



CRIJ 2313

Correctional Systems & Practices

Summer 2024

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Course Prerequisite(s): None

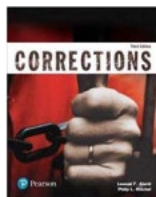
Course Meeting Times: Tuesday and Thursday from 1:30pm to 3:00pm (MST) via Zoom.

Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday from 3:00pm to 4:00pm (MST) via Zoom; and by appointment. To schedule an appointment, send me an email with several blocks of time when you would like to meet.

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Required Textbook



Alarid, Leanne F. and Philip L. Reichel (2018). *Corrections*, 3rd edition. Boston: Pearson. Available at UTEP bookstores.

Course Description

This introductory level course provides a review of contemporary institutional and community-based correctional systems including jails, prisons, probation, parole, and alternative sanctioning. The course examines how punishment justifications impact the policy and procedures in juvenile and adult correctional systems. Specific attention is given to identification of evidence-based practices and programs in all aspects of the corrections system.

Course Objectives

Upon successful completion of this course, students should be able to:

- Recognize the various sanctions that society uses to punish people who break criminal laws.
- Identify and differentiate the various purposes and functions of corrections including rehabilitation, deterrence, incapacitation, retribution, and restoration.
- Summarize and explain historical developments in the American corrections system.
- Describe the components of the corrections system and correctional process.
- Identify current problems and issues relating to the correctional system.
- Recognize and explain the role of gender, race, and ethnicity in correctional policy and practices.
- Explain how evidence-based practices for corrections are evaluated and provide examples of evidence-based correctional practices.

Technology Requirements

Course content is delivered via the Internet through the Blackboard learning management system. Ensure your UTEP e-mail account is working and that you have access to the Web and a stable web browser. Google Chrome and Mozilla Firefox are the best browsers for Blackboard; other browsers may cause complications. When having technical difficulties, update your browser, clear your cache, or try switching to another browser.

You will need to have access to a computer/laptop, scanner, a webcam, and a microphone. You will need to download or update the following software: Microsoft Office, Adobe Acrobat Reader, Windows Media Player, QuickTime, and Java. Check that your computer hardware and software are up-to-date and able to access all parts of the course.

If you do not have a word-processing software, you can download Word and other Microsoft Office programs (including Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook and more) for free via UTEP's Microsoft Office Portal. Click the following link for more information about [Microsoft Office 365](#) and follow the instructions.

IMPORTANT: If you encounter technical difficulties beyond your scope of troubleshooting, please contact the [UTEP Help Desk](#) as they are trained specifically in assisting with technological needs of students. Please do not contact me for this type of assistance. The Help Desk is much better equipped than I am to assist you!

Zoom Sessions

All classes this semester will be live and held on Zoom. The purpose of these sessions are for you to view live demonstrations of the course material and/or to participate in small discussion groups with your classmates. Students are expected to, at least occasionally, participate in these sessions with a webcam and microphone. The sessions will be recorded and provided so that they can be reviewed by classmates at a later time. Students should not record the sessions and post them to any sites outside of Blackboard. While attendance is not mandatory, your presence and engagement will greatly aid in the learning process and be appreciated by me. The Zoom links for class are located here:

- Tuesdays: 1:30pm to 3:00pm (MST) ([Tuesday's class Zoom link](#))
- Thursdays: 1:30pm to 3:00pm (MST) ([Thursday's class Zoom link](#))

Class Recordings

The use of recordings will enable you to have access to class lectures, group discussions, and so on in the event you miss a class meeting due to illness or other extenuating circumstance. Our use of such technology is governed by the Federal Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and UTEP's acceptable-use policy. A recording of class sessions will be kept and stored by UTEP, in accordance with FERPA and UTEP policies. Your instructor will not share the recordings of your class activities outside of course participants, which include your fellow students, teaching assistants, or graduate assistants, and any guest faculty or community-based learning partners with whom we may engage during a class session. **You may not share recordings outside of this course.** Doing so may result in disciplinary action.

