

**SYLLABUS**  
**CJ 265 Correctional Systems and Practices**  
**Fall 2007**

**Instructor:** Lisa C. Bowman

**Office:** CL-03

**Telephone:** 936-294-3627

**Email:** lcb005@shsu.edu

**Class Hours:** Tuesday and Thursday 9:30 a.m. – 10:50 a.m.

**Classroom:** A205

**Office Hours:** Monday 8 a.m. – 11 a.m., Wednesday 8 a.m. – 11 a.m., or by appointment.

**Course Description:**

Analysis and evaluation of contemporary correctional systems; discussion of recent research concerning the correctional institution and the various field services.

**Required Text:**

Clear, T. and Cole, G. (2006) *American Corrections*. 7<sup>th</sup> edition. Wadsworth.

Stohr, M., and Hemmens, C. (2004) *The Inmate Prison Experience*. Pearson, Prentice Hall.

**Course Goal:**

The student should have a deeper understanding of correctional systems and practices in the United States to include probation, parole, incarceration, special needs offenders, juveniles, and the death penalty, including but not limited to:

- Developing specific skills, competencies, and points of view needed by criminal justice professionals
- Learning to apply course material to improve thinking and problem solving.
- Learning to analyze and critically evaluate ideas, arguments, and points of view.

**Course Objectives:**

1. To provide a combination of historical material, current practices and realistic representations behind the theory of corrections.
2. To introduce the student to research and theory that is relevant to understanding corrections in America in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.
3. To increase our understanding of the correctional environment and how this impacts ourselves and society as a whole.
4. To provide a forum of students to express their ideas and feelings regarding the criminal justice system and how it responds to people.

**Attendance Policy:**

Class attendance requirements will be followed in accordance with Academic Policy Statement 800401.

Regular attendance of classes is crucial to a passing grade. The instructor reserves the right to deduct points for non-documented absences at the rate of 10% per assignment, per week. Contact the instructor if situations arise that prohibits class attendance for 20% or more of the scheduled classes during the semester. The course includes in-class activities that cannot be made up. Alternative assignments can be arranged due to unavoidable situations. One exam per semester can be taken as make-up by arranging a mutual time with the instructor. Subsequent missed exams will require prior notification to the instructor. There is no extra credit available in the course.

**Students with Disabilities:**

“Students with disability (disabilities) which affects their academic performance are expected to arrange for a conference with the instructor in order that appropriate strategies can be considered to ensure that participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired.” The physically impaired may contact the Director of the Counseling Center as chair of the Committee for Continuing Assistance for Disabled Students by telephone (ext. 1720). You are also welcome to discuss any concerns with the instructor. Please refer to: <http://www.shsu.edu/~counsel/sswd.html>

**Religious Holidays:**

Please contact instructor of any applicable scheduling concerns due to religious holidays. Complete information on this policy can be found at : <http://www.shsu.edu/catalog/scholasticrequirements.html#holyday>

**Class Discussions and Mutual Respect:**

Each person in this course has unique prior experiences and a unique viewpoint to share. This offers a great opportunity for us to learn from each other, especially in a course such as this. Though disagreement and even conflict may occur, I expect your cooperation in maintaining an atmosphere of mutual respect. When participating in discussions, it is perfectly acceptable to have strong opinions – in fact I encourage you to do so. I also encourage you to discuss your own personal experience and relate it to that of others. In the process, however, I expect you to respect the basic intelligence and humanity of each participant in the discussion. Conflict is not negative, as long as there is a commitment to mutual respect. Hateful and demeaning speech will not be tolerated.

The use of electronic devices is restricted during class time. Cell phones are to be off or on vibrate and text messaging is not permitted. If use is necessary, please leave the classroom quietly. Notebook computers are allowed in as much as it does not interfere with the learning environment.

## **Academic Honesty:**

The university administration and faculty consider integrity of academics an integral part of a commitment to quality of education. In particular this instructor considers academic integrity a direct reflection of the character of both the instructor and the student. This being stated, cheating on papers, tests or other academic works will be dealt with in accordance with the university's policy. This includes the use of others' materials, words, or ideas without direct permission and/or proper citation of sources. If the student has questions or concerns about the proper use of materials, the assignment should be reviewed with the instructor prior to submittal.

The university's policy on academic honesty and appeal procedures can be found in the manual entitled Student Guidelines, distributed by Division of Student Services (Reference Section 5.3 of the SHSU Student Guidelines), delineating the course of action you will follow in cases of academic dishonesty.

<http://www.shsu.edu/administrative/faculty/sectionb.html#dishonesty>

## **Grading Policy and Course Requirements: (1000 points total)**

Student course grades are:

Scale:

1. Test #1	15%	A = 90-100
2. Test #2	15%	B = 80-89
3. Test #3	15%	C = 70-79
4. Class Project	20%	D = 60-69
5. Current events	15%	F = 59 and below
6. In-Class	20%	

Tests: Tests will consist of multiple choice and short answer questions. Students will bring Scantron answer sheets for exams. The tests will cover material presented in class as well as material for the assigned reading in the textbook.

Class Project: In lieu of a traditional "term paper" students will be expected to provide a presentation, including summarized outline and annotated reference, on one of the chapter topics from "The Inmate Prison Experience". Details on this project will be provided in a separate handout.

Current Events: There will be three (3) current events writings due during the semester. See outline for dates of submission. These papers will pertain to the understanding of corrections as focused in our textbook. The paper should summarize the article found in the news media (newspaper, magazine, internet). and include insight into the concern/issue by applying textbook material. Attach a copy of the article to your writing. In addition, in a

separate writing at the end of your paper, provide a survey of your thoughts on the class by stating: 1. What you have appreciated about the class so far and 2. What changes you feel would benefit the class.

