

## Course Logistics

- **Course Title:** Correctional Systems & Practices
- **Course Number and Section:** CRIJ-2313.001
- **Scheduled Class Dates:** 01/13/2025 - 05/03/2025
- **Scheduled Class Days and Times:** Tuesday / Thursday 11:00AM to 12:20PM
- **Scheduled Classroom Location:** Arts and Sciences #104

## Instructor Contact Information

- **Instructor Name:** Michael Ferguson
- **Office Location:** CAS134
- **Phone Number:** 903.730.3927
- **Email:** [mferguson@uttyler.edu](mailto:mferguson@uttyler.edu)
- **Best way to contact:** Via email. Please note: please send me an e-mail from your UT-T email account. This assures me that the message is, in fact, coming from you. I am regular in my habit of checking email, so you should never have to wait more than a day or so for a response. You should include your course title and number in the subject line of the email (e.g., "Question regarding CRIJ-4334.060, Homeland Security").
- **Office Hours:** M/W/F: 1:30p - 2:30p T/Th: 10a - 10:45a Meetings by appointment at other times via Zoom are available -- send me an email to arrange a date and time.

## Census Date

The census date for the Spring, 2025, semester is January 27. This is the final date for many enrollment-related actions, including adding new courses, changing sections, or dropping courses without incurring grades of "W" or "Q." The census date is also the second drop for non-payment date each academic session.

## Course Information

This course serves as an introductory examination of the correctional systems within the United States, both at the institutional and community level. Within this course, students will have the opportunity to identify the differences between prisons and jails, probation and parole, indeterminate and determinate sentencing structures, and the arguments surrounding the notion that the correctional system within the U.S. needs a total overhaul. This course serves as a prerequisite to CRIJ 4313, Advanced Correctional Systems and Practices.

## Course Rationale

This course will answer the "who, what, when, where, and why" questions you've always had about the way corrections is done in the US. The course curriculum provides an historical, structural, and operational overview of the American correctional system. Topics covered will help you to grasp the immense complexities of corrections in modern America.

## Student Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, you will be able to:

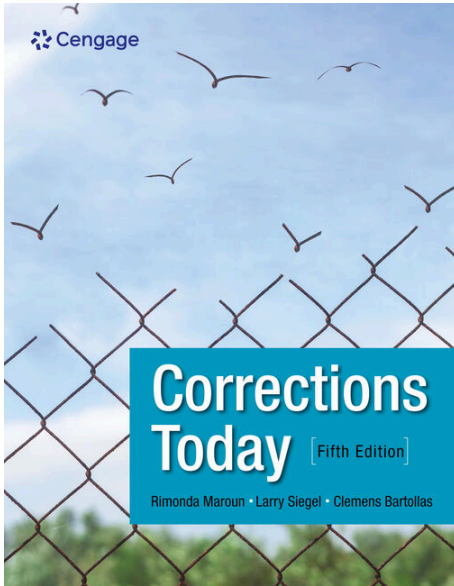
- Describe the organization and operation of correctional systems and alternatives to institutionalization.
- Describe treatment and rehabilitative programs.

- Differentiate between the short-term incarceration and long-term institutional environments.
- Evaluate current and future correctional issues.
- Identify the Constitutional rights applicable to the correctional setting.

## REQUIRED Textbook

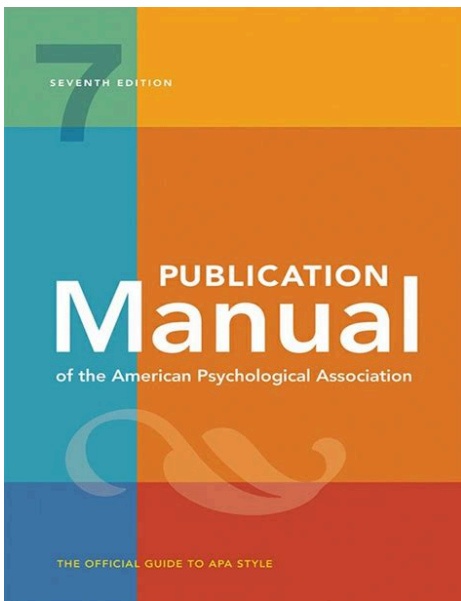
Maround, R. Siegel, L., Bartollas, C. (2024). *Corrections today* (5th ed.). Cengage.

ISBN: 978-0-357-76350-6



## RECOMMENDED Textbook

American Psychological Association. (2020). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association: The Official Guide to APA style* (7th ed.). American Psychological Association.



## Grading Policy

- A:  $\geq 90\%$
- B: 80%-89%
- C: 70%-79%

- D: 60%-69%
- F: <60%

## Course Weighting

- Quizzes: 40%
- Unit Exams: 30%
- Final Exam: 30%

## Grading Criteria

It is the student's responsibility to keep track of due dates. Please note that quizzes, assignments, and tests must be completed by or on the listed due date; missing quizzes, assignments, or tests will translate into a score of zero for that particular assignment. There are no makeups for anything you miss unless it's for an excused absence.

- **Quizzes:** Quizzes will be based on the reading and lecture material. You will have quizzes at the end of each section as well as "pop quizzes" during the week. You are required to bring a #2 pencil with you to each class session so that you are prepared to take any pop quizzes that may be given. Regular, online quizzes may cover multiple chapters, external readings, or other assignments. Chapter quizzes will be given via Canvas. You may take each quiz only once, and quizzes will not be accepted after the posted due date (11:59p on Sunday night of the day it's due). Questions on the quizzes will be multiple choice or true/false.
- **Unit Exams:** There are exams at the end of each major unit. The exams will be based on the material from the unit covered. Questions on the exam will be multiple choice or true/false. Studying your quizzes will make a HUGE difference in how well you do on the exams. Exams will be given using SCANTRON forms and will be taken during class. There are no makeup dates for missed exams.
- **Final Exam:** The final exam will cover all of the material you've learned over the course of the semester. Studying your quizzes and unit exams will make a HUGE difference in how well you do on the final. Questions on the exam will be multiple choice or true/false. The final exam will be given using SCANTRON forms and will be taken during class. There are no makeup dates for a missed exam.

## ATTENDANCE

You can't learn if you're not in class. Attendance in this class is **mandatory**. University courses are about learning a wealth of material in a short period of time - with the goal of being able to think critically about the topics at hand. As such, attendance at lecture will greatly increase your ability to understand the field of criminal justice. Additionally, attendance will improve your grades. You will be allowed **two** unexcused absences. **Each unexcused absence above the two "freebies" permitted will lower your final course grade by one point.** Because this is a traditional, face-to-face course, you may not attend via Zoom. You must be physically present in order to get credit.

## Policy on Artificial Intelligence

UT Tyler is committed to exploring and using artificial intelligence (AI) tools as appropriate for the discipline and task undertaken. We encourage discussing AI tools' ethical, societal, philosophical, and disciplinary implications. All uses of AI should be acknowledged as this aligns with our commitment to honor and integrity, as noted in UT Tyler's Honor Code. Faculty and students must not use protected information, data, or copyrighted materials when using any AI tool. Additionally, users should be aware that AI tools rely on predictive models to generate content that may appear correct but is sometimes shown to be incomplete, inaccurate, taken without attribution from other sources, and/or biased. Consequently, an AI tool should not be considered a substitute for traditional

approaches to research. You are ultimately responsible for the quality and content of the information you submit. Misusing AI tools that violate the guidelines specified for this course (see below) is considered a breach of academic integrity. The student will be subject to disciplinary actions as outlined in UT Tyler's Academic Integrity Policy.

The work submitted by students in this course will be generated by themselves. This includes all process work, drafts, brainstorming artifacts, editing, and final products. This extends to group assignments where students must collaboratively create the project. Any instance of the following constitutes a violation of UT Tyler's Honor Code: a student has another person/entity do any portion of a graded assignment, which includes purchasing work from a company, hiring a person or company to complete an assignment or exam, using a previously submitted assignment and/or using AI tools (such as ChatGPT).

## Tentative Schedule of Topics

- **Part 1. The Correctional System: How and Why We Correct**
  - Chapter 1. The Correctional System (NOTE: two-week unit)
    - Quiz
  - Chapter 2. Sentencing and the Correctional Process
    - Quiz
  - **EXAM ONE**
- **Part 2. Types of Correctional Sanctions**
  - Chapter 3. Community Corrections: Diversion and Probation
    - Quiz
  - Chapter 4. Intermediate Sanctions
    - Quiz
  - Chapter 5. Jails and Houses of Correction
    - Quiz
  - Chapter 6. Prisons
    - Quiz
  - **EXAM TWO**
- **Part 3. Living in and Leaving the Correctional Institution**
  - Chapter 7. The Prison Experience: Gendered Perspectives (NOTE: two-week unit)
    - Quiz
  - Chapter 8. Prisoners' Rights
    - Quiz
  - Chapter 9. Correctional Programs and Services
    - Quiz
  - Chapter 10. Parole and Release to the Community
    - Quiz
  - **EXAM THREE**
- **Part 4. Unique Problems and Issues in Corrections**
  - Chapter 11. Special Prison Populations
    - Quiz
  - Chapter 12. Capital Punishment and Death Row
    - Quiz
- **FINAL EXAM**

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[Student Resources](#)

[University Policies and Information](#)