Course Communication

Because this is an online class, we won't see each other in the ways you may be accustomed to: during class time, small group meetings, and office hours. However, there are a number of ways we can keep the communication channels open:

- **Office hours (Zoom sessions):** We will not be able to meet on campus, but I will still have office hours for your questions and comments about the course. My office hours will be held on Zoom using this link and during the following times:
 - Tuesdays: 3:00p.m. to 4:00p.m. (MST) ([Tuesday's office hours Zoom link](#))
 - Thursdays: 3:00p.m. to 4:00p.m. (MST) ([Thursday's office hours Zoom link](#))

- **Email:** UTEP e-mail is the best way to contact me. I will make every attempt to respond to your e-mail within 24-48 hours of receipt. When e-mailing me, be sure to email from your UTEP student account and please put the course number in the subject line. In the body of your e-mail, clearly state your question. At the end of your e-mail, be sure to put your first and last name, and your university identification number.
- **Discussion Board:** If you have a question that you believe other students may also have, please post it in the Help Board of the discussion boards inside of Blackboard. Please respond to other students' questions if you have a helpful response.
- **Announcements:** Check the Blackboard announcements frequently for any updates, deadlines, or other important messages.

Netiquette

As we know, sometimes communication online can be challenging. It's possible to miscommunicate what we mean or to misunderstand what our classmates mean given the lack of body language and immediate feedback. Therefore, please keep these netiquette (network etiquette) guidelines in mind. Failure to observe them may result in disciplinary action.

- Always consider audience. This is a college-level course; therefore, all communication should reflect polite consideration of other's ideas.
- Respect and courtesy must be provided to classmates and to the instructor at all times. No harassment or inappropriate postings will be tolerated.
- When reacting to someone else's message, address the ideas, not the person. Post only what anyone would comfortably state in a face-to-face situation.
- Blackboard is not a public internet venue; all postings to it should be considered private and confidential. Whatever is posted on in these online spaces is intended for classmates and professor only. Please do not copy documents and paste them to a publicly accessible website, blog, or other space.

Warning of Course Content

At times, we may discuss material that may be disturbing—even traumatizing—to some students. This may include strong language (including swear words); graphic descriptions of or extensive discussions of crimes, victimization (including suicide, homicide, rape and sexual abuse, kidnapping, violent assaults, and drug abuse), or disaster scenarios; and depiction or discussion of discriminatory attitudes or actions. If you have experienced criminal victimization or some other type of trauma in your past, you should feel free to excuse yourself from the classroom during a discussion that causes you to experience distress. You will, however, be responsible for any material you miss or, alternatively, for an alternate assignment if you are unable to engage with the material. If you suffer from some form of post-traumatic stress that may be triggered by discussion of material, you are encouraged to formulate a plan for treatment with the relevant health advisers to work on preventing unexpected reactions to potentially triggering material.

Keep in mind that some discomfort is inevitable in classes because the goals of higher education include exposing students to new ideas; having students question beliefs they have taken for granted and grapple with ethical problems they have never considered; and, more generally,

expanding their horizons so as to become informed and responsible democratic citizens. You may become frustrated from time to time as you struggle with viewpoints that differ from your own. Even if you have previously experienced some form of trauma or victimization, this course may offer you the benefit of helping to understand behaviors in a manner that allows you to process what may have occurred in your past and move forward in your recovery.

Course Assignments

Class Takeaway (7 total; 5 points each)

Class is held online every Tuesday and Thursday from 1:00pm to 3:30pm. Starting in Week 1, you will be provided a short amount of time toward the end of each class to develop a one-sentence main takeaway and email it to me. These takeaways will not be read aloud nor discussed at the end of class. Students who do not attend class may still submit a weekly takeaway, however the submission must be received no later than 11:59pm that same day—late submissions will not be accepted.

Speaker Appreciation Letters (3 total; 5 points each)

You are to provide me with a note of appreciation for each of the speakers that we will have during the course. This can simply be sent in an email by Friday 11:59 PM of the week that the speaker joined us. I will compile all of the notes and send to the speaker in one document the following week. There is no set length for how long your note should be and you do not need to include any greeting or closing. The one requirement is that it include at least one takeaway or thing you learned from having had a conversation with that person. Here's an example:

I wanted to thank you for joining our class the other day. I have never had a conversation with a warden before and I have to admit that it was nothing like I expected. From you I learned that there are people in corrections who really do care and want to make a difference in the lives of others, but that our system is set up in a way that makes it difficult for you to do the work you want to do. I will take this knowledge with me, as I hope to one day become someone who can influence criminal justice policy and practice in the field. Thank you.

