



*Criminal Justice: CJS 102: Introduction to Corrections (CRN 1023)*

**Middlesex Community College  
Criminal Justice Department  
Course Syllabus: Online**

**TIME:** Spring 2018 Online 16-Week Course: January 17<sup>th</sup>-May 16<sup>th</sup>  
CRN 1023

**PLACE:** Online

**INSTRUCTOR:** Professor Christian Moore  
**Office Hours:** Snow Hall Room #509  
By appointment  
Office Phone: 860-343-5809

**E-Mail:** Please contact me through the Blackboard shell.  
If Blackboard is down email: [Cmoore@txcc.commet.edu](mailto:Cmoore@txcc.commet.edu)  
Cell Phone for emergencies only: 203-947-9461

**COURSE PREREQUISITES:** *CJS 101- Introduction to Criminal Justice or taken concurrently.*

**TEXT:** Alarid, L.F. & Reichel, P. L. (2018). *Corrections* (3<sup>rd</sup> Edition). Pearson Education, INC: ISBN: 978-0-13-454867-8

## **I. COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

A study of the history, philosophy, and evolution of corrections as well as the functions of U.S. jails and prisons. The course also examines the procedures used by state and federal courts that result in the sentencing of offenders to penal institutions and community-based supervision and treatment programs.

## **II. SPECIFIC LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

1. Discuss the history and development of the modern correctional system.
2. Compare and contrast the various correctional models from historical and contemporary perspectives.
3. Identify and apply the various correctional philosophies.
4. Describe the current role of corrections within the criminal justice system.
5. Outline the current organizational and management approaches used by modern correctional institutions.
6. Discuss the various correctional models, to include best practices and the role of funding.
7. Differentiate between community based correction and correctional diversion programs.
8. Identify various prisoners' rights and protections within correctional facilities.
9. Discuss the variable involved in the acclimation of the released subject back into society.
10. Examine the moral, ethical, and legal obligation of professionals in the field of corrections.

## **III. COURSE REQUIREMENTS- LECTURE:**

1. Course materials will be delivered via Blackboard and will enable student to complete their academic work in a flexible manner, completely online. The course is broken down into four units: Unit #1: Chapters 1-3, Unit #2: Chapters 4-6, Unit #3: Chapters 7-10, and Unit #4: Chapters 11-14. There is total of 14 chapters.
2. The "lectures" for this course consist of PowerPoint presentations and any other course materials i.e. articles, videos, and relevant terminology. PowerPoint presentations will be posted on Blackboard for students to access. It is strongly recommended that students read the PowerPoints other course materials posted.

3. You must contact the instructor **in advance** if you have a good reason to miss an assignment, discussion board, or current event summary. **Only students with a prearranged absence will be permitted to make up assignments or current event summaries.**

4. Reading assignments must be completed before each class.

5. Assignments must be turned in on time. **Late work will not be accepted.** Instructor reserves the right to modify this rule only in exceptional cases.

6. Your grade is the average of points earned and total possible points based on the results of:

Current Event Summaries (2 of 3)	(100 points each)	200 points
Discussion Boards (14)	(25 points each)	350 points
Syllabus Quiz	(50 points)	050 points
Final Research Project	(400 points)	400 points
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		Total: 1000 points

#### IV. IMPORTANT DATES: SUBJECT TO CHANGE

1. Quiz:

01/28 Syllabus Quiz Due

2. Current Event Summaries: Details of assignment are listed below.

02/11 Current Event Summary #1 Due

03/25 Current Event Summary #2 Due

04/15 Current Event Summary #3 Due

3. Research Project:

02/04 Topics Due – 50 Points

03/11 Thesis Statement Due – 50 Points

04/29 Research Paper – 150 Points

04/29 Presentation Forum – 150 points

05/06 Presentation Response

4. Discussion Forum: Initial Posts Due on **Wednesday**. Response Posts are Due on the **Sunday** after your initial post.

01/24 Discussion Forum: Initial Post Due

01/31 Discussion Forum: Initial Post Due

02/07 Discussion Forum: Initial Post Due

02/14 Discussion Forum: Initial Post Due

02/21 Discussion Forum: Initial Post Due

02/28 Discussion Forum: Initial Post Due

03/07 Discussion Forum: Initial Post Due

03/21 Discussion Forum: Initial Post Due

03/28 Discussion Forum: Initial Post Due

04/04 Discussion Forum: Initial Post Due

04/11 Discussion Forum: Initial Post Due

04/18 Discussion Forum: Initial Post Due

04/25 Discussion Forum: Initial Post Due

05/02 Discussion Forum: Initial Post Due

#### V: CURRENT EVENT SUMMARIES:

Since there are many interesting articles constantly being published in law enforcement magazines, scholarly journals, and on the internet concerning the Criminal Justice System, students will read at least three of these articles and summarize their findings.

