This course is designed to introduce students to corrections-based systems. It covers all aspects of corrections and how they relate to the entire criminal justice system. Students will study probation, parole, jail and prison programs currently in use in the United States. Incarceration trends will be analyzed, and how political environments effect the prosecution and sentencing process. Students will explore different institutional programs, including the use and effectiveness of community based corrections programs. Students will gain an understanding of the issues related to managing inmates in institutions and the constitutional issues that surround the corrections system.
COURSE LEVEL STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOME(S) Supported by this course:

1. identify issues of managing inmates in an institution.
2. understand the evolution of corrections in the United States.
3. investigate the incidence of crime and the impact on prison population levels.
4. review sentencing trends, including alternatives sentencing options.
5. distinguish current probation, parole, jail, and prison programs.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

1. study the evolution of corrections in the United States.
2. identify issues of managing inmates in an institution.
3. investigate the incidence of crime and the impact on prison population levels.
4. review sentencing trends, including alternatives sentencing options.
5. distinguish current probation, parole, jail, and prison programs.

COURSE CONTENT:

LECTURE CONTENT:

A. History and Evolution of Corrections
   1. Early history
   2. The introduction of the Penitentiary
   3. The age of the Prisons
   4. Correctional Ideas
   5. Corrections as an element of the Criminal Justice System

B. Laws and Legal Processes
   1. Early laws and codes
   2. Incidence of crime
   3. Crime statistics
   4. The criminal investigation process
   5. Prosecution from beginning to end
   6. Rights of the accused and the inmate
   7. Constitutional issues and appeals

C. Sentencing
   1. Trends in sentencing and incarceration
   2. The pre-sentence investigation report
   3. Options used by the judiciary
   4. Alternatives to jail and prison
   5. Disparity issues in sentencing
   6. Judicial discretion at sentencing
   7. Political issues and factors

D. Jails and Detention Facilities
   1. Jail populations
   2. Characteristics of the jail population
   3. Issues with jail overcrowding
   4. Alternatives for short-term incarceration
   5. Structure and design of jail facilities

E. Probation
   1. John Augustus and the history of probation
   2. Organization and administration of probation
   3. Services offered by probation
   4. Restrictions and conditions placed on probationers
Suspended sentences and diversion options
6. The work of a probation officer
7. Adult and juvenile caseloads

F. Intermediate Sanctions
1. Restitution, fines and community service
2. Home detention and electronic monitoring

G. Prisons
1. Populations and overcrowding
2. Classification of offenders
3. Maximum, medium and minimum security facilities
4. Alternatives to prison
5. Prison education and work programs
6. Prison industries
7. The future of prison facilities and incarceration

H. Parole
1. The parole board and selection processes
2. Life outside of prison, re-entering the community
3. The parole agent as a police officer and social worker
4. Megan’s law and laws that deal with parolees
5. Managing a parole caseload
6. Parole revocation and the return to incarceration

I. The Death Penalty
1. The history of the death penalty
2. The death penalty in the United States
3. The Eighth Amendment and the death penalty
4. Issues that overturned the death penalty: Furman v. Georgia
5. Reinstating the death penalty: Gregg v. Georgia
6. The controversy surrounding the use of the death penalty
7. Death row populations

METHODS OF INSTRUCTION:

A. Lecture:
B. Independent Study:

INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNIQUES:

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS:

Reading Assignments

Textbook
Selected instructor handouts
Article Reviews
Research materials

Out-of-class Assignments

Writing Assignments

Students will be required to write a research paper on a subject that is directly related to this course.
Students will be required to participate in group learning activities, active discussions and problem solving scenarios.
Tests
METHODS OF STUDENT EVALUATION:
Midterm Exam
Final Exam
Written Assignments
Objective Examinations
Report
Projects (ind/group)
Problem Solving Exercises
Oral Presentations
Skills Demonstration

Demonstration of Critical Thinking:
1. Students will study the system of corrections and will be required to make plausible recommendations for change and reform to the system. They will be required to defend their point of view using course material or other notable publications. 2. Students will participate in active class discussions of the lecture and reading material. They will be required to evaluate information and present their ideas in an informed and educated manner. 3. Students will research and evaluate the information that is provided in this course and develop a research paper that is based on information derived from the course.

Required Writing, Problem Solving, Skills Demonstration:
Students will be required to write a research paper on a subject that is directly related to this course. Students will be required to participate in group learning activities, active discussions and problem solving scenarios.

TEXTS, READINGS, AND RESOURCES:
TextBooks:

LIBRARY:
Adequate library resources include:
Comments:
Attachments:
Attached Files