

CRJU 5373: COMMUNITY BASED CORRECTIONS

Internet Course

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Office: Martin 105C

Office Hours: By Appointment

Course Description

Techniques and procedures utilized in the supervision of adult and juvenile probationers and parolees, and other residents of community-based corrections facilities. Preparation of social history, pre-hearing, and pre-sentence investigation reports. Emphasis on practical problems confronting the probation and parole and other community-based corrections officer.

Required Texts

Robert D. Hanser (2014). *Community Corrections* (2nd Ed). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications.

Course Objectives

- 1) Evaluate past, present, and future trends pertaining to the development and use of community-based supervision strategies, *demonstrated by obtaining passing scores of a "C" or better on related essay-based assignments and objective-item examinations.*
- 2) Critically evaluate current qualitative and quantitative research pertaining to community corrections, *demonstrated by obtaining passing scores of a "C" or better on related essay-based assignments and objective-item examinations.*
- 3) Compare and contrast the functions of probation with those of parole, *demonstrated by obtaining passing scores of a "C" or better on related essay-based assignments and objective-item examinations.*
- 4) Identify the various components of community corrections, *demonstrated by obtaining passing scores of a "C" or better on related essay-based assignments and objective-item examinations.*
- 5) Identify and utilize specific treatment strategies with offenders on community supervision, *demonstrated by obtaining passing scores of a "C" or better on related essay-based assignments and objective-item examinations.*

Course Requirements

Midterm Examination – This examination will be given during the midpoint of the semester and will include information presented in the chapter readings. The Midterm Exam will primarily consist of multiple choice, true/false, and essay items may also be included. The exam will be conducted online. Each student must take and finish the test within the time allotted.

Final Examination – This examination will be given during the last week of the semester and will include information presented in the chapter readings. The Final Exam will primarily consist of multiple choice, true/false, and essay items may also be included. The exam will be conducted online. Each student must take and finish the test within the time allotted.

Class Discussions online – Every week throughout the semester discussions will be held in the online courseroom. These discussions will revolve around the assigned readings. Participation in the discussions is mandatory and calculated with your participation grade as class participation. NOTE: All assignments are due by midnight Sunday of the assigned week.

Research Paper – An original research paper between 10-12 pages is required for this course. You must pick a topic from those available at the end of this syllabus and complete the paper on that topic. **You must use strict APA format, include a title page, and abstract, and references, all separate from the 10 to 12 pages of the main body of the paper. Papers are to be double spaced and in 12 point Times New Roman font.**

NOTE that your research paper is due by 5:00 p.m. on
December 1st, 2025.

**IF YOU SUBMIT YOUR PAPER PAST 5:00 P.M. ON THE 1st OF DECEMBER, I WILL
DEDUCT 30 POINTS FROM YOUR OVERALL PAPER GRADE**

Grading Policy and Weighting System

Midterm Exam	25%
Final Exam	25%
Research paper	20%
WebCT Participation/Discussions	30%

TOTAL:	100%
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Disabled Student Policy

Students with a disability affecting their academic performance are expected to arrange for a conference with the instructor in order that appropriate strategies can be considered to ensure that participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired.

Academic Dishonesty

Each student is expected to abide by the rules of academic honesty as defined in the student handbook. Cases of academic dishonesty will result in a failing grade for the course and a letter to the Dean of the College of Health Sciences and Human Services requesting that you be withdrawn from the University. If there are any questions as

One of the hallmarks of a good essay is that it demonstrates clarity of thought. This may be your ability to identify different issues and discuss them in a logical manner. It may mean organizing materials into a coherent structure for the essay. It could be showing that you are able to make important distinctions and insights.

This may not come easily at first, but with practice it should be possible to gain greater clarity through discipline, selection, and planning.

TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE

WEEK ONE (AUG 23 – 29 AUG)

READ YOUR SYLLABUS

Complete your online personal introduction.

NO OTHER ASSIGNMENTS ARE DUE.

WEEK TWO (AUG 30 – 05 SEPT)

CHAPTER 1. Definitions, History, & Development of Community Corrections

Participate in Discussion #1

WEEK THREE (SEPT 06 - 12 SEPT)

CHAPTER 2. Community Corrections: Public Safety is Job One
CHAPTER 3. Assessment and Risk Prediction

Participate in Discussion #2
Participate in Discussions #3

WEEK FOUR (SEPT 13 - 19 SEPT)

CHAPTER 4. The Role of the Practitioner
CHAPTER 5. Legal Liabilities and Risk Management

Participate in Discussions #4 & 5

WEEK FIVE (SEPT 20 - 26 SEPT)

CHAPTER 6. Specific Aspects Related to Probation
CHAPTER 7. Specific Aspects Related to Parole

Participate in Discussion #6
Participate in Discussion #7

WEEK SIX (SEPT 27 - 03 OCT)

CHAPTER 8. Needs-Based Case Management and Case Planning

Participate in Discussion #8

WEEK SEVEN (OCTOBER 04 – 10 OCT)

MIDTERM EXAM (25 POINTS)

WEEK EIGHT (OCTOBER 11 – 17 OCT)

CHAPTER 9. The Viability of Treatment Perspectives

Participate in Discussions #9

WEEK NINE (OCT 18 – 24 OCT)

CHAPTER 10. Community-Based Residential Treatment Facilities

Participate in Discussion #10

WEEK TEN (OCTOBER 25 - OCT 31)

CHAPTER 11. Intermediate Sanctions

Participate in Discussions #11

WEEK ELEVEN (NOV 01 - 07 NOV)

CHAPTER 12. Restorative Justice

Participate in Discussion #12

WEEK TWELVE (NOV 08 - 14 NOV)

CHAPTER 13. Specialized & Problematic Offender Typologies

Participate in Discussion #13

WEEK THIRTEEN (NOV 15 – 21 NOV)

CHAPTER 14. Diversity Issues & Cultural Competence

Participate in Discussion #14

WEEK FOURTEEN (NOV 22 – 28 NOV)

**REMEMBER RESEARCH PAPERS ARE DUE THIS WEEK.
IF YOU SUBMIT YOUR PAPER PAST 5:00 P.M. ON THE 1ST OF DECEMBER, I WILL
DEDUCT 30 POINTS FROM YOUR OVERALL PAPER GRADE**

WEEK FIFTEEN (NOV 29 – 05 DEC)

CHAPTER 15. Program Evaluation, Evidence-Based Practices, & Future Trends

Participate in Discussion #15

WEEK SIXTEEN (DEC 06 – 13 DEC)

FINAL EXAM (25 POINTS)

POTENTIAL TOPICS FOR YOUR RESEARCH PAPER IN CJUS 5373

1. Legal liability issues for community corrections personnel
2. Restorative Justice in Texas
3. The use of drug courts in community corrections
4. Role of the Community Justice Assistance Division (CJAD) in Texas
5. Management and supervision in community corrections
6. How the budget crisis has affected community corrections in Texas
7. An overview of residential treatment facilities in Texas
8. Women in community corrections
9. Armed probation officers: Pros and cons according to the research
10. The effectiveness of parole in Texas
11. The effectiveness of probation in Texas
12. Sex offenders and community corrections in Texas
13. Designing a cultural competence program in a probation or parole agency
14. Domestic violence offenders on community supervision in Texas
15. Assessment and evaluation in community corrections