



## **CJ 2301 (01.E): Community Corrections**

Fall 2025

**Meets 8/25/2025 through 12/12/2025**  
**Tues/Thurs 12:30p-1:45p    Building: SS Room: 313**

### **INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION**

Instructor:	Mike Tapia, Ph.D.
Office Location:	SS 231
Office Hours:	Tu/Th 4:00pm – 5:00pm
Office Phone:	Phone: 903-886-5332 (messages only)
University Email Address:	<a href="mailto:michael.tapia@etamu.edu">michael.tapia@etamu.edu</a>
Preferred Form of Communication:	email
Communication Response Time:	Normally within 24-48 hours

### **COURSE INFORMATION**

#### **Suggested Textbooks\*:**

-Latessa, Ed & Brad Lovins. 2019. *Corrections in the Community*, 7<sup>th</sup> Edition. Taylor & Francis. ISBN: 1138389307.

-Matt Delisi and Peter Conis. 2019. *American Corrections* 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition. Burlington, MA, Jones & Bartlett.

\*Summaries of relevant chapters and sections are posted as slides on the course webpage, and most test items come from there unless otherwise indicated. Test items appear in red font on the slides.

### **Course Description**

This is a course on Corrections and Community-Based Supervision. It will examine its place in the CJ system, its policies & procedures, management & supervision styles, methods of selection into programs, and evaluative research on their effectiveness. We will compare what is learned about the structure and trends in community corrections at the national level to that of programs and agencies in Texas and the local area.

## Student Learning Objectives & Outcomes

- 1) To understand the range of possible sentencing outcomes and the key factors in that decision-making process;
- 2) To learn about programs that impose restrictions on convicted offenders while maintaining them in the community;
- 3) To learn about the systemic efforts to divert accused offenders from the criminal justice system prior to prosecution.
- 4) to become knowledgeable of efforts designed to smooth the transition of inmates from prison to the community through a continuum of options.

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS & GRADING

Course requirements:

1. In-Class Exams	70%
2. Presentation or Term Paper	20%
3. Attendance and Participation	<u>10%</u>
TOTAL	100%

### 1. Exams

- There are four (4) in-class tests based on readings, lectures, and other relevant materials.
- Each test is worth 17.5 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. 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.

### 2. Term Paper or Presentation

Students have the option to write a term paper or make a Presentation (in class or online).

#### Option 1: 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. Use information from local agencies and the library to conduct research on a community corrections topic approved by the instructor. Papers should focus on any of the special problems, populations, conditions of supervision, or programs covered or mentioned in class (e.g. Juvenile, or Female caseloads, Intensive Supervision, Drug Courts, Electronic Monitoring, Fines and Restitution, Gang Unit/Sex Offender/Mental Impairment Caseloads, or other unique conditions of community supervision). See *Paper Options* on D2L for details. The term paper is worth 20 percent of the final grade.

\*\*\*\*\**Term Papers are Due in class on Thursday 12/4/25 (Last Regular Class Meeting)*\*\*\*\*\*

## Option 2: Presentation

Individuals, pairs, or small groups may present on topic(s) or theme(s) of their choice according to what is being covered in the week they will present. For ideas, browse the entirety of the syllabus, slides, speaker videos & outside material to get ideas for topics. The quality of your presentation & brief write-up accounts for 20% of your course grade. (See the *Presentations* handout on D2L for details).

\*\*\*\*\**Presentation Projects will begin the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of class, with a brief write-up due at any point after the presentation*\*\*\*\*\*.

**3. Attendance and participation = 10 Percent of the final grade** for the course.

To re-summarize, course requirements are listed weighted as follows:

1. In-Class Exams	70%
2. Project or Term Paper	20%
3. Attendance and Participation	<u>10%</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 Skills Needed:**

1. Ability to use Microsoft Word & Powerpoint
2. Ability to navigate the D2L Learning System
3. Ability to navigate ETAMU Library Resources
4. Ability to navigate the internet
5. Ability to attend class and stay awake; participate in class discussions
6. Ability to complete your own work independently, without plagiarism or the use of Artificial Intelligence tools to write papers

### **Instructional Methods**

This is a traditional, in-person lecture course. Exams are based on lecture slides, class discussion, guest speakers, tours, and media items in the class. 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 (4) major sections of the course. Material on the exam is emphasized in the slides with red font and in lecture.

## Student Responsibilities and Tips for Success in the Course

1. Read this syllabus, all handouts, slides, and all other material on D2L with great care and pay attention to their details. Mark test dates and other important notes in your personal calendar. Revisit the syllabus and handouts periodically and ask questions if you have them.
2. Students should attend each class or as often as possible. We meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays.
3. Before each class, students should review slides and if you have a copy of the textbook, skim sections of the chapter(s) scheduled for coverage in class per the weekly schedule (below).
4. To prepare for exams, students should
  - a) review the 1-page study guide;
  - b) use lecture slides to locate all items appearing on the study guide. Focus on items in red font.
  - c) Use the textbook's index to locate test items and skim those sections.
  - d) Review the notes you take during class.
5. To do well on the Term Paper or Presentation 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 term papers or asking to be scheduled for a class presentation. Your instructor is always willing to provide feedback on early drafts. Finally, stick closely to guidelines on the Term Paper or Presentations handouts on D2L for best results, grade-wise & heed the info and warnings in item 6. below.
6. Avail yourself of resources at the ETAMU Writing Center for proofreading and advice: <http://www.tamuc.edu/academics/colleges/humanitiessocialsciencesarts/departments/literatureLanguages/writingCenter/default.aspx> As undergrads, 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 or rely on Artificial Intelligence (A-I) 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 East Texas A&M University (ETAMU)-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](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@etamu.edu](mailto:helpdesk@etamu.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 ETAMU 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 ETAMU email: [michael.tapia@etamu.edu](mailto:michael.tapia@etamu.edu), or via D2L's messaging program.

## **COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES**

### **Syllabus Change Policy**

The syllabus – particularly the course schedule below is a preliminary guide. It is virtually guaranteed that the instructor will modify this or other portions of the syllabus during the semester due to modifications in the schedule, occurrences in the field of community corrections, guest speaker availability, unplanned travel, etc. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance in class and on D2L.

### **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>

### **ETAMU 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 East 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**

East 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](mailto:studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu)

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

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

### **Nondiscrimination Notice**

East 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 ETA&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

## ETA&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](http://www.tamuc.edu/counsel)

## COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

### Topics & Schedule (Subject to Changes)

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

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Review</u>
<b>Week 1</b> 8/26 – 8/28	General Overview Submit Personal Bio/Intro in class	Chapter 1 Slides
<b>Week 2</b> 9/2 – 9/4	Philosophy & History Legal Issues	Chapter 2 Slides Chapter 3 Slides
<b>Week 3</b> 9/9 - 9/11	<i>Writ Writer</i> Documentary Class Presentations 1 & 2	Video Link Presentations
<b>Week 4</b> 9/16 – 9/18	Sentencing & Classification Jails & the Pre-Trial Phase Presentations 3&4 Reality Show "Jail" Episodes on U-Tube	Chapter 4 Slides Skim Chapter 5 slides Presentations View "Jail" Episode of Your Choice
<b>Week 5</b> 9/23 – 9/25	***** <b>Test #1: Thursday 9/25</b> ***** Over Chapters 1, 2, 4, Lecture, Videos, & Student Presentations	Study Guide

## **Part II: Probation & Parole as Intermediate Sanctions**

<b>Week 6</b> 9/30 – 10/2	Test 1 RESULTS Review in Class Probation in America Hunt County Adult Probation in Class a.k.a. Community Supervision and Corrections Dept	Probation Slides
<b>Week 7</b> 10/7 – 10/9	Parole in America TX Dept. of CJ Parole Division in Class	Parole Slides
<b>Week 8</b> 10/14 - 10/16	Roles of Probat. Officers (PO) and Parole Officers (PO)	Roles of POs
<b>Week 9</b> 10/21 – 10/23	<b>Test #2 (Thursday 10/23)</b> Over Slides, Lectures, Readings, & Speakers	Review & Study Guide

## **Part III: Assessment & Service Delivery to Clients**

<b>Week 10</b> 10/28 – 10/30	Test 2 RESULTS Review in Class Offender Assessment	Offender Assess. Slides
<b>Week 11</b> 11/4 – 11/6	Supervision Strategies and Delivering Services to Offenders	Service Delivery Slides
<b>Week 12</b> 11/11 – 11/13	Graduated Responses to Offender Behavior Lakes Regional MHMR Community Center	Caseplan adjustments & revocation slides
<b>Week 13</b> 11/18 – 11/20	<b>Test #3 (Thursday 11/20)</b> Over Chapters 7-9, Lectures, Readings, Tours & Speakers	Review & Study Guide
<b>Week 14</b> 11/25 – 11/27	Review Test Results Thanksgiving Holiday No Class	

## **Part IV: Special Populations and Programs**

<b>Week 15</b> 12/2 - 12/4	Residential Programs Women, Juveniles & Special Populations Hunt County Juvenile Probation in Class Review for Final Exam	Chapter 10 Chapters 11& 12
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**\*\*\*\*\*Term Papers, Project Write-up & All Extra Credit Due in Class\*\*\*\*\***

<b>Week 16</b> Thurs 12/11	<b>Final Exam:</b> Monday, Dec 11 <sup>th</sup> , 10:30am in regular classroom
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\*\*\*\*Final is Not Cumulative: It Covers Chapters 10-12, Lectures, Outside Readings & Speakers\*\*\*\*