



CJ 468 (01.E): Community Corrections

Fall 2026

Meets 8/20/2026 through 12/11/2026
Tues/Thurs 12:30p-1:45p Building: SS Room: 313

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Mon, Wed, Fri 10:00am -10:50am Campus: Ferguson: SS Room: 150

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor:	Mike Tapia, Ph.D.
Office Location:	SS 231
Office Hours:	M/W/F 3:00pm – 5:00pm
University Email Address:	michael.tapia@etamu.edu
Preferred Form of Communication:	email
Communication Response Time:	Normally within 24-48 hours

COURSE INFORMATION

Suggested Textbook*:

-Matt Delisi and Peter Conis. 2019. *American Corrections* 3rd 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 the American Correctional system (prisons, jails, probation, parole, etc). It will examine its place in the CJ system, its policies & procedures, management & supervision styles, methods of selection into programs or facilities, and evaluative research on their effectiveness. We will compare what is learned about the structure and trends in corrections at the national level to that of facilities, programs, and agencies in Texas and the local area.

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. 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 in-class student presentations or 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.
- 5) To recognize community corrections as part of a larger Correctional system
- 6) To know the range of sentencing outcomes and the factors going into that decision-making process;
- 7) To learn about restrictions placed on convicted offenders while maintaining them in the community;
- 8) To learn about efforts to divert accused offenders from entering the CJ system prior to prosecution.
- 9) To be aware of efforts to transition inmates from prison to the community through a continuum of options.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS & GRADING

Course requirements:

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

1. 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. 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. Class Presentation or Write a term paper

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

******Term Papers are Due in class on Friday 12/4/26 (Last Regular Class Meeting)******

Option 1: Presentation

Individuals, pairs, or small groups may present on various topic(s) or theme(s), according to the class topic for that week. For ideas, browse the entirety of the syllabus, slides, speaker videos & outside material to get ideas for topics. Recorded, sample student presentations are also available upon request.

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^d week of class, with a brief write-up due at any point after the presentation**.*

Option 2: 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.

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

1. In-Class Exams	80%
2. Project or Term Paper	<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 Skills Needed:

1. Ability to use Microsoft Word & Powerpoint, Canva, etc.
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 an in-person lecture course with online components and activities to be discussed in class.
- 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.
- There are online media-based opportunities for extra credit.
- 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.

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 Mondays, Wednesdays, and many Fridays.
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 on the slides.
 - c) Review the notes you take during class.
 - d) Use the textbook's index to locate test items and skim those sections.
5. To do well on the Presentation or 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 term papers or asking to be scheduled for a class presentation. Your instructor is always willing to provide feedback on early drafts of either type of project. 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) apps like Chat GPT, Gemini, etc. 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

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.

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, 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 & Dishonesty

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

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.

ETAMU-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

Topics & Schedule (Subject to Changes)

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

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Review</u>
Week 1 8/21	General Overview Submit Personal Bio/Intro in class	Chapter 1 Slides
Week 2 8/24 – 8/28	Philosophy & History Legal Issues	Chapter 2 Slides Chapter 3 Slides
Week 3 8/31 – 9/2	Class Presentations 1 - 4 9/4/26: Labor Day Weekend, NO CLASS	

**For extra Credit, summarize any episode of the Ear Hustle podcast <https://www.earhustlesq.com/> **

**For extra Credit, summarize documentary: *Writ Writer* <https://www.kanopy.com/en/tamuc/watch/video/144910>

Week 4 9/9 - 9/11	9/7/26: Labor Day: NO CLASS Sentencing & Classification Jails & the Pre-Trial Phase **For extra Credit, summarize any episode of the Reality Show "Jail" on U-Tube**	Test Review Chapter 4 Slides Skim Chapter 5 slides
Week 5 9/14 – 9/18	Presentations 5 & 6 ***** Test #1: Friday 9/18 ***** Over Chapters 1, 2, 4, Lecture, Videos, & Student Presentations	Presentations Study Guide

Part II: Probation & Parole as Intermediate Sanctions

Week 6 9/21 – 9/25	Test 1 RESULTS Review in Class Probation in America	Probation Slides
Week 7 9/28 - 10/2	Hunt County Adult Probation in Class a.k.a. Community Supervision and Corrections Dept, Dir. Joey Jackson & Superv. Amber Madden TX Dept. of CJ Parole Division in Class	Parole Slides
Week 8 10/5 – 10/7	Roles of Probat. Officers (PO) and Parole Officers (PO) Roles of POs Codeswitch audio: https://www.npr.org/transcripts/1197954050 on Probation and Parole in America TDCJ Isabel Lira, Guest speaker on Absconding and revocation of parole Fall Break, NO CLASS, 10/9	
Week 9 10/12 – 10/16	Test #2 (Friday 10/16) Over Slides, Lectures, Readings, & Speakers	Review & Study Guide

Part III: Assessment, Services, Special Populations and Programs

Week 10 10/19 – 10/23	Test 2 RESULTS Review in Class Women, Juveniles, & Special Populations	
Week 11 10/26 – 10/28	Lakes Regional Mental & Behavioral Health (ADULT) in Class Lakes Regional Mental & Behavioral Health (JUVENILE) in Class Both on Assessing and Delivering Services to Offenders	
Week 12 11/2 – 11/6	Women, Juveniles & Special Populations Graduated Responses to Offender Behavior	Chapters 13 & 14 Caseplan adjustments & revocation slides
Week 13 11/9 – 11/13	Review & Study Guide Over Chapters 13-14, Lectures, Readings, Tours & Speakers Test #3 (Friday 11/13)	
Week 14 11/16-11/20	Review Test Results ONLINE on D2L Review slides in "Final Exam" link on D2L Hunt County Jail Tour, Monday 11/16, 12 noon **No Class on 11/18 -11/20; instructor conference travel**	

*******Term Papers, Project Write-up & All Extra Credit Due in Class*******

Part IV: *Institutional Corrections: Prisons & Inmate Characteristics, Prison Management & Programs*

Week 15 Prisons & Inmate Characteristics, Prison Management & Programs Chs 9 & 10
11/23 NM Prison Riot of 1980, BBC Documentary
 Texas Prison Tour. Choice Moore Unit, Monday, Nov. 23

 Re-Entry & Reintegration Chapter 12
 Thanksgiving Holiday No Class 11/25 – 11/27

Week 16 Final Projects Due
11/30 – 12/4 Wrap up and Review for Final Exam

Term Papers and Presentation Write-Ups Due: Last Regular Class Meeting, FRIDAY, 12/4/26.

Final Exam: Monday, Dec 7th, 10:30am in regular classroom

******Final is Not Cumulative: It Covers Chs 10-12, Lectures, Tours, Videos & Extra Readings******