

## CJ 4302 Critical Issues in Corrections

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### **Books:**

Siegel, Larry & Bartollas, Clemens (2014). Corrections Today 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. Cengage Learning.  
Student Copy ISBN: 978-1-305-27822-6

**Course Description:** Corrections today has changed over the past several decades. From its existence to modern practices, students will see how corrections have gotten started and how it has been used throughout time. Corrections are popular all over the World but used in various ways and practices. You will see how corrections have grown and will also see advantages and disadvantages to ways of using these various forms of corrections. Students will see corrections from a prison and probation standpoint and will see why we punish and how we punish relative to the criminal justice system.

### **Criminal Justice Undergraduate Program Learning Objectives (PLOs)**

- PLO 1.** Demonstrated knowledge of specific areas of the U.S. Constitution as it relates to specific legal liabilities of criminal justice professionals. The ability to identify, assess, and compare Constitutional protections and individual rights and recognize violations of those Rights. Workable knowledge of the most significant legal challenges to criminal justice policy and the resulting changes to those policies.
- PLO 2.** Demonstrate knowledge of Criminological theories, and apply those theories to practical criminal justice events. The ability to identifying a prominent criminological theory within an actual criminal event or simulated criminal event. The ability to compare and contrast the basic concepts of the differing competing Criminological Theories.
- PLO 3.** Working knowledge of the specific language of the Criminal Justice and the ability to identify the individual parts of the CJ System. An awareness of the costs associated with the Criminal Justice System, and the ability to recognize and be aware of political influence on the system. The ability to apply historical knowledge of the CJ system and recognize patterns of system change.

**Course Objectives:** This course takes an academic service-learning approach to educating the student on the criminal justice response to using corrections. You will see how corrections today have changed over time and why it has changed. You will learn why and how punish according to different resources and theorists. We will take a look

into prison history and the greatly used field of probation joined with prison overcrowding. Corrections today is more talked about than it ever has been due to concerns of overcrowding, difference in opinions concerning the death penalty, and public expression on the overall criminal justice system.

As this is a Blackboard class, students are expected to log into the class frequently and turn in their assignments in a timely fashion. Any computer glitches must be reported promptly or the student will not receive credit on the affected work.

Technical problems can be reported to me - through e-mail is usually the best idea, and/or to the Sul Ross help desk by using lobo pass or calling 837-8888.

**Requirements/Grades:** Final grades for this course will be based on your performance on the following items: Chapter Test– There will be 2 tests and they will each be 50 questions worth 2 points each for a total of 100 points per test = **200 points overall**, Discussion Questions (15) total questions worth 20 points each=**300 points overall**, one Cumulative Final Exam 100 questions worth 1 point each= **100 points overall**. There will also be an Extra Credit Assignment worth up to **30 total points**. This assignment is TBD to be determined and you will get an email when this assignment is posted on Blackboard. There is a total of 600 points plus 30 extra points if you choose to complete the Extra Credit Assignment.

**Final Grades A= 600-540 points, B= 539-480 points, C= 479-420 points, D= 419-360 points, & F= under 360 points. Curves may be given depending on timeliness of your assignments and work ethic. Complete assignments according to the syllabus schedule.**

**Tests:** The tests will consist of 50 questions each. Test 1 will be 50 questions worth 2 points each over Chapters 1-7. Test 2 will be the same criteria except covering chapters 8-15.

**Discussion Questions:** Each week there will be 1-2 discussion questions posted on the discussion board of Blackboard. Students will need to log frequently in order to deal with these questions in a timely manner. Students will also be expected to respond to the information posted by other students which may mean logging in several times a week. Students are expected to contribute in significant ways to the discussion boards, based on the readings, but also on personal experience and knowledge gained through other course work, media reports, etc. **This portion of the course is expected to replace the normal dialog that would occur within an in-class course and students will be expected to have a thorough knowledge of the subjects being discussed.**

The 15 DB questions from each chapter will represent 50% of your grade or 300 total points since they are worth up to 20 points each. This is a large figure for one assignment but the idea is to have a quality discussion and to replace the normal course presentation and paper with this assignment.

**In order to receive the highest possible grade on this section of the course:** 1-2 discussion questions will be posted each week. Normally these questions will be posted on Monday. The original answer to the question must be posted by Thursday. The 2 responses to the posts of other students must be completed by Saturday.

Students will also need to address the information posted by other students. These postings should involve information you have to contribute to the discussion as well as any questions you may have for your other classmates or the professor. It is not necessary for each student to respond to the postings of every other student in the class. You must respond to a minimum of 2 other postings in order to receive full credit. Remember, this format is designed to replace the in class discussions that we would normally have. Ask each other questions. Apply your experience to the things others are saying. Give an opposing view.

**Cheating and Plagiarism:** Students are expected to do their own work on all tests and papers. Cheating on tests and plagiarism on assignments will result in a grade of “F” on that part of the course, a possible grade of “F” for the entire course, and possible recommendation for suspension from the university.

Plagiarism consists of presenting the work of another as one's own (i.e., without proper acknowledgment of the source) and submitting examinations or other work in whole or in part as one's own when such work has been prepared by another person or copied from another person (see the Student Handbook).

**Important!**

See your instructor promptly if you are having problems with your course work or are in need of special assistance.

Qualified students with disabilities needing academic or other accommodations to ensure full participation in the programs, services and activities at Sul Ross State University should contact the Disability Services Coordinator, in Counseling and Prevention Services, Ferguson Hall 112, Box C-117, (837-8203).

**Tentative Course Schedule – Subject to change if needed**

- Week 1- 1/20-1-25** Complete Introduction Question on the Discussion Board
- Week 2- 1/26-2/1** Discussion Question 1 – read Chapter 1
- Week 3- 2/2-2/8** Discussion Question 2 – read Chapter 2
- Week 4- 2/9-2/15** Discussion Question 3/4 – read Chapters 3 and 4
- Week 5- 2/16-2/22** Discussion Question 5/6 – read Chapters 5 & 6
- Week 6- 2/23-3/1** Discussion Question 7 – read Chapter 7
- Week 7- 3/2-3/8** **Midterm: Test # 1, 50 questions Chapters 1-7**

**Week 8- 3/9-3/15** Discussion Question 8/9 – read Chapters 8 & 9

**Week 9- 3/16-3/22** **Spring Break, No Classes**

**Week 10- 3/23-3/29** Discussion Question 10 – read Chapter 10

**Extra Credit Assignment will be posted on Blackboard**

**Week 11- 3/30-4/5** Discussion Question 11 – read Chapter 11

**Week 12- 4/6-4/12** Discussion Question 12 – read Chapter 12

**Week 13- 4/13-4/19** Discussion Question 13/14- read Chapters 13 & 14

**Week 14- 4/20-4/26** Discussion Question 15- read Chapter 15

**Week 15- 4/27-5/3** **Test 2, 50 questions from Chapters 8-15**

**Week 16- 5/4-5/12** **Cumulative Final Exam: 100 questions chapters 1-15**