

CRIJ 5313: CONTEMPORARY ISSUES IN CORRECTIONS
Spring 2024
University of Texas at Tyler

Online

Dr. Danielle Bailey
Office: CAS 134

Office Hours: Tuesday 12:00 PM - 3:00 PM (*Zoom Only*)

(Meeting ID: 903 426 7432 Passcode: Bailey)

Appointments Available Upon Request

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Course Description: In the past 30 plus years, the topic of Corrections has become a critical policy issue. Legislators have passed much tougher sentencing policies, probation caseloads have swelled, prisons now are at maximum capacity, and the death penalty has faced multiple challenges as the Supreme Court has reviewed the use gas chambers, and several states have halted executions in the face of evidence that its application is flawed. We now confront a larger than ever parolee population as more and more people reenter society from overcrowded prisons. This course will introduce you to important issues in Corrections and public policy from multiple perspectives. You will read writings by academics, practitioners, and inmates/parolees. You will see videos that illustrate the “prison” experience, and we will take an in-depth look at the theories that govern these correctional practices.

Course Materials:

- 1) Latessa, E. J., & Holsinger, A. M. (2016). *Correctional contexts: Contemporary and classical readings*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press. (ISBN: 9780190280710). **Required.**
- 2) You must have a reliable Internet connection. If you do not have reliable Internet at home, you may be required to come to campus (computer lab), or visit a secondary location in order to connect to the course. For an online class, it is unacceptable to not have reliable Internet.

In addition to the text that you are required to purchase, I will post readings online which you are responsible for having read by time class begins the week they are assigned. Please see the course schedule for the list of readings and their due dates.

Course Prerequisites: There are no formal prerequisites for this course, however, as a graduate student you should be fully capable of completing upper division undergraduate courses. You must also be able to write at a similar level to that of a “Junior” or “Senior” level undergraduate student.

Course Objectives:

This course is a core, graduate-level criminal justice course. The main goal of this course is to familiarize you with the foundational and modern applications of correctional policies in the supervision of offenders in both institutional and community-based settings. This course will explore the history of corrections in the United States, but will primarily focus on modern discussions regarding controversial issues such as solitary confinement, continued use of the death penalty, and the influence of the War on Drugs in prison overcrowding.

There are several learning objectives that we will work toward since this course is a core course for the Masters of Criminal Justice Program. By the end of the course, students should:

1. Explain and discuss the history of corrections in the United States and the current goals of the correctional system
2. Develop responses to the growing prison overcrowding issues that state and federal institutions are currently experiencing
3. Recognize problems with current legislative policies that inhibit offender reentry success
4. Assess problems facing correctional officers within the daily scope of their jobs
5. Compare the experiences of special inmate populations (i.e. women, juveniles, elderly)
6. Integrate empirical research into the development of new legislative efforts to reform the correctional system

This course will also provide a firm foundation of general and specific knowledge for other courses in the Criminal Justice degree program, as well as help student who plans a career in criminal justice.

Assignments and Grading:

The course is reading, writing, and speaking intensive. The successful student's work product will evidence (1) an understanding of the goals, successes, and failures surrounding current legislative efforts regarding the correctional system at all levels; (2) an ability to think and write analytically as demonstrated by written assignments, (3) involvement in the learning process by preparedness for class, participation in class discussion, and initiative in timely completion and submission of all assignments.

1) Plagiarism Tutorial and Certificate (15 points)

In semesters past, there have been concerns about plagiarism in both our undergraduate and graduate courses. In an effort to try and eliminate those issues, and to provide more instruction to students regarding what constitutes plagiarism, I have decided to implement the use of a plagiarism tutorial. This is something that has been used in past courses and is very informative to the process. While I understand that sometimes language can be similar in nature or tone, students should be making every effort to paraphrase information, correctly cite information, and correctly cite direct quotes.

Once you have taken the plagiarism tutorial and have submitted the certificate of completion, the assumption will be that you understand what is acceptable and unacceptable behavior in terms of plagiarism. If you plagiarize in class after the completion of the certificate program, the

following actions will occur. For your first offense with me, you will fail the assignment. We will have a conversation about what went wrong in the assignment. On your second offense, you will be reported to Judicial Affairs. If you are a repeat offender and have plagiarized in other classes beyond mine, you will fail the entire course. Graduate students are held to a higher standard than undergraduate students and are expected to adhere to the policies of the course and of the university. All penalties are at the discretion of the instructor and can vary based on the severity of the plagiarism submitted and the significance of the assignment.

Even if you have taken this tutorial in a previous class, you must complete the tutorial a second time with a time stamp reflective of the assignment's due date as is listed in the syllabus.

2) Lecture Videos and Quizzes (5 points each, 60 points total)

In graduate level classes, I normally do not spend much time lecturing in the same manner in which I do at the undergraduate level. However, as there is much to discuss about this content area I think it is important for me to provide you some lecture materials so that you are able to break down the nuances of each week's topic a little bit more. Each week, you will be required to watch a short (30 minutes maximum) lecture on the weekly topic. At the end of the video, you will be asked to certify that you completed the lecture video and will be awarded your five points. You may watch the lecture at your own pace, but will need to complete this assignment by the end of the week it is assigned. Your lowest lecture quiz score will be dropped and will not count towards your final class grade.

4) Flip Discussions of the Weekly Readings (5 pts each, 65 pts total)

In place of written discussion boards, I will be utilizing Flip video discussion boards. Each week, I will provide you with a short prompt and you will be required to provide one oral response. Videos must be at least 3 minutes in length and must represent a thorough, thoughtful discussion of the provided prompt. Your lowest Flip Discussion score will be dropped and will not count towards your final class grade.

5) Weekly Article Summaries (10 pts each, 130 pts total)

Each week, you and your classmates will work together to create summaries of the readings for the week. I will provide you directions on how to complete these summaries, but the format will be the same for each week. Each student will create a 2 – 3 paragraph summary for one or more of the articles or chapters assigned for that week. These summaries need to be detailed and comprehensive in nature. Article/chapter selections will be first come first serve. Although the document will be open to edits all semester, only work submitted by the end of the module week will be graded. Your lowest article summary score will be dropped and will not count towards your final class grade.

6) Semester Paper (250 pts total)

The largest assignment in this class is the semester paper, where will apply what you have learned through the careful analysis of correctional practices and policies, and the evaluation of these topics within criminological research. You may choose the specific topic of your paper, but

it must contain a strong argument for why you chose the topic in question and how corrections is at the core of that topic choice. If you are in doubt regarding the topic, please come see me.

Your paper should include 1) a thorough explanation for why the topic was chosen, 2) a comprehensive literature review explaining the background of the issue, 3) an in-depth argument for the significance of this issue, and 4) where is the future of this topic heading. All of your responses should not be rooted in opinion, but based on the consensus of the criminological field. This paper does not need to be set up as the front end of a research project, but you may do so if you want – especially if you plan on taking the thesis route.

The paper must be heavily researched and must include at least 10 academic sources. This means peer reviewed journal articles, books, court cases, and governmental reports, NOT websites and Wikipedia. Be aware that you must cite all of your sources in APA format. If you are still unsure how to use APA citation style, please come see me. It is also in your best interest to over-cite, rather than not have enough citations throughout the paper.

Your semester paper will be completed via a stepwise submission, meaning you will have different portions of the paper due at different times during the class. These are the steps:

- Module 4 - Semester Paper Topic Selection and Annotated Bibliography Due (25 points)
- Module 7 - Outline of Semester Paper Due (25 points)
- Module 10 - First Draft of Semester Paper Due (50 points)
- Module 14 - Final Semester Paper Due (150 points)

Grading Scale

Your grade this semester is dependent on the work and effort that you put into this class. I do not award extra credit, nor do I provide extensions for work unless there is a legitimate excuse. Please see the following breakdown of grades and what the point value equates to in letter grade format.

