

# Introduction to the American Corrections System

## Criminal Justice 106/ item #5008

**Instructor:** Charlene Freyberg

**Dates:** 1/3/11-3/23/11

**Class:** D103

**Daily:** 8:30-9:20am

**Office:** D-100 C

**Hours:** M/W 9:30-11:00am and by appt.

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### **Required Text:**

*American Corrections 9<sup>th</sup> Edition.* By: Clear, Cole & Reisig. ISBN: 978-0-495-81249-4. Wadsworth Cengage Learning, 2011.

**Course Description:** Introduces basic concepts, theories, principles and an historical overview of the correctional system as it pertains to the institutional control and supervision of adult offenders

After completing this course, students should be able to:

- Describe the historical problems that frame our contemporary experience or corrections.
- Identify and analyze the current theory and empirical evidence on methods of punishment.
- Demonstrate recognition and understanding of the issues surrounding how we portray the correctional client (the offender) in relation to criminal legislation, the criminal justice process, and greater societal forces associated with criminal behavior.
- Identify and explain the major components and practices which constitute the American correctional system.
- Construct critical assessments of current issues, trend, and policies which dominate the function and operation the correctional system.

**Schedule:** The following schedule is **tentative** and may be modified **with** notice. **Students are responsible for ANY and ALL changes that are made to this schedule, even if not present when changes are discussed.** The assigned readings, which should be completed **prior** to class, and all test dates are in bold.

### **Week 1 1/3-1/7**

1/3 Introduction to course and expectations (syllabus)

**Read:** Chapter 1: The Correctional System

**Read:** Chapter 2: The Early History of Correctional Thought & Practice

**Review:** Key Terms & Summary in Chapters 1-2

### **Week 2 1/10-1/14**

**Read:** Chapter 3: The History of Corrections in America

**Read:** Chapter 4: The Punishment of Offenders

**Review:** Key Terms & Summary in Chapters 3-4

**Week 3 1/17-1/21**

**1/17 NO CLASS- MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY**

**Read:** Chapter 5: The Law of Corrections  
**Read:** Chapter 7: Jails: Detention & Short-Term Incarceration  
**Review:** Key Terms & Summary in Chapters 5 & 7

**Week 4 1/24-1/27**

**Read:** Chapter 8: Probation

**1/26 Test #1 (chapters 1-8, except chapter 6)**

**Read:** Chapter 9: Intermediate Sanctions & Community Corrections

**1/28 NO CLASS- FACULTY PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY**

**Week 5 1/31-2/4**

**Read:** Chapter 9: Intermediate Sanctions & Community Corrections  
**Read:** Chapter 10: Incarceration  
**Review:** Key Terms & Summary in Chapters 9-10

**Week 6 2/7-2/11**

**Read:** Chapter 11: Policing America: Issues and Ethics  
**Read:** Chapter 12: Incarceration of Women  
**Review:** Key Terms & Summary in Chapters 11-12

**2/10 NO CLASS- Work on Group Assignment-Design a Prison**

**2/11 NO CLASS- Work on Group Assignment-Design a Prison**

**Week 7 2/14-2/18**

**Read:** Chapter 14: Institutional Programs  
**Read:** Chapter 15: Release from Incarceration  
**Review:** Key Terms & Summary in Chapters 14-15

**Week 8 2/21-2/25**

**2/21 NO CLASS- PRESIDENTS DAY**

**Read:** Chapter 16: Making It: Supervision in the Community  
**Read:** Chapter 18: Incarceration Trends  
**Review:** Key Terms & Summary in Chapters 16 & 18

**Week 9 2/28-3/4**

**Read:** Chapter 19: Race, Ethnicity, & Corrections  
**Read:** Chapter 20: The Death Penalty

**Week 10 3/7-3/11****Read:** Chapter 20: The Death Penalty**3/8 NO CLASS- COLLEGE ISSUES DAY****Read:** Chapter 21: Surveillance & Control in the Community**Review:** Key Terms & Summary in Chapters 19-20**Week 11 3/14-3/18****Read:** Chapter 21: Surveillance & Control in the Community**Read:** Chapter 22: Community Justice**Review:** Key Terms & Summary in Chapters 21-22**Week 12 FINALS WEEK 3/21-3/23****3/23/11 Test #2 \*\*\*\*\* 7:30-9:20am \*\*\*\*\* (chapters TBD)****COURSE EVALUATION:****Total Points 500****Tests 2 @ 100 points = 200****Assignments/Small Group assignments 10 @ 20 points = 200****Participation/Class Attendance 100 points = 100**

**Academic Etiquette:** Class begins promptly at 8:30am. Please make every effort to be in class and to be here on time. If it is unavoidable that you arrive late- or even leave early- please do not disrupt the class. Respect for opinions voiced in class is essential, and I expect all students to treat each other courteously. Any type of disruptive or discourteous behavior is unacceptable and will not be tolerated; these types of behaviors will result in the student(s) being asked to leave the class. Class “No No’s”: cell phones, pagers, etc. (if they go off you may be leading a class discussion up front!)

**Academic Integrity:** *Plagiarism or cheating of ANY kind will not be tolerated and will result in failing the test and/or the course as well as other disciplinary action (see Bellevue College Handbook, Academic Dishonesty).* If you are at any time unclear about what constitutes plagiarism or cheating, see me ASAP. In all instances, you must do your own work.

**Attendance:** All students are expected to attend every class. Obviously, if students do not attend class regularly, the opportunity to perform well in this course is greatly diminished.

**Students with Disabilities:** I am committed to providing assistance to help you be successful in this course. If you require accommodation based on a documented disability, have emergency medical information to share, or need special arrangements in case of emergency evacuation; please make an appointment with DRC (Disability Resource Center.) If you would like to inquire about becoming a DRC student, you may call 564-2498 or go in person to the DRC program office in B132.

**Course Requirements:** All students are expected to read the required chapters of the textbook as outlined in the schedule section of this syllabus. Students are also expected to attend class regularly, take notes, ask questions, and participate in class discussions.

**Make-up Policy:** Any make-up tests are allowed *only at the discretion of the instructor* and immediate notification from the student is imperative. Additionally, *all* make-up exams (for *any excused* circumstance) will adhere to the following criteria: 1) administered *only* by the instructor during office hours/or instructor's choosing 2) *cumulative* in nature; and 3) given in an *all-essay* format.

**Extra Credit:** As a general rule, there is usually no extra credit available in this introductory level course. I may, however, **at any time during the quarter** provide in-class extra credit opportunities. Obviously, if you are not in class on these days, you are not eligible for these opportunities.