

# **SYLLABUS**

## **Criminal Justice 106**

### **Introduction to the American Corrections System**

Spring 2010

Dr. Michael Caldero

Office: D100-C

Office Hours: 11:30am to 12:30am Tuesday and Thursdays and all day on most Wednesdays

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Class meets Tuesdays and Thursdays in room B-101

#### **PLEASE NOTE THIS IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

This class is taught in a HYBRID mode. Which means that it meets in the classroom only on **Tuesdays** and **Thursdays**. (SEE “SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS”) On the remaining days of the week there are assignments, projects, and class interactions that must be performed within the class web site. To take this class you must be computer literate and you must have access to the internet. If you do not own a computer or if you do not have internet access you may utilize the college computers in the N building. Raise your hand immediately if you believe you will have difficulty with this procedure.

THERE WILL BE A “SPECIAL INSTRUCTION” SHEET HANDED OUT WITH THIS SYLLABUS. PLEASE TAKE EXTRA TIME TO READ IT AS IT WILL DETAIL THE EXACT TIMES THIS CLASS WILL MEET IN THE CLASSROOM. THIS IS A SPECIAL SITUATION FOR THIS QUARTER ONLY. PLEASE SEE ME IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS REGARDING THESE INSTRUCTIONS.

#### **Required Text:**

“Corrections”: In the 21st Century – Schmallegger and Smykla. McGraw Hill, publishers, 5th Edition.

#### **You must have:**

- Internet access
- Text

- An open mind

#### COURSE DESCRIPTION:

The purpose of the course is to present a cursory analysis of the American Correctional Systems and its role in American society. The course then continues with an analysis of a variety of components and issues that constitute the Correctional system today and its operation.

This course is designed to inform you regarding a broad spectrum of issues and problems confronting American society by exposing you to a variety of opposing and sometimes controversial perspectives regarding key issues, questions and problems we are currently facing.

- Technological Objective:

To master the simple use of any computer that happens to be available. Many of your assignments and readings will be located on the Internet. Outcomes: You will be expected to research information on a website. With that information, you will be expected to create a paper and to post your research in the discussion forum.

What you can expect in this class

#### GRADING:

Your grade will be developed by you in the following manner: **FIRST**, there will be three (3) in class exams, **Thursday, April 29th, Thursday, May 20th, and Tuesday, June 15th**. The first exam will cover chapters 1, 2, and 3, the second exam will cover chapters 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8, and the third exam will cover chapters 9, 10, 11, and 12. Each of these exams will be worth a total of 100 points and each exam will account for one third of your total score. The material for the exams will come from the assigned chapters, class notes and posting on the class Bulletin Board.

**SECOND**, you will be assigned a topic for your term paper which will be due **Tuesday, June 15th** (it will be turned in hard copy form during class time on that day) (see term paper details below) if it is done correctly this paper will add five (5) cumulative grade points to your final score, if it is not done properly your cumulative score will be reduced by fifteen (15) points. Your topic is assigned to you and can be located on the class website under the “term paper” icon. (THE TERM PAPER MUST BE TURNED IN DURING CLASS TIME NO LATER THAN **Tuesday, June 15th, IN HARD COPY FORM**) **THIRD**, you will be given the opportunity to post extra credit work on the class bulletin board, see the details below. Fourth, there are additional extra credit opportunities with “Big L” points in class, read the details below. Fifth, successful and timely completion of the class projects (see details below) is required. If you fail to successfully complete the projects your cumulative grade score will be deducted fifteen (15) points.

#### THE TERM PAPER:

Your instructor has individually assigned you a topic which you will receive on the class Bulletin Board under the “term paper” icon. It is expected that all sources you utilize in the paper will be properly cited. The paper will be typed, double spaced, and consist of at least five (5) pages, it will also be stapled together (no paper clips or covers). A cover “page” is fine. The paper will be graded on its content, your ability to follow directions, attention to grammar, spelling, and its general structure. The paper will generate a possible score of five (5) percentage points toward your final total. This means that if you do all that is required of you, your paper will give you a score of five. If however, you do not do the paper or if the job you do is substandard, you will receive a fifteen (15) point deduction in your final total. If you have any questions regarding this scoring process please ask me in class. If you have a question someone else probably does also. **THIS PAPER MUST CONFORM TO APA STANDARDS IN ALL REFERENCES IN THE BODY OF THE PAPER AND THE REFERENCE PAGE OR IT WILL NOT RECEIVE CREDIT. YOU MUST USE A MINIMUM OF FIVE (5) REFERENCES OTHER THAN THE TEXT.** If you are not familiar with these requirements a detailed publication of these requirements can be purchased at the college book store. DO NOT, UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES, UTILIZE “WIKIPEDIA” AS A REFERENCE IN ANY FORM FOR THIS PAPER. DOING SO WILL CAUSE YOUR PAPER TO BE REJECTED. IN ADDITION, ANY PLAGIARISM OF THE MATERIAL FOR THIS PAPER WILL RESULT IN THE REJECTION OF THE PAPER AND POSSIBLY FAILURE FOR THE CLASS.

**EXTRA CREDIT OPTIONS:** There are several ways to earn extra credit points during this course. The first is "Big L" points. These points are acquired each time you respond in class to a question that substantially contributes to the course subject matter. (this usually means you have prepared yourself by reading the text and doing the assignments and/or researching relevant material). Second, is to post on the class Bulletin Board a response to an extra credit topic. These topics are given out in class so be sure to watch for them. Here is the procedure you must adhere to in order to receive credit for your posting. 1. Research the topic, write a paragraph or two describing what information you have found and state your opinion of it. 2. Post the paragraph and the article, link, etc., you have located. If your posting is noteworthy for the class, I will respond to you in the Vista email site with the instructions to "print and bring" your posting. You will print out your posting and write your first and last name across the top. You will then bring the posting to the next class session and turn it in to me. All Big L and extra credit points are cumulative grade points, this means that after your exams are averaged these points are added to your score. Yes, that's right, you could conceivably score only C's on your exams and still earn an A in the course, it all depends on how much work you want to do. If you have questions regarding extra credit points please feel free to ask them in class at any time.

**CLASS ASSIGNMENTS: \*\*\*VERY IMPORTANT\*\*\***

The class assignments are three page papers which must be submitted on the schedule indicated on the class website. Please pay special attention to the attachments you utilize when posting the paper. There are special instructions on the website, be sure to read them. **You must do seven of the eight papers**, they will not be graded but if they are substandard they will be rejected and you will be notified to re-write and re-submit the paper. **If you fail to do seven papers or if a paper is rejected and you do not re-submit it within one week after rejection (in hard copy**

**form) you will receive A FIFTEEN (15) POINT REDUCTION IN YOUR CUMULATIVE GRADE SCORE.**

Details of class assignments: On the class website you will find the topic for each project paper. In three (3) pages you will need to do two things, describe the problem to be addressed and provide the solution to the problem that YOU would recommend if you had the opportunity (power) to do so. This paper is designed to incorporate your perspective as well as those of the “experts”. That’s all you have to do, define the problem and give me your solution.

**I HIGHLY ADVISE YOU TO DO THESE PAPERS EARLY, ESPECIALLY THE FIRST ONE. IF YOU EXPERIENCE COMPUTER/TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES WHEN SUBMITTING YOU WILL BE ABLE TO RESOLVE THE PROBLEM WELL IN ADVANCE OF THE DEADLINE DATE. YOU CAN DO THESE PAPERS AT ANY TIME, THEY JUST CANNOT BE SUBMITTED PAST THE DUE DATES. THOSE WHO PLAN AHEAD WILL ALWAYS DO BEST IN THIS CLASS.**

Attendance:

I do not take attendance. I believe your education is “your” responsibility and you should be treated as adults. However, past experience has repeatedly demonstrated that it is extremely difficult to pass this course without regular attendance. (ESPECIALLY SINCE THE CLASS PHYSICALLY MEETS ONLY TWO DAYS A WEEK)

Critical Thinking:

The ability to think and write critically are essential skills in many walks of life. Critical thinking skills are developed and refined through practice, self-reflection, and the critique and support of peers and instructors. Throughout this course you will have many opportunities to exercise your analytical thinking, synthesize information, and apply knowledge to real-life situations.