1) Plagiarism Certificate		15 points
2) Lecture Quiz	(5 points each; 1 dropped)	55 points
4) Flip Discussions	(5 points each; 1 dropped)	60 points
5) Article Summaries	(10 points each; 1 dropped)	120 points
6) Paper Topic and Annotated Bibliography		25 points
7) Outline of Semester Paper		25 points
8) First Draft of Semester Paper		50 points
9) Final Semester paper		150 points

Point Total for Semester

500 points total

Total Points	Grade Percentage	Letter Grade	Grade Points
450 or Above	100 – 90%	A	4.0
400 – 449	80 – 89%	B	3.0
350 – 399	70 – 79%	C	2.0
300 – 349	60 – 69%	D	1.0
348 or Below	59% or below	F	0.0

UT Tyler Policies

UT Tyler Honor Code

Every member of the UT Tyler community joins together to embrace: Honor and integrity that will not allow me to lie, cheat, or steal, nor to accept the actions of those who do. Students Rights and Responsibilities To know and understand the policies that affect your rights and responsibilities as a student at UT Tyler, please follow this link:

<http://www.uttyler.edu/wellness/rightsresponsibilities.php>

Campus Carry

We respect the right and privacy of students 21 and over who are duly licensed to carry concealed weapons in this class. License holders are expected to behave responsibly and keep a handgun secure and concealed. More information is available at

<http://www.uttyler.edu/about/campus-carry/index.php>

UT Tyler a Tobacco-Free University

All forms of tobacco will not be permitted on the UT Tyler main campus, branch campuses, and any property owned by UT Tyler. This applies to all members of the University community, including students, faculty, staff, University affiliates, contractors, and visitors.

Forms of tobacco not permitted include cigarettes, cigars, pipes, water pipes (hookah), bidis, kreteks, electronic cigarettes, smokeless tobacco, snuff, chewing tobacco, and all other tobacco products.

There are several cessation programs available to students looking to quit smoking, including counseling, quitlines, and group support. For more information on cessation programs please visit www.uttyler.edu/tobacco-free.

Grade Replacement/Forgiveness and Census Date Policies

Students repeating a course for grade forgiveness (grade replacement) must file a Grade Replacement Contract with the Enrollment Services Center (ADM 230) on or before the Census Date of the semester in which the course will be repeated. Grade Replacement Contracts are available in the Enrollment Services Center or at <http://www.uttyler.edu/registrar>. Each semester's Census Date can be found on the Contract itself, on the Academic Calendar, or in the information pamphlets published each semester by the Office of the Registrar.

Failure to file a Grade Replacement Contract will result in both the original and repeated grade being used to calculate your overall grade point average. Undergraduates are eligible to exercise grade replacement for only three course repeats during their career at UT Tyler; graduates are eligible for two grade replacements. Full policy details are printed on each Grade Replacement Contract.

The Census Date is the deadline for many forms and enrollment actions of which students need to be aware. These include:

- Submitting Grade Replacement Contracts, Transient Forms, requests to withhold directory information, approvals for taking courses as Audit, Pass/Fail or Credit/No Credit.

- Receiving 100% refunds for partial withdrawals. (There is no refund for these after the Census Date)
- Schedule adjustments (section changes, adding a new class, dropping without a “W” grade)
- Being reinstated or re-enrolled in classes after being dropped for non-payment
- Completing the process for tuition exemptions or waivers through Financial Aid

State-Mandated Course Drop Policy

Texas law prohibits a student who began college for the first time in Fall 2007 or thereafter from dropping more than six courses during their entire undergraduate career. This includes courses dropped at another 2-year or 4-year Texas public college or university. For purposes of this rule, a dropped course is any course that is dropped after the census date (See Academic Calendar for the specific date).

Exceptions to the 6-drop rule may be found in the catalog. Petitions for exemptions must be submitted to the Enrollment Services Center and must be accompanied by documentation of the extenuating circumstance. Please contact the Enrollment Services Center if you have any questions.