Learning to summarize research articles is an invaluable skill that will greatly assist students in their academic and professional

careers. Students will be assigned to complete 3 **Article Summaries**. The two highest grades for these summaries will be counted into the final grade (thus a student can miss only one). Students must get the article pre-approved by the instructor prior to completing the summary.

The main objective of this exercise is for student to become familiar with scholarly sources in the form of peer reviewed journal articles. Students will also learn how to identify the main points in the article and summarize the findings. In the summary, students must explain how the article relates to some part of the course. Does the information seem correct or do you question the information in the article?

**Your summary should answer the following questions:**

- What are the main points in the article?
- The summary must be in your own words – minimize the number of direct quotes to 1 or 2.
- How does the article relate to the course?
- Does the information in the article seem correct or is it misleading?

**Summary Requirements:**

- 200 to 250 words in length – no more no less (refers only to the body of the summary)
- 12 font – Times New Roman – 1-inch margins – 1.5 spacing.
- Proper citation of the article using APA guidelines.
- Proper grammar, punctuation, and sentence structure
- Please note that all rules in regards to plagiarism and proper citations must be followed
- When you have a question about citing information correctly – ASK FOR HELP!

**All Current Event Summaries must be submitted to the instructor electronically via Blackboard. Current Event Summaries are due by 11:59 pm on the due date. Late work will not be accepted.**

**Pre-reviewing: Current Event Summaries** can be submitted for Pre-Reviewing. A student can submit their current event summary to the instructor no later than 1-week prior to the due date. The instructor will review the summary and provide feedback to the student on areas of improvement. The summary will not receive a grade, but will be reviewed for major errors. The instructor will return the document and discuss the submission with the student. The student can then edit the document and submit it on the due date. Upon submission, the pre-reviewed document must be attached to the final draft.

- **Cheating of any kind will not be tolerated and will result in a grade of “F” for the course and immediate referral to the Academic Dean for further disciplinary action.**

## **VI: DISCUSSION FORUMS: RESPONSE QUESTIONS:**

***DISCLAIMER: The views and opinions expressed in articles discussed during this class are those of the authors’ and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of Middlesex Community College or Professor Moore. Assumptions and conclusions made within the articles are not reflective of the position of MxCC or Professor Moore.***

At the end of each chapter discussed in class are two discussion questions. Students must utilize their critical thinking skills and apply information that they are learning in the course when answering each question.

Each chapter has at least two questions in which students must respond. Students will select set of chapter questions and write a response. The chapter questions are located in Blackboard within each discussion. Students must complete **all 14** forum discussions.

Each student must post his/her individual response to the chapter discussion questions on the Discussion Board by 11:59 pm on Wednesdays. Late submission will not be accepted; however, students can still submit response posts for partial credit.

Students must interact with at least two other students in the course by posting questions and addressing the initial posts of **TWO** of their classmates. Response posts are due by Sunday evening, 11:59 pm. These responses must be informative and

contribute to the advancing knowledge of the topic. “Good job,” or “nice post,” are not acceptable. Please note that the final discussion board responses are due by 11:59 pm on April 29<sup>th</sup>.

**Initial Post: Discussion Question Requirements: Due Wednesdays**

- 200 to 250 words in length – no more no less (refers only to the body of your response)
- 12 font – Times New Roman
- Proper grammar, punctuation, and sentence structure
- Do not use first person.
- Label your legal puzzle with a title indicating which puzzle was selected.
- Supported by Two Scholarly Sources – one will be the textbook and the second is the student’s choice.
- In text citations and references required.
- Please note that all rules in regards to plagiarism and proper citations must be followed.
- \*\*\*\*When you have a question about citing information correctly – ASK FOR HELP!\*\*\*\*
- DO NOT send assignments via a message or email – they will not be accepted.

**Response Posts: Requirements: Due Sundays**

- Respond to at least 2 classmates’ initial posts.
- Each post must be at least 125 words in length.
- Response posts must be made on different days of the week: ex. Thursday and Sunday.
- 12 font – Times New Roman
- Proper grammar, punctuation, and sentence structure

**Please adhere to all Netiquette rules when responding to other students’ posts.**

- Respect others’ opinions and perspectives. It is perfectly acceptable to agree to disagree on a topic. It is also acceptable to disagree with the authors and/or Mrs. Brown, as long as the argument is formed in a respectful manner.
- Avoid using stereotypes.
- The purpose of the course is to use peer reviewed journal articles, data, and studies to support or refute your stance on a particular topic. Use the scholarly data to support your position.
- Absolutely no name calling or derogatory language on the discussion boards.
- Students who are unable to maturely and respectfully contribute to the class discussion may be asked to leave the class.

