

SYLLABUS - Fall 2025
Correctional Systems and Practices
CRJU 2243 Section 101

- REQUIRED TEXT:** *Introduction To Corrections* (4th Ed), Robert D. Hanser, Sage Publications, ISBN 978-1-0718-4903-3
- INSTRUCTOR:** Ted Paddack, 112 Martin Hall, (940) 397-4090,
ted.paddack@msutexas.edu
- LOCATION/TIME** Martin Hall 108; Tuesday/Thursday 11:00 a.m.-12:20 p.m.
- COURSE DESCRIPTION:** This course is an overview of the field of Corrections in Criminal Justice. It includes the study of courts, sentencing practices, detention of offenders, institutions, probation, parole, juvenile services, and the death penalty. Exams will be based on both material found in the text, and instructor material presented in class, as well as any information gleaned from guest speakers or field trips (if available).
- COURSE OBJECTIVES:** Upon the conclusion of this semester, each student will be able to:
1. Describe the evolution of corrections;
 2. Describe the legal, philosophical, political and practical aspects of sentencing alternatives;
 3. Discuss the needs of reforms in the corrections field;
 4. Understand the issues related to offenders moving through the correctional process

COURSE PROCESS

- I. **Housekeeping Chores** --- Syllabus, etc. (August 26)
Criminality and Causation (Aug. 28 – Sept. 4)
 - Instructor Material
 - No Chapter Quiz
- II. **Theoretical Ideology of Corrections** (Sept. 9– 18)
 - Read Chapter 2
 - Chapter Quiz at beginning of class 9/9/25
- III. **History of the Correctional System** (Sept. 23 – Oct. 2)
 - Read Chapters 1
 - Chapter Quiz at beginning of class on 9/23/25
- IV. **Jails** (Oct. 7)
 - Read Chapter 4
 - Chapter Quiz at beginning of class on 10/7/25

MID-TERM EXAM (10/9/25) COVERS THE ABOVE MATERIAL (Aug. 28 – Oct. 7)
[SECTIONS I. THROUGH IV.]

- V. **Probation** (Oct. 14-21)
■ Read Chapter 5
■ Chapter Quiz at beginning of class on 10/14/25
- VI. **Intermediate Sanctions** (Oct. 23-30)
■ Read Chapter 6
■ Chapter Quiz at beginning of class on 10/23/25
- VII. **Prison Life and Culture** (Nov. 4-13)
■ Read Chapters 8 & 9
■ Chapter Quiz at beginning of class on 11/4/25
■ (Possible Prison Tour on November 11 or 13; 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.)
- VIII. **Parole** (Nov 18-20)
■ Read Chapter 16
■ Chapter Quiz at beginning of class on 11/18/25
- IX. **Juvenile Corrections** (Nov. 25)
■ Read Chapter 13
■ No Chapter 13 Quiz
- X. **Thanksgiving Break** (Nov. 27)
- XI. **Death Penalty** (Dec. 2-4)
■ Read Chapter 17
■ No Chapter 17 quiz

FINAL EXAM (December 9; 1:00-3:00 p.m.) Material covered will be from SECTIONS V. THROUGH XI. and Comprehensive terminology used during this course.

Any Make-Up Chapter Quizzes may be taken immediately after the Final Exam.

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MSU Student Honor Code

“As an MSU student, I pledge not to lie, cheat, steal or help anyone else to do so”
Any cheating or plagiarism may result in failure of this class.

GRADING SCALE and COURSE INFORMATION
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10% CLASS PARTICIPATION AND ATTENDANCE

Includes attendance, preparation for class discussion, no disruptive influence in class, and appropriate involvement in class discussion. Two (2) unexcused absences are allowed without penalty during the semester; minus two (-2) points off *final semester grade* for each additional unexcused absences (up to 10 points)

It is the responsibility of the student to insure that requests for excused absences are presented ***in writing*** to the instructor. If the student must miss class due to illness or other excusable reasons, a written request for excuse is required.

10% REPORT OF FOUR (4) HOURS OBSERVATION IN A CRIMINAL COURT OR CORRECTIONS AGENCY [Due 11/18/25]

1-2 pages computer generated: 1) Name of Agency/Court; 2) Date(s) of your observation; 3) Statement of what occurred during your observation; 4) Critique the positive and negative perceptions you had during the observation period. The visit to Allred Prison Unit *may not be used* for this observation report.

20% AVERAGED GRADE OF SIX OF SEVEN CHAPTER QUIZZES (Instructor will drop lowest grade)

20% RESEARCH PAPER [Due 11/25/25]

Research paper must be computer generated (no handwritten will be accepted). Student should use **APA style** [consult bookstore for College Style Sheet (Furberg & Hopkins), or The Little, Brown Handbook (Fowler & Aaron), or the library circulation desk].