Disability/Accessibility Services

In accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the ADA Amendments Act (ADAAA) the University of Texas at Tyler offers accommodations to students with learning, physical and/or psychological disabilities. If you have a disability, including a non-visible diagnosis such as a learning disorder, chronic illness, TBI, PTSD, ADHD, or you have a history of modifications or accommodations in a previous educational environment, you are encouraged to visit <https://hood.accessiblelearning.com/UTTyler> and fill out the New Student application. The Student Accessibility and Resources (SAR) office will contact you when your application has been submitted and an appointment with Cynthia Lowery, Assistant Director of Student Services/ADA Coordinator. For more information, including filling out an application for services, please visit the SAR webpage at <http://www.uttyler.edu/disabilityservices>, the SAR office located in the University Center, # 3150 or call 903.566.7079.

Student Absence due to Religious Observance

Students who anticipate being absent from class due to a religious observance are requested to inform the instructor of such absences by the second class meeting of the semester.

Student Absence for University-Sponsored Events and Activities

If you intend to be absent for a university-sponsored event or activity, you (or the event sponsor) must notify the instructor at least two weeks prior to the date of the planned absence. At that time the instructor will set a date and time when make-up assignments will be completed.

Social Security and FERPA Statement

It is the policy of The University of Texas at Tyler to protect the confidential nature of social security numbers. The University has changed its computer programming so that all students have an identification number. The electronic transmission of grades (e.g., via e-mail) risks

violation of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act; grades will not be transmitted electronically.

Emergency Exits and Evacuation

Everyone is required to exit the building when a fire alarm goes off. Follow your instructor's directions regarding the appropriate exit. If you require assistance during an evacuation, inform your instructor in the first week of class. Do not re-enter the building unless given permission by University Police, Fire department, or Fire Prevention Services.

Student Standards of Academic Conduct

Disciplinary proceedings may be initiated against any student who engages in scholastic dishonesty, including, but not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts.

I. "Cheating" includes, but is not limited to:

- copying from another student's test paper;
- using, during a test, materials not authorized by the person giving the test;
- failure to comply with instructions given by the person administering the test;
- possession during a test of materials which are not authorized by the person giving the test, such as class notes or specifically designed "crib notes". The presence of textbooks constitutes a violation if they have been specifically prohibited by the person administering the test;
- using, buying, stealing, transporting, or soliciting in whole or part the contents of an unadministered test, test key, homework solution, or computer program;
- collaborating with or seeking aid from another student during a test or other assignment without authority;
- discussing the contents of an examination with another student who will take the examination;
- divulging the contents of an examination, for the purpose of preserving questions for use by another, when the instructors has designated that the examination is not to be removed from the examination room or not to be returned or to be kept by the student;
- substituting for another person, or permitting another person to substitute for oneself to take a course, a test, or any course-related assignment;
- paying or offering money or other valuable thing to, or coercing another person to obtain an unadministered test, test key, homework solution, or computer program or information about an unadministered test, test key, home solution or computer program;
- falsifying research data, laboratory reports, and/or other academic work offered for credit;
- taking, keeping, misplacing, or damaging the property of The University of Texas at Tyler, or of another, if the student knows or reasonably should know that an unfair academic advantage would be gained by such conduct; and

- misrepresenting facts, including providing false grades or resumes, for the purpose of obtaining an academic or financial benefit or injuring another student academically or financially.
- II. “Plagiarism” includes, but is not limited to, the appropriation, buying, receiving as a gift, or obtaining by any means another’s work and the submission of it as one’s own academic work offered for credit.
- III. “Collusion” includes, but is not limited to, the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing academic assignments offered for credit or collaboration with another person to commit a violation of any section of the rules on scholastic dishonesty.
- IV. All written work that is submitted will be subject to review by plagiarism software.

UT Tyler Resources for Students

- UT Tyler Writing Center (903.565.5995), writingcenter@uttyler.edu
- UT Tyler Tutoring Center (903.565.5964), tutoring@uttyler.edu
- The Mathematics Learning Center, RBN 4021, this is the open access computer lab for math students, with tutors on duty to assist students who are enrolled in early-career courses.
- UT Tyler Counseling Center (903.566.7254)

