

**Spring 2008**  
**Criminal Justice 4321.001**  
Tuesday & Thursday 9:30 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.  
Bay Hall 206

**AMERICAN PRISONS & PRISONERS**

Instructor: Dr. Dorothy S. McClellan  
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Office Hours:  
Tuesday & Thursday 12:15 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.  
And by appointment

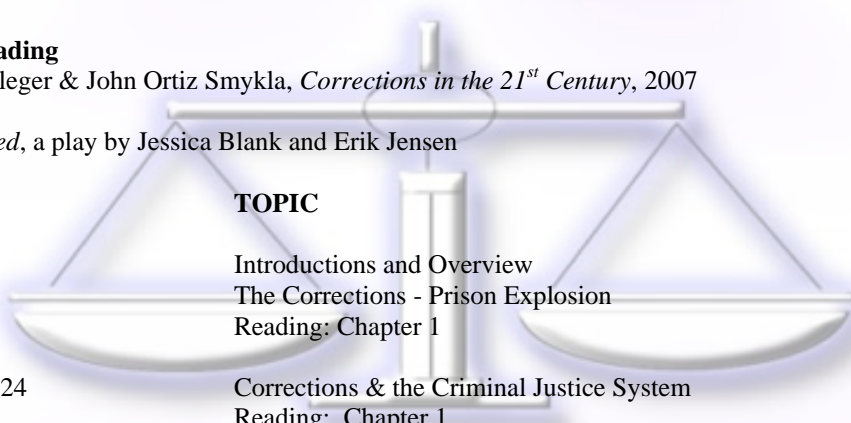
Please visit my website:  
<http://cj.tamucc.edu>

**Course Description**

Analysis of the history, philosophy, and function of correctional institutions. Examination of control and treatment of offenders in institutional settings. Focus is on current developments, controversies, and management problems.

**Required Reading**

Frank Schmalleger & John Ortiz Smykla, *Corrections in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*, 2007  
Handouts  
*The Exonerated*, a play by Jessica Blank and Erik Jensen



<b>DATE</b>	<b>TOPIC</b>
January 17	Introductions and Overview The Corrections - Prison Explosion Reading: Chapter 1
January 22 & 24	Corrections & the Criminal Justice System Reading: Chapter 1 Film: The Power of the Social Situation Abu Ghraib
January 29 & 31	A Social History of Punishment & Corrections Reading: Chapter 2
February 5 & 7 & 12	The Southern Prison Film: <i>Brubaker</i>
February 14	Sentencing: To Punish or Reform? Reading: Chapter 3
February 19	The Contemporary Prison Reading: Chapter 7 and pp. 217-220

American Prisons & Prisoners  
Spring 2008

**DATE**

**TOPIC**

February 19 - 24

*The Exonerated* is being performed at 8 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday and at 2 p.m. on Sunday the 24<sup>th</sup>

February 21

Death Row & the Death House  
Reading: Chapter 15

February 26 & 28

The Social World of Prisoners  
Reading: Chapter 10

March 4

The Staff World: Management the Prison Population  
Reading: Chapter 9

March 6

Prison Classification  
Reading: Chapter 13 (pp. 539-549)

March 11

Examination

March 13

Actors and Director, *The Exonerated*

March 17-23

Spring Break! Be happy and safe!

March 25, 27, 29 & April 1

Prison Overcrowding, Violence & Riots  
Reading: Chapter 13  
Films: *Attica* or *Death in a Southwest Prison*

April 3

Doug Dretke, Director, Correctional Management Institute, SHSU  
Recent Director, TDCJ Institutions

April 8

Prison Violence & Riots continued

April 10-11

Field trip to Huntsville, Texas  
Estelle Unit, Walls Unit, Death House, Prison Cemetery, Sam Houston State University

April 15

Security Threat Groups  
Guest Speaker: Sgt. Elbert Perry

April 17

CJ Career Fair

April 22, 2008

Riots & Hostage Taking continued and finished

April 24

Dana Hendrick

April 29

Women in Prison  
Reading: Chapter 10 (pp. 421-440) and handout  
Film: *Women Behind Bars*  
Special Prison Populations:  
The Elderly, HIV/AIDS, and the Mentally Challenged  
Reading: Chapter 12

May 1

Prisoners' Rights & Inmate Litigation  
Reading: Chapter 11

May 6

Conclusions & Review

**AMERICAN PRISONS & PRISONERS**  
**Criminal Justice 4321**  
**Course Requirements**

**1. EXAMINATIONS**

Two examinations, including final. Examinations include multiple choice, true/false, short answer questions. Make-up examinations are reserved for exceptional circumstances.

**2. EVENT RESPONSE ANALYSIS**

Students will be asked to prepare a report on the content of class films, guest speakers presentations, field trip or the performance of *The Exonerated*. This report calls for:

- 1) A detailed, accurate description of the event (approximately 2-3 pages), and
- 2) An in-depth analysis of the impressions, thoughts, and feelings engendered by viewing or participating in it (approximately 1-2 pages).

This exercise will help students develop the important professional skills of:

- 1) Preparing clear, factual descriptions of events and individuals, and
- 2) Distinguishing personal feelings, thoughts, prejudices, and concerns from accurate presentation of facts.

In fairness to fellow classmates, late papers will not receive full credit.

**3. ATTENDANCE**

Attendance is required. The final grade will be lowered 2 points with each absence after your third.

The final course grade will be determined as follows:

Examinations (2)	33 1/3 % each
One Event Response Form	33 1/3%

**ACADEMIC HONESTY**

Students are reminded of the university's strict prohibition against cheating and plagