



## Introduction to Corrections

CJ 231

Spring 2017

Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology

Marshall University

**Classroom:** Online  
**Instructor:** Wyatt Brown, Ph.D.  
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**Office Hours:** Monday and Wednesday, 12:00pm-2:00pm; Tuesday and Thursday 2-3pm  
**Office:** Smith Hall 731

**Please note that the best way to contact me is via email.**

*In the event of an emergency, it may be necessary for MU to suspend normal operations. During this time, MU may opt to continue delivery of instruction through methods that include but are not limited to: MU Online, Skype, and email messaging and/or an alternate schedule. It's the responsibility of the student to monitor the Blackboard site for each class for course specific communication, and the main MU, College, and department websites, and email for important general information.*

### **Course Description 231**

Basic course in the American correctional system; study of the history of corrections, philosophy of punishment and correction, correctional institutions, programs, and services, and contemporary issues and problems.

### **University Policies**

By enrolling in this course, you agree to the University Policies listed below. Please read the full text of each policy by going to [www.marshall.edu/academic-affairs](http://www.marshall.edu/academic-affairs) and clicking on "Marshall University Policies." Or, you can access the policies directly by going to [www.marshall.edu/academic-affairs/policies/](http://www.marshall.edu/academic-affairs/policies/). Academic Dishonesty/Excused Absence Policy for Undergraduates/Computing Services Acceptable Use/Inclement Weather/Dead Week/Students with Disabilities/Academic Forgiveness/Academic Probation and Suspension/Academic Rights and Responsibilities of Students/Affirmative Action/Sexual Harassment

### **Required Materials**

Clear, T. R., Reisig, M. D., & Cole, G. F. (2016). American corrections. 11<sup>th</sup> Edition. ISBN-13: 9781305093300

Additional articles/chapters/excerpts provided on the course website on Blackboard.

### **Student Learning Outcomes**

This course is designed to familiarize students with the field of criminal corrections. Students will learn about a range of topics including the history of corrections, theories that inform corrections, trends in criminal punishments and their use, and individuals' and communities' experiences with the correctional system. Parts

of the course will also include a focus on critically evaluating the logic and evidence behind and application of correctional practices.

**Course Learning Outcomes Matrix**

<b>Course Learning Outcome</b>	<b>How Each Outcome is Practiced in this Course</b>	<b>How Each Outcome is Evaluated in this Course</b>
1) Students will have an understanding of the history of the American correctional system..	Assignments, readings, and discussions	Quizzes
2) Students will be able to describe trends in America's use of correctional sanctions.	Assignments, readings, and discussions	Quizzes, discussion boards
3) Students will be able to describe the various theoretical, political, and social contexts that have informed correctional practices.	Assignments, readings, and discussions	Quizzes, discussion boards
4) Students will be able to describe and assess the logic and evidence for different correctional theories, programs, and policies.	Assignments, readings, and discussions	Quizzes, discussion boards
5) Students will be able to demonstrate an understanding of the experiences that individuals, families, and communities have with correctional programs.	Assignments, readings, and discussions	Quizzes
6) Students will be able to demonstrate informed views about different aspects of the field of corrections and how different programs, practices, and policies might be improved.	Assignments, readings, and discussions	Quizzes

**Required Technology**

Students must have a computer or access to one, as well as access to the Internet to send and receive email messages. If you are using an email account other than your Marshall email account, (i.e., hotmail, yahoo, aol, etc.) you must set your Marshall email account to forward to your other account. In addition, students are required to have access to MU Online in order to access course materials or to complete assignments/quizzes. Make certain that you use a computer that is compatible for completing any online assignments.

## Student Expectations

To ensure learning outcomes are met, students are expected to:

**Participate.** Students are expected to be prepared for class by completing required readings prior to the start of class.

**Advocate.** Students in this class are expected to be proactive. This is critical in a criminal justice course. If a student finds him/herself struggling with course material, concerned about his/her grade, or otherwise in need of assistance, s/he is expected to advocate for themselves by communicating with the instructor *as soon as possible*. Helping you earn the grade you want is a top priority to me, but my ability to help you is greatly diminished, if not eliminated entirely, if you choose to procrastinate.

**Check Email & Blackboard Regularly for Course Correspondence.** Important information regarding the course schedule, assignments, and grades will be posted to Blackboard.

**Be Respectful.** When participating in class and in email exchanges with the instructor and other classmates, students are expected to use respectful language. Do not communicate with others via the internet in a way you would not interact with them in person. Disrespectful language, and/or disrespectful classroom behavior will not be tolerated. Disregard for this expectation will result in students being asked to leave class. In instances of serious or repeated infractions, students will be subject to University disciplinary action.

**Complete Exams, Reading Questions and Assignments When Scheduled.** Students are informed of the due dates of ALL exams and assignments **for the entire semester on the first day of class**. For this reason:

### **LATE WORK IS NOT ACCEPTED & MAKE UP EXAMS ARE NOT AN OPTION\***

*\* Exception: Emergencies, Religious Observances, & University Excused Absences.* Students are expected to notify their instructors at the beginning of each academic term if they intend to be absent for an announced examination. Students absent for religious reasons, as noticed to the instructor at the beginning of each academic term, will be given reasonable opportunities to make up any work missed.

### **Make Up Exam / Assignment Policy:**

If a student feels an unforeseen event requires them to request a make-up test/assignment, he or she **must** complete the following:

**(1) Determine the event constitutes a University Excused Absence or an emergency.** Emergencies refer to **very serious** physical or mental health issues only. Because students are made aware of class due dates in advance, emergencies do **NOT** refer to events such as: social obligations (e.g., weddings, birthdays), computer/technology issues, or work requirements.

**(2) Communicate (email/office hours) your issue as soon as possible: preferably before class.** Delayed requests may not be considered.

**(3) Provide acceptable documentation of the emergency** (documents from a person or organization other than the student [e.g. medical professional]).

*If the instructor determines all 3 criteria are satisfied, a make-up exam / assignment will be given at a date and time of the instructor's choosing.*

### **Extra Credit**

There will be no opportunities for extra credit in this course.

### **Incompletes**

As late work is not accepted and make up exams are not scheduled, no grade of Incomplete ("I") will be given in this class.

### **Academic Dishonesty**

Any form of cheating on examinations constitutes unacceptable deceit and dishonesty. Disruption of the classroom or teaching environment is also unacceptable. The Marshall University has very specific policies and procedures regarding academic dishonesty or disruption of academic process. If you have any questions, please refer to the University's Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty policy at:

- Academic Dishonesty Policy:  
<http://www.marshall.edu/board/files/policies/MUBOG%20AA-12%20Academic%20Dishonesty.pdf>
- Student Handbook:  
<http://www.marshall.edu/student-affairs/files/15-16-Code-of-Conduct.pdf>

In an effort to ensure compliance, plagiarism tracking software will be employed in this course. The Marshall University has an account with *SafeAssign* an automated plagiarism detection service which allows instructors to submit student assignments to be checked for plagiarism. The professor reserves the right to submit assignments to this detection system. Assignments are compared automatically with a large database of journal articles, web articles, and previously submitted papers. The instructor receives a report showing exactly how a student's paper was plagiarized.

Because all papers will be submitted to *SafeAssign*, you should know your rights:

*This course requires you to submit your paper to a plagiarism detection site that will be identified by your instructor. In order to comply with federal (FERPA) and state privacy laws, you (students) are not required to include personal identifying information such as your name, SSN, and/or 901# in the body of the work (text) or use such information in the file naming convention prior to submitting. Please follow carefully your instructor's instructions regarding what identifying information to include. Your submission will be placed in the course grade center in your account that can be accessed by the instructor and attributed to you.*

### **Students with Disabilities**

Students with disabilities are responsible for registering with the Office of Disabilities Services (ODS) in order to receive academic accommodations. ODS encourages students to notify instructors of accommodation requests at least five business days prior to needing the accommodation. A letter from ODS must accompany this request.

- For more information, see: <http://www.marshall.edu/disability/>

## Grading Scale and Distribution

### **Grading Scale**

Grading is an exceptionally difficult task, especially in a criminal justice class. To that end, the grading criteria for this class is determined prior to the start of class and is detailed in the syllabus. There will be no changes to the grading scale, as in the points a student acquires will determine their final grade.

### **Grade Distribution**

This course has three general requirements: (1) First week discussion board, (2) One Quiz Per Week (beginning week 2) and (3) One Writing Discussion board Per Week - they are explained in more detail below. Weekly modules will open each Monday morning at 8am and will close each Sunday night at 11:59pm. You will not be allowed to work ahead on weekly modules (which include all your quizzes and writing assignments), so plan accordingly. **LATE WORK WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED AND A SCORE OF ZERO (0) POINTS WILL BE RECORDED FOR WORK NOT TURNED IN BY THE DUE DATE/TIME.** Please note that failure to actually submit your work/quiz is not an excuse and you will not be granted an opportunity to make up work. The only exception to this is a complete Blackboard system failure. Technical difficulties on your end will not account for a late submission - therefore, it is NOT a great idea to wait until the last minute. Assignment grades will generally be posted within one week from the due date/time.

NO, there is no dropped quiz grade. NO, there is no dropped assignment grade. NO, there is NO opportunity to drop your lowest grade. There are 100 points between grades in this class - this is designed to give you a bit of flex/wiggle room in case you have a minor emergency, computer problem, are triggered and cannot get through the material, just do not feel like doing the work, etc. You can miss an assignment or quiz and mathematically still receive an 'A'. Although I strongly advise against it as everything else would need to be near perfect.

I do not "give" points. It is up to you to earn them! If you earn 899 in this class, you will earn a grade of a "B". NO, I will not give you the additional point for an "A". Do NOT ask. This is a very slippery slope, and if I give you the point, I have to give everyone the point. And what about the student who is two points away? How about three? Anyway, you get the point (Haha - "point"), right?