Writing Center: The utilization of the writing center is encouraged. The Sam Houston Writing Center is located in Wilson 114 and is open from 8 a.m. – 7 p.m. Monday-Thursday, 8 a.m. – 3 p.m. Friday, and 2 p.m. – 7 p.m. Sunday. Writing tutors will be available to help generate, organize, or revise a draft of assignments. Either drop by or call 936-294-3680 to schedule an appointment.

**Course Outline:**

This outline is subject to change according to the needs of the course and the students. It does not include detailed information about assignments and in some cases may not include any information about assignments. The outline serves only as a general overview of daily activities.

**\*NOTE: It is highly recommended that reading of chapter(s) to be reviewed is done preceding the class to assist in understanding and participation.**

Tuesday, August 21	Introduction/Syllabus
Thursday, August 23	Chapter 1: The Corrections System <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The purpose and systems framework</li></ul> Chapter 2: History of Correctional Thought And Practice <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• From middle ages to the “age of reason”</li></ul>
Tuesday, August 28	Chapter 3: History of American Corrections <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• From the colonial period to the “crime control model</li></ul>
Thursday, August 30	Chapter 4: The Punishment of Offenders <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Purpose of corrections, forms of criminal sanction, the sentencing process</li></ul> IC Discussion # 1 – History of Texas Prisons
Tuesday, September 4	Chapter 5: The Law of Corrections <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The foundations and U.S. Supreme Court effect on correctional law</li></ul>
Thursday, September 6	Prison Museum Tour (\$2.00/student) <b>Current Events Writing #1 Due</b>

Tuesday, September 11	<p>Chapter 5: The Law of Corrections – (continued)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Constitutional rights of prisoners, alternatives to litigation, and the law of corrections</li> </ul> <p>IC Discussion # 2 – First Amendment Right Requests  <b>Prepare for Roundtable on Clients</b></p>
Thursday, September 13	<p>Chapter 6: The Correctional Client</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Types of offenders and their problems</li> </ul> <p>IC Discussion # 3 – Roundtable on Clients</p>
Tuesday, September 18	<p><b>Test #1 Chapters 1- 5</b>  <b>Topic Request Due</b></p>
Thursday, September 20	<p>Chapter 7: Jails</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Origins and evolutions of jails, the bail system, and issues in jail management</li> </ul>
Tuesday, September 25	<p>Chapter 8: Probation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• History, development, and the current organization of probation, including investigative and supervision functions</li> </ul>
Thursday, September 27	<p>Chapter 9: Intermediate Sanctions and Community Corrections</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The support for and against intermediate sanctions, varieties and making them work</li> </ul> <p>IC Discussion # 4 – Allocating Funds</p>
Tuesday, October 2	<p>Chapter 10: Incarceration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Goals, organization, design, and classification of prisons</li> </ul>
Thursday, October 4	<p>Chapter 11: The Prison Experience</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A focused look at the effects and experience of an inmate</li> </ul> <p>IC Discussion # 5 – Inmate Transition</p>
Tuesday, October 9	<p>Guest Speaker – Mr. Dretke  <b>Be prepared to address a specific question, issue, Concern in Correctional Management</b>  <b>Current Events Writing #2 Due</b></p>
Thursday, October 11	<p>Chapter 13: Institutional Management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The formalities of governing prisons</li> </ul> <p>IC Discussion # 6 – Building Tenders</p>

Tuesday, October 16	Chapter 14: Institutional Programs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Effects of time structure, as well rehabilitative, medical, and industrial programs</li> </ul>
Thursday, October 18	<b>Test #2 Chapters 7 – 11, 13, 14</b>
Tuesday, October 23	Library Research Day
Thursday, October 25	Chapter 12: Incarceration of Women <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The history, concerns, and differences of women in prisons</li> </ul> IC Discussion # 7 – Martha Stewart and Paris Hilton
Tuesday, October 30	Guest Speaker – Ms. Rissie Owens <b>Be prepared to address a specific question, issue, Concern in Parole</b> <b>Current Events Writing # 3 Due</b>
Thursday, November 1	Chapter 15: Release from Incarceration <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Decisions or release and use of parole</li> </ul> Chapter 16: Making It: Supervision in the Community <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Offender’s supervision and experiences of post-release life</li> </ul>
Tuesday, November 6	Tour: Walls Unit
Thursday, November 8	Chapter 17: Corrections for Juveniles <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Historical review, system practices, and sanctioning of juvenile offenders</li> </ul> IC Discussion # 8 – Holding Parents Accountable
Tuesday, November 13	<b>Projects Due</b> <b>Presentations Begin</b>
Thursday, November 15	<b>Presentations Continued</b>
Tuesday, November 20	<b>Final Presentations</b>
Thursday, November 22	Thanksgiving Break
Tuesday, November 27	Chapter 18: Incarceration Trends <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prison population trends and overcrowding</li> </ul> Chapter 19: Race, Ethnicity, and Corrections

- The debate of race and ethnicity issues in corrections

Thursday, November 29

Chapter 20: The Death Penalty

- The demographics and debate over the death penalty

IC Discussion # 9 – Changing the System

Tuesday, December 4

Chapter 21: Surveillance and Control in the Community

- Goals, techniques and future of surveillance methods

Chapter 22: Community Justice

- Defining differences between community justice and criminal justice

IC Discussion # 10 – Victims Rights and Criminal Punishment

Thursday, December 6

Class Wrap-up

**Tuesday, December 11**

**Exam Time: 8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.**

**Final: Chapters 12, 15-22**