Research Paper must address **issues directly related to the field of corrections**. Paper will contain **(1)** a Cover page, **(2)** Abstract, **(3)** double-spaced, **(4)** five [5] to eight [8] page narrative text, **(5)** Works Cited (Bibliography). **(6) Paper must be well documented (citations of origin of source in narrative body of the text)**. **(7)** Research paper must include no less than eight (8) reference sources (Works Cited), of which four (4) must be since January, 2021. No more than two (2) *original* internet sources may be used. Publications found on the web should cite the original published source (newspaper, magazine, book, professional journal, etc.), and the original date of publication. In addition to the professional publications, the Works Cited sources may document utilization of materials from class notes, textbook, and correctional agency/court/field visit observation.

*By enrolling in this course, the student expressly grants MSU a “limited right” in all intellectual property created by the student for this course. This “limited right” includes the right to reproduce the student’s work product to verify the **originality and authenticity of the work**. Any evidence of plagiarism may result in failure of this course.*

20% EXAM #1 [10/9/25; class period, Martin 108]

20% FINAL EXAM [Tuesday, December 19; 1:00-3:00 p.m., Martin 108]

APPROVED TOPICS FOR RESEARCH PROJECT

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Fall 2025

- 1) Prison Reforms In the U.S. (1990-2025)
- 2) Prison Gang Subculture
- 3) Correctional Supervision of Female Offenders
- 4) Rehabilitative Programs Within the Prison Environment
- 5) Correctional Strategies for Reduction of Recidivism
- 6) Use of Electronic Technologies/GPS in Supervision and Tracking in the Community
- 7) Specialized Correctional Supervision Concerns and Strategies of: (***pick only one***)
 - a) Mentally Ill Offenders
 - b) Sex Offenders
 - c) Violent Offenders
 - d) Developmentally Disabled Offenders
- 8) One of the Criminological Theories as Applied to Correctional Supervision: (***pick only one***)
 - a) Strain Theory
 - b) Labeling Theory
 - c) Conflict Theory
 - d) Social Learning Theory
 - e) Sub-Culture Theory
- 9) Evolution of the Death Penalty (1972-2025)
- 10) Concepts and Implementation of Restorative Justice Model
- 11) Legal Liabilities Associated With Correctional Supervision
- 12) Evolution of Juvenile Corrections Systems (1967-2024)

Should a student wish to research a different topic for the Research Project Paper:

1. *The Student must submit the proposed alternative topic to the Instructor **in writing**, and approved no later than **October 23, 2025**;*
2. *The Instructor must **Sign Off approval** of the topic;*
3. ***Instructor's Topic Approval must be submitted with the completed Research Project on November 26, 2024.***

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CORRECTIONAL SYSTEMS AND PRACTICES

Grading Scale (Research Paper)

NAME _____

Cover page (5 points) _____

Double Spaced Narrative Text (5 points) _____

Abstract, Single-spaced (10 points) _____

APA Style Documentation in Narrative (15 points) _____

8+ Works Cited, incl. 4 since January 2021 (15 points) _____

5-8 pages Research Narrative Text (50 points) _____

TOTAL POINTS _____

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EXTRA CREDIT WORK

No request for extra credit work will be honored, except in extreme circumstances where a student documents unforeseeable and unpreventable circumstances within the semester.

SPECIAL NEEDS

Should you have a documented disability, or are requesting specific needs to be address in the course, contact Ted Paddack, Martin Hall #112, 397-4090, as well as Disability Support Services, Clark Building #108, at the beginning of the semester. Should the student require the use of electronic devices during the class period, prior consent of the instructor is required.

ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Any laptop used during the class is subject to review by the Instructor during the class period, and must reflect note-taking material from that class period. Other than approved laptops, no use of electronic devices is allowed in the classroom during the class period, including (but not limited to) cell phones, text-messaging, electronic games, etc. No ear-buds or headsets are to be worn.

CLASSROOM DEMEANOR

- 1) A student arriving late for class may be refused entrance for that class period.
- 2) Hoodies may not be worn on the head during the class period.
- 3) All students are expected to remain in the classroom during the class period, unless given specific permission to exit the classroom.

EMAIL ACCESS/PDF DOCUMENT CAPABILITY

Should the semester requirements change where no meeting for classroom instruction is permissible, all course work and correspondence will be by email. Instructor Material will be sent by email, and all student class submissions will be by pdf document format attachment to an email. Do not use D2L for this class.

DIVERSITY LANGUAGE: There is a continuous struggle to use respectful language in defining and discussing various identity groups. That language is changing on a regular basis, many times at the request of a specific identity group. There are also generational, regional and other types of variations sometimes referring to the same grouping. In this class, we will use the best understood descriptive acceptable and preferred to commonly identify persons and groupings. Should a student find a descriptive as either offensive or misused, address that issue with civility and request consideration of alternative terminology.