I am hopeful that all of our planned speakers will be able to join us without any cancellations, but please be prepared to be flexible with these assignments should the schedule change. I will encourage you to consider our speakers as part of your professional network. I am requesting, however, that you contact me in advance of contacting them so I can best guide your interactions. Our speakers are generous in sharing their time and I want to ensure we are not asking too much of them beyond our conversation.

Discussion Board Posts (4 total; 10 points each)

There are 4 discussion boards that will be due during the course of the semester—one each week. The topics/material for the discussion boards will come from each week's readings and PowerPoint lecture. Each discussion board prompt will be posted on Blackboard on the Monday morning (8a.m. MST) at the start of each week. The entire assignment is worth 10 points and will consist of: 1) an original post, which must be a minimum of 250 words; 2) a minimum of two (2) responses to your classmates' posts, which must be a minimum of 100 words each. Your

original post must be completed by 11:59PM (MST) on Wednesday of each week. Your minimum of two (2) response posts must be completed by 11:59PM (MST) on Friday of each week.

*You will not be able to see any of your classmates' original posts until you click submit on your original post.

Final Exam (50 points)

The final exam will consist of a combination of questions and short essay responses, all of which will pertain exclusively to the assigned readings from throughout the semester. This comprehensive exam is designed to assess your understanding and critical analysis of the key concepts, theories, and issues in the field of corrections as covered in the course materials. To help you prepare effectively, a final exam review will be sent out one week prior to the exam, along with the logistics of the final exam (e.g., number of questions, allotted time to complete).

Final Paper (60 points)

The final paper for this course will be a comprehensive summary and critique of one peer-reviewed journal article focused on the topic of corrections. This assignment is designed to engage students with current research and scholarship in the field, enhance their critical thinking and analytical skills, and develop their ability to articulate informed perspectives on correctional practices and policies.

By the end of week 2, students will select a topic related to corrections that interests them and submit one or more peer-reviewed journal articles they intend to review for their final paper. The selected articles must be approved by me to ensure they are appropriate and relevant to the course material. The final paper will be due in the last week of the course and should reflect a thorough summary and thoughtful critique of the selected article, integrating course concepts and demonstrating scholarly engagement with the literature on corrections. An example outline will be provided to show how to structure the final paper.

Final Paper Requirements

The final paper should be 2 to 3 pages of written text, excluding the title and reference pages. It must be double-spaced and use Times New Roman 12-point font. The margins must be set to 1 inch on all sides. The paper should follow APA 7th Edition citation style. The grading rubric for the final paper will be discussed during class and available on Blackboard.

Grading

Activity	Points	Percentage
Discussion Board (4 total; 10 points each)	40	20%
Class Takeaway (7 total; 5 points each)	35	18%
Final Exam	50	25%
Final Paper	60	30%
Appreciation Letter (3 total; 5 points each)	15	8%
Total	200	100%

Final Grade Distribution

Point Range	Percentage Range	Letter Grade
180-200	90-100%	A
160-179	80-89%	B
140-159	70-79%	C
120-139	60-69%	D
0-119	Below 60%	F

Course Schedule

- Class is held every Tuesday and Thursday from 1:30pm to 3:00pm (MST) via Zoom.
 - There is **no class on Thursday, July 4th**.
- All submission should be received by 11:59pm on the specified due date.
- Please note that dates are subject to change. In such an unlikely event, I will send an announcement to all students.