**VII: RESEARCH PROJECT AND SYLLABUS QUIZ:**

Since there are many interesting topics and articles constantly being published in law enforcement magazines, scholarly journals, and on the internet concerning the Criminal Justice System, students will complete a final research project instead of a final exam. Students will research their topic and summarize their findings. The project will consist of 4 parts: a topic, thesis statement, paper, and a power point presentation. Further instructions will be provided in class as well as posted under the “Research Project” link on Blackboard.

The main objective of this exercise is for students to become familiar with scholarly sources in the form of peer reviewed journal articles. Students will also learn how to identify the main points of the articles, summarize their findings, and present them to their peers.

**Syllabus Quiz:** During the first week of class, students will take a brief quiz on the syllabus and introductory material. Questions on the quiz will pertain to policies, procedures, and the general format of the course. The quiz is meant as a vehicle to test students’ understanding of the expectations for the course.

**VIII: CRIMINAL JUSTICE GRADING SCALE:**

<u>Letter Grade:</u>	<u>Percentage:</u>	<u>Letter Grade:</u>	<u>Percentage:</u>
A	93-100	C	73-76
A-	90-92	C-	70-72

<b>B+</b>	<b>87-89</b>	<b>D+</b>	<b>67-69</b>
<b>B</b>	<b>83-86</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>63-66</b>
<b>B-</b>	<b>80-82</b>	<b>D-</b>	<b>60-62</b>
<b>C+</b>	<b>77-79</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>Below 60</b>

## IX: WITHDRAWAL:

Withdrawal: Student may withdraw from the class with a grade of “W” before the 11th week of classes. After that date, students will receive a “W” or an “F.” Students may withdraw from the course only after speaking with the instructor and filing all the proper paperwork. Note: The primary responsibility for initiating a withdrawal rests with the students. Withdrawal from the course is official only when initiated in writing through the Records office, all requested signatures are obtained, and the proper papers are filed with the Records Office by the indicated deadlines.

**THE FINAL DAY THAT I WILL SIGN A WITHDRAWAL WILL BE April 16<sup>th</sup>. No withdrawals will be signed after that point.**

## X: CLASS CANCELLATION AND OTHER MxCC POLICIES:

In the event of inclement weather either before the start of the day when classes are in session or during the school day, you may check for information on delayed openings, college closings, class cancellations, etc., by listening to the local radio stations and television stations. Additionally, a message will be posted on the MxCC website at [www.mxcc.commnet.edu](http://www.mxcc.commnet.edu) and an announcement is made on the college's main phone number (860) 343-5800. When calling the main phone number, be sure to choose option #1 from the menu for school closings. If classes are already in session, everyone on campus will be notified of any changes. Decisions to cancel classes or close the college early will be made as soon as practicable.

**Additional Syllabus Information:** For information about the college's policies and procedures regarding academic honesty, accessibility/disability services, attendance, audio-recording in the classroom, grade appeals, plagiarism, religious accommodations, weather/emergency closings, and more, please go to the following website: [www.mxcc.edu/catalog/syllabus-policies/](http://www.mxcc.edu/catalog/syllabus-policies/)

## IMPORTANT COLLEGE POLICIES!! PLEASE READ CAREFULLY!

For information about the college's policies and procedures regarding academic honesty, accessibility/disability services, attendance, audio-recording in the classroom, grade appeals, plagiarism, religious accommodations, weather and emergency closings, and more, please go to the following website: [www.mxcc.edu/catalog/syllabus-policies/](http://www.mxcc.edu/catalog/syllabus-policies/) or scan the QR code with your smart phone. Also, please become familiar with the policies regarding nondiscrimination, sexual misconduct, and general student conduct at the following website: [www.mxcc.edu/nondiscrimination/](http://www.mxcc.edu/nondiscrimination/).



### NON-DISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

Middlesex Community College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religious creed, age, sex, national origin, marital status, ancestry, present or past history of mental disorder, learning disability or physical disability, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression or genetic information in its programs and activities. In addition, the College does not discriminate in employment on the additional basis of veteran status or criminal record.

The following people have been designated to handle inquiries or complaints regarding non-discrimination policies and practices:

- Primary Title IX Coordinator  
Dr. Adrienne Maslin  
Dean of Students/Title IX and Section 504/ADA Coordinator  
amaslin@mxcc.edu; 860-343-5759; Founders Hall Room 123

**Disclaimer:** The instructor reserves the right to amend any portion of this syllabus to meet the educational needs of the students in the course.