### **1. Quizzes (700 points)**

There will be 14 weekly quizzes (50pts each) and you are required to take all 14 quizzes, no quiz scores will be dropped. One quiz will be available to take each week beginning Monday mornings at 8am, and must be completed by Sunday nights at 11:59pm. Once you access your quiz, you will have TWENTYFIVE minutes to complete the quiz - again, 25 minutes. Each quiz question will be worth 2 points. You will only be shown one question at a time, the questions will be locked after you answer them (you will not be able go back and change your answers), and you will not be allowed multiple attempts to take the quiz. Quiz questions may come from ANYTHING in your weekly module - presentations, videos, power points, readings, etc. Please be sure you have thoroughly reviewed the lesson/materials and studied before taking your quiz. Use your time wisely.

I have done everything possible to make these lessons interesting and interactive. And, I understand you may have the desire to get with your classmates to talk about all the great/exciting things you are learning. However, please note that meeting with your friends and taking your quizzes together (with all your

laptops side by side), someone taking the quiz first and sharing the questions/answers with others, creating a Facebook page about the class/quizzes, using two or more computers to take the quiz, and anything that remotely resembles this, all constitutes cheating. Please see the section on Academic Dishonesty.

You are smart, and, therefore, do not need to cheat. And, because you are so smart, you also know what is, and is not, cheating. Please, please, PLEASE do not make me have to address this with you. It will be uncomfortable for both of us...and, you will earn a "FF" in this course.

**2. Discussion Board (300 points)**

The discussion board grade is based on both the frequency and quality of your participation in online class discussion boards. Each week a discussion topic (15 discussions, 20pts each) will be posted within the corresponding module. Each student is required to respond to the discussion topic (150 word minimum) as well as respond to another student's discussion post (50 word minimum). This assignment is designed to facilitate class discussion. Frequent but off track or irrelevant contributions do not count toward discussion points. Discussion Boards will open with your weekly module on Monday mornings at 8am and will be due every Sunday night by 11:59pm. Once again, late work will NOT be accepted. No, not even one minute late! Again, that slippery slope. If I let you submit it one minute late, what about the student who is two minutes late? No. Please do not ask.

**The following grading schema and point distribution will be used to assign final letter grades in this course:**

<u>Grading Scale</u>		<u>Point Distribution</u>	
A	= ≥ 900 points	Examinations:	
B	= 800 - 899 points	Quizzes	700 pts (70%)
C	= 700 - 799 points	Assignments:	
D	= 600 - 699 points	Discussion Boards	<u>300 pts</u> (30%)
F	= ≤599 points		1000 pts

**Class Schedule**

**Subject to Change:** While it is the intention to cover topics throughout the semester as described below, the following course outline is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor. Any subsequent changes to the course outline will be discussed in class and/or posted to Blackboard.

**Course Outline**

**Week & Topic:**

**Reading Due:**

January 9

Chapter 1: The Correctional System  
 Practice Quiz and Introduction Discussion

pp. 4-26

January 16

Chapter 2: The Early History  
 Quiz 1 and Discussion Board 1

pp. 30-43, Foucault Handout

January 23

Chapter 3: The History of Corrections in America  
 Quiz 2 and Discussion Board 2

pp. 46-66

January 30

Chapter 4: The Punishment of Offenders  
 Quiz 3 and Discussion Board 3

pp. 70-95

February 6

Chapter 5: The Law of Corrections  
 Quiz 4 and Discussion Board 4

pp. 98-124

February 13

Chapter 6: The Correctional Client  
 Quiz 5 and Discussion Board 5

pp. 128-157

February 20

Chapter 7: Jails: Detention and Short-Term Incarceration  
 Quiz 6 and Discussion Board 6

pp. 162-188

February 27

Chapter 8: Probation  
 Quiz 7 and Discussion Board 7

pp. 192-221

March 6

Chapter 9: Intermediate Sanctions and Community Corrections  
 Quiz 8 and Discussion Board 8

pp. 226-249

March 13

Chapter 10: Incarceration  
 Chapter 11: The Prison Experience  
 Quiz 9 and Discussion Board 9

pp. 252-272

pp. 276-295

March 20

**No Class (Spring Break)**

March 27

Chapter 12: Incarceration of Women

pp. 300-319

Chapter 13: Institutional Management

pp. 324-349

Quiz 10 and Discussion Board 10

April 3

Chapter 14: Institutional Programs

pp. 352-380

Quiz 11 and Discussion Board 11

April 10

Chapter 15: Release from Incarceration

pp. 384-401

Chapter 16: Supervision in the Community

pp. 404-434

Quiz 12 and Discussion Board 12

April 17

Chapter 17: Juveniles

pp. 438- 465

Quiz 13 and Discussion Board 13

April 24

Chapter 18: Incarceration Trends

pp. 472- 485

Quiz 14 and Discussion Board 14