Activities	Points	Attendance/Due date
Week 1: Theories of Punishment & Historical Overview of the American Corrections System		
Live Online class	10	6/11 & 6/13 (1:30pm to 3pm)
Assigned readings: Ch. 2, 3, and 4	-	-
DB0: Initial post	(Extra credit) 4	6/12
DB0: Response posts (2)	(Extra credit) 6	6/14
DB1: Initial post	4	6/12
DB1: Response posts (2)	6	6/14
Appreciation letter	5	6/14
Week 2: Management & Culture within Prisons		
Live Online class	10	6/18 & 6/20 (1:30pm to 3pm)
Assigned readings: Ch. 5, 6 and 10	-	-
DB2: Initial post	4	6/19
DB2: Response posts (2)	6	6/21
Appreciation letter	5	6/21
Week 3: Student-Selected Topic (TBD)		
Final Paper Topic	10	6/23
Live Online Class	10	6/25 & 6/27 (1:30pm to 3pm)
Assigned readings: TBD	-	-
DB3: Initial Post	4	6/26
DB3: Response posts (2)	6	6/28
Appreciation letter	5	6/28
Week 4: Evidence-based Correctional Policy		
Live Online Class	5	7/2 (1:30pm to 3pm)
Assigned readings: Ch. 1 & 14	-	-
DB4: Initial Post	4	7/3
DB4: Response posts (2)	6	7/5
Final Exam	50	7/7
Final Paper	50	7/8

Late Assignments

- Discussion Board posts will be docked 2 points if they are submitted past the due date.
- The final exam will be available for 48 hours and **cannot be made up if missed**. I will consider making the exam available a few days earlier if requested. We can discuss this possibility further in class.

- Late submissions for Class Takeaways, Appreciation Letters, or the Final Paper will not be accepted.

Plagiarism/Academic Integrity

Some of your course work and assessments may be submitted to SafeAssign, a plagiarism detecting software. SafeAssign is used to review assignment submissions for originality and will help you learn how to properly attribute sources rather than paraphrase.

In addition to academic performance, students are expected to demonstrate the qualities of honesty and integrity. All submissions by a student are expected to be the original work product of the submitting student. Material that violates this requirement in any way, or that constitutes any form of dishonesty, cheating, fabrication, the facilitation of academic dishonesty, and/or plagiarism, may result in the student receiving a failing grade in the course and in appropriate disciplinary action being initiated.

Course Resources

UTEP provides a variety of student services and support:

Technology Resources

- [Help Desk](#): Students experiencing technological challenges (email, Blackboard, software, etc.) can submit a ticket to the UTEP Helpdesk for assistance. Contact the Helpdesk via phone, email, chat, website, or in person if on campus.

Academic Resources

- [UTEP Library](#): Access a wide range of resources including online, full-text access to thousands of journals and eBooks plus reference service and librarian assistance for enrolled students.
- [University Writing Center \(UWC\)](#): Submit papers here for assistance with writing style and formatting, ask a tutor for help and explore other writing resources.
- [Math Tutoring Center \(MaRCS\)](#): Ask a tutor for help and explore other available math resources.
- [History Tutoring Center \(HTC\)](#): Receive assistance with writing history papers, get help from a tutor and explore other history resources.
- [RefWorks](#): A bibliographic citation tool; check out the RefWorks tutorial and Fact Sheet and Quick-Start Guide.

Individual Resources

- [Military Student Success Center](#): Assists personnel in any branch of service to reach their educational goals.
- [Center for Accommodations and Support Services](#): Assists students with ADA-related accommodations for coursework, housing, and internships. In order to receive reasonable accommodations from the instructor, students must be registered with the Center for Accommodations and Support Services. Any student with a documented disability should

contact the Center for Accommodations and Support Services to make arrangements for appropriate accommodations at 915-747-5148 or <http://sa.utep.edu/cass/>.

- [Counseling and Psychological Services](#): Provides a variety of counseling services including individual, couples, and group sessions as well as career and disability assessments.

Course Drop Policy

I will not drop you from the course. However, if you feel that you are unable to complete the course successfully, please let me know and then contact the [Registrar's Office](#) to initiate the drop process. If you do not, you are at risk of receiving an "F" for the course.

Incomplete Grade Policy

Incomplete grades may be requested only in exceptional circumstances after you have completed at least half of the course requirements. Talk to me immediately if you believe an incomplete is warranted. If granted, we will establish a contract of work to be completed with deadlines