

Course Objectives/Course Outline Spokane Community College

Course Title: Intro to Corrections

Prefix and Course Number: CJ& 105

Course Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this course, a student should be able to:

- Explain the origin, development and evolution of corrections practices in the United States
- Explain the various theories and philosophies which underlie correctional practices and procedures in the United States, the arguments for and against each, and how each justification effects corrections programs
- Know the distinctions between jails and prisons
- Recognize the systems at the federal, state and local levels, and their different subject matter and geographical jurisdictions
- Identify and evaluate common controversies in modern correctional systems
- Identify landmark legal decisions affecting correctional institutions and programs
- Identify the function and role of a correctional officer within jail and prison systems, and probation and parole officers
- Identify special prison populations, problems, and the management of these populations
- Distinguish between probation/parole/community corrections and identify the advantages and disadvantages of each

Course Outline:

- I. American Corrections Today
 - a. Purpose
 - b. Interconnected framework: pretrial detention, probation, alternate sanctions, prison, parole
 - c. The sentencing process
- II. Correction at the Local Level: Jails
 - a. Origins and evolution, population characteristics and administration of contemporary jails
 - b. Pretrial detention
 - i. Problems in caring for and managing inmates: mental health, substance dependency, medical needs, and legal needs.
 - ii. Pretrial detainees' rights – *Bell v. Wolfish* (1979)
 - c. Bail problems and alternatives
 - i. Release on recognizance
 - ii. Pretrial diversion
 - iii. Preventative detention

iv. Absconders

d. Sentenced jail inmates

i. Lack of rehabilitative programs

e. Jail Management

i. Legal liability

ii. Jail Standards

iii. Personnel issues

1. Training

iv. The facility

1. Jail styles and the effect of supervision styles

III. Prisons

a. Goals of incarceration

b. Prison systems: federal and state

c. Design and classification of prisons

i. Modern designs, location, classification and private prisons

d. Incarceration trends

i. Population trends

ii. Public policy trends

iii. Managing overcrowding

IV. The Prison Experience

a. Prison Society

i. Norms and values

ii. Prison subcultures

iii. Adaptive roles

b. Women in Prison

i. Characteristics of women in prison

ii. Subculture

1. Male vs. female subcultures

iii. Incarcerated mothers and their children

V. Prison Management

a. Prison Programs

- i. Classification of prisoners
- ii. Educational and vocational programs
- iii. Prison industries
- iv. Rehabilitative programs
- v. Medical services

b. Organization of Prisons

- i. Organizational structure
- ii. Impact of the structure

c. Prison Staff

- i. The defects of total power
- ii. Rewards and punishments
- iii. Gaining cooperation
- iv. Inmate leadership
- v. Discipline of prisoners
- vi. Leadership; the crucial element

d. Violence in prison

- i. Prisoner-prisoner, prisoner-officer, officer-prisoner violence
- ii. Strategies to decrease violence in prison

VI. Special Populations

a. The Challenge of Special Populations

- i. Elderly prisoners
 - 1. Housing, medical care, programs, and release
- ii. HIV/AIDS
 - 1. Segregation pros and cons
- iii. Mentally Ill Prisoners
 - 1. Community Mental Health Act (1963) and its effects upon prison populations

a. Increased percentage of mentally ill prisoners, trends, reasoning behind these trends

- 2. Treatment in prison

- iv. Long-term prisoners
 - 1. 10% of population serving natural life
 - 2. Costs
 - 3. Programs offered to long-term prisoners
- v. Sexual Minority Prisoners; homosexual, bisexual and transgender
 - 1. Sexual Victimization
 - 2. Legal requirements related to LGBTI issues
 - a. *Kosilek v. Spencer* (2012) – sex-reassignment surgery to be provided
 - b. *Farmer v. Brennan* (1994) – deliberate indifference to risk of harm from other prisoners
 - c. *Doe v. Bell* (2003) – gender identity disorder is a disability within the meaning of the Americans with Disabilities Act
- vi. Military Veterans
 - 1. PTSD
 - 2. Veteran assistance projects which extend to prisons

VII. Reentry into the Community

- a. Origins of parole
- b. Release mechanisms
 - i. Discretionary release
 - ii. Mandatory release (with parole)
 - iii. Expiration release (without parole)
 - iv. Other less common forms: probation release, reinstatement to parole release, discretionary parole
- c. Decision to release
 - i. Procedure
 - ii. Criteria
 - iii. Risk assessment
- d. Release to the Community
 - i. Conditions of release
 - ii. Supervision
 - iii. Revocation

e. Parole officers

f. Elements of successful reentry

VIII. Legal Issues and the Death Penalty

a. The foundations of correctional law: Constitution (state and federal), Statutes, case law, and regulations

b. U.S. Supreme Court

i. End of the Hands-Off Policy

ii. Prisoner access to the courts

iii. Prisoners' Rights Movement

c. Constitutional rights of prisoner under the 1st, 4th, 8th, and 14th Amendments

i. Freedom of expression

ii. Search in prison

iii. Cruel and unusual punishment and maintaining a safe, efficient environment

iv. Due Process application in prison discipline

d. The Death Penalty

i. Key U.S. Supreme Court Decisions regarding the Death Penalty

1. *Furman v. Georgia* (1972) – banned ambiguity of wording in statutes and lack of consistency in the use of the death penalty.
2. *Gregg v. Georgia* (1976) – required bifurcated hearing to determine guilt and sentence
3. *Atkins v. Virginia* (2002) – banned execution of mentally disabled persons
4. *Ring v. Arizona* (2002) – requires jury and not judges to determine the sentence of death
5. *Roper v. Simmons* (2005) – banned the death penalty for those under 18.
6. *Ford v. Wainwright* (1984) – banned execution of prisoner who became insane while on Death Row
7. *Strickland v. Washington* (1984) – lack of effectiveness of counsel can overturn death sentence
8. *Witherspoon v. Illinois* (1968) and other cases – death qualified juries

ii. Continuing Legal Issues

1. Lethal injections and pain

iii. Death Row population demographics

iv. Public Opinion