Communicating - It is your responsibility to communicate to me any emergency and/or other situations in a timely manner prohibiting you from completing a task ) exam or term paper (there are no excuses for the class projects). Communicating to me your emergency is important for you to receive any extension on any exam or the term paper.

Groupwork: You may work in study groups on all exercises, assignments, quizzes, and exams. Cooperative learning groups are strongly encouraged.

GRADES:

- Grades on assignments are calculated using a 100-point scale

A      A-      B+      B      B-

100-97    93-96    92-89    88-85    84-81

C+	C	C-	D +	D	F
80-77	76-73	72-69	68-65	64-61	60 OR LESS

Be the first to ask me about “Big L’s” and get a free one.

#### PLAGERISM:

The BCC Student Code is also very clear about the seriousness of cheating and the actions that faculty members are required to take in cases of plagiarizing: The BCC Student Code prohibits cheating, stealing, plagiarizing, knowingly furnishing false information to the college, or submitting to a faculty member any work product that the student fraudulently represents as his or her own work for the purpose of fulfilling or partially fulfilling any assignment or task required as part of a program of instruction. All forms of cheating, stealing, and plagiarizing will be reported to the Dean of Instruction.

#### Other Important Notes:

##### BCC Technical Support

##### Troubleshooting for WebCT or Vista

First: Check the• WebCT Server Status page to find out if there are reported problems

Second:• If the problem is with your class, not the system, contact your instructor to report the problem

Third: If you cannot reach your instructor, contact the• Distance Education office at (425) 564-2438 or landerso@bcc.ctc.edu

##### Guide to Documentation, APA Style

Bellevue College writing lab website address: <http://bellevuecollege.edu/writinglab/APA.html>

The Academic Tutoring Center offers one-on-one and group tutoring sessions for college credit courses.

Location: D204

Phone: (425) 564-2468

Students and community members can find career planning and job search assistance in the Career Center. The Center provides one-on-one career advising, classes and workshops, work-study and internship opportunities, and many computerized resources.

Location: B231

Phone: (425) 564-2018

Academic, career, and personal counseling services and credit classes are available to all enrolled BCC students.

Location: B234

Phone: (425) 564-2212

DRC provides advocacy and classroom accommodations, including specialized materials, technology and equipment for eligible students with disabilities.

Location: B132

Phone: (425) 564-2498 or 564-4110 (TTY line)

The Childcare Center provides affordable, quality childcare to children ages 3 months to 7 years, an on-site Head Start program, and resources and classes for parents.

Location: Building Q

Phone: (425) 564-2240

Educational Planning Resource Center

Advisors, counselors and resources are available for students who wish to transfer to a four-year university, pursue a career or are undecided about their major.

Location: B232

Phone: (425) 564-2437

Learning & Computer Labs

Many academic learning labs and nearly 1,300 computers are dedicated for student use at BCC. View our complete list of labs including those located in the library and across campus.

Location: Various

Library Media Center

In addition to traditional library resources, the LMC provides access to electronic periodicals, research assistance, books and publications, computers with Internet connections, material reservation, media lab, study rooms and other helpful resources.

Location: D124

Phone: (425) 564-225

#### Multi-Cultural Student Services (B233)

MCS provides culturally-sensitive academic and support services to BCC students. MCS services include outreach, advising, counseling, cultural events planning, and curriculum and policy development.

Location: B233

Phone: (425) 564-2208