/literatureLanguages/writingCenter/default.aspx> As undergraduates, you probably haven't written many term papers in your life. As such, please take your paper drafts to the writing center for help. Do not plagiarize or purchase term papers off of the internet to present as your own work. This never ends well for the student or the instructor, as filing paperwork for academic misconduct with the university takes time out of everyone's busy schedule. Please see the info on Academic Dishonesty on p. 5 below.

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, hybrid modifications due to COVID-19 spikes in the region, etc., 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>

<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

Tentative Reading, Lecture, & Test Schedule (Subject to Minor Changes)

Part I: *Definitions, History, Philosophy, and Theories of Corrections*

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Reading</u>
Week 1 8/28 – 9/1	General Overview	Chapter 1
Week 2 9/6 – 9/8	Mon., 9/4: Labor Day, No Class Philosophy & History	Chapter 2
Week 3 9/11 - 9/15	Legal Issues	Chapter 3
Week 4 9/18 – 9/22	Sentencing & Classification Jails & the Pre-Trial Phase	Chapter 4 Chapter 5

Week 5 **Test #1 (Friday 9/29)**
9/25 – 9/29 **Over Chapters 1, 2, 4, Lecture & Guest Lectures**

Part II: Community Corrections

Week 6 Probation Chapter 8
10/2 - 10/6 Hunt County Adult Probation:
aka: Community Supervision and Corrections Dept

Week 7 Diversion & Rehabilitative Treatment Chapter 6
10/9 - 10/13 Kindell Weatherford, Lakes Regional MHMR Community Center
Writ Writer Documentary

Week 8 Intermediate Sanctions & Parole Chapter 7
10/16 – 10/20 Chapter 11

Week 9 **Test #2 (Friday 10/27)**
10/23 - 10/27 **Over Chapter 8, Lecture, & Guest Speakers**

Part III: Institutional Corrections

Week 10 Prisons & Inmate Characteristics Chapter 9
10/30 – 11/3 NM Prison Riot of 1980, BBC Documentary

Week 11 Prison Management & Programs Chapter 10
11/6 – 11/10 TDCJ Prison Tour: Choice Moore Unit, Bonham, TX

Week 12 Re-Entry & Reintegration Chapter 12
11/13 – 11/17 April Zamora, Director of Reentry Division, TDCJ

Week 13 **Test #3 (Monday 11/20)**
11/20 **Over Chapters 9, 10, & 12, Lecture, & Guest Speakers/Tours**
11/22 – 11/24 Thanksgiving Holiday Break NO CLASS

Part IV: Special Topics in Corrections

Week 14 Females & Corrections, Bonnie Ernst, Ph.D Chapter 14
11/27 – 12/1 The Death Penalty & LWOP Chapter 15

Week 15 Juvenile Corrections Chapter 13
12/4 – 12/8 Hunt County Juvenile Probation (Videos on D2L)
Wrap-up & Review for Final

Term Papers Due in class on Last Regular Class Meeting, FRIDAY, 12/10/21.

Final Exam: Friday, Dec. 15th, 10:30am.

*****Final is Not Cumulative: It Covers Chapters 13-15 and Lecture Material*****