## CJS-102 Due Date Schedule

Week 1	01/17	Welcome, Introductions, and Syllabus Review
Week 2	01/22	Chapter #1 & Syllabus Quiz Due on 1/28
Week 3	01/29	Chapter #2 & Research Topics Due on 2/4
Week 4	02/05	Chapter #3 & Summary #1 Due on 2/11
Week 5	02/12	Chapter #4
Week 6	02/19	Chapter #5
Week 7	02/26	Chapter #6
Week 8	03/05	Chapters #7 & #8 & Thesis Statements Due on 3/11
Week 9	03/12	<b>SPRING BREAK- NO CLASS</b>
Week 10	03/19	Chapter # 9 & Summary #2 Due on 3/25
Week 11	03/26	Chapter #10
Week 12	04/02	Chapter #11
Week 13	04/09	Chapter #12 + Summary #3 Due on 4/15
Week 14	04/16	Chapter #13
Week 15	04/23	Chapter #14 & Research Papers/Presentation Forums Due on 4/29
Week 16	04/30	<b>Last day of Class is on 5/5 &amp; Presentation Response Due on 5/6</b>

## **Topics Covered In Introduction to Corrections:**

Below is a list of topics that will provide a guide for students during the semester. The students should become familiar with each of these topics. Each topic includes important concepts and vocabulary with which the students will develop competencies. Lectures will be used to present and elaborate on these topics. Readings from the text will provide the students with an introduction to these topics and a means for the student to continue their learning and as a review of the material presented in lecture.

### **Unit #1: Punishment and Corrections in Context:**

#### Chapter 1: An Evidence-Based Approach to Corrections

- Corrections as Community-Based or Institutional
- Evidence-Based practices

#### Chapter 2: Why Do We Punish?

- Summarize early responses to crime prior to the development of prisons and outline the development of the prison.
- Summarize sentencing goals and primary punishment philosophies.
- Define terms related to the introduction to corrections.

#### Chapter 3: Correctional Practices from Ancient to Contemporary Times

- Outline the development of the prison.
- Describe prison development from the Reformatory Era to the Modern Era.
- Summarize sentencing goals and primary punishment philosophies.
- Define terms related to the introduction to corrections.

### **Unit #2: Sentencing and Sanctions:**

#### Chapter 4: Sentencing

- Describe the role of plea bargaining.
- Summarize the presentence investigation and how the presentence investigation report is used.
- Summarize the different types of sentences and how sentencing decisions are made.

#### Chapter 5: Probation and Community Supervision

- Summarize the history of probation and modern probation operations, including the conditions of probation.
- Describe various approaches to probation and the characteristics of probationers.
- Summarize the risk assessment process.

#### Chapter 6: Jails and Pretrial Release

- Describe the purpose, function, and operations of today's jails.
- Describe the various types of pretrial release.
- List the characteristics of jail inmates.
- Summarize the design and supervisory options in jails.

### **Unit #3: Prison and Reentry:**

#### Chapter 7: Managing Prisons and Prisoners

- Summarize the issues associated with prisoners reentering the community.

#### Chapter 8: Prison Life

- Summarize the characteristics, trends, and issues of the adult prison population.
- Describe the characteristics and issues of male inmates.
- Describe the characteristics of and issues faced by female inmates.
- Outline the history of women's prisons and describe the culture in women's prisons.

#### Chapter 9: Special Correctional Populations

- Explain the issues regarding mentally ill offenders.
- Summarize the issues regarding aging offenders, sex offenders, those with infectious disease, and those that are developmentally challenged.

#### Chapter 10: Reentry Programs and Parole

- Outline the history of parole.
- Describe the current status of parole in the United States.
- Summarize the issues associated with prisoners reentering the community.



- Explain how parole is granted, the role of the parole board, and the role of a parole officer.

**Unit #4 Correctional Issues and Challenges:**

Chapter: 11: Legal Issues in Corrections

- Outline the development of the state prison system.
- Explain the impact that politics and government policy have on corrections.
- Describe the general challenges and issues corrections officers face as well as the prison culture for staff.
- Summarize how a prison unit is managed and methods for controlling inmate behavior.

Chapter: 12: Capital Punishment

- Outline the history of capital punishment in the United States and the legal provisions for it.
- Summarize the characteristics of current death row prisoners.
- Describe how executions are carried out and the problems associated with executions.
- Summarize the arguments for and against the use of the death penalty.

Chapter: 13: Juvenile Corrections

- Summarize the issues regarding juvenile offenders in adult criminal courts.
- Summarize the problem of and trends in juvenile crime.
- Outline the development of the juvenile justice system and explain how juveniles may be transferred to adult court.

Chapter: 14: Revisiting Evidenced-Based Practices

- Explain the goals and operations of community correction facilities as well as issues associated with them.
- Outline the history of jails.
- Outline the development of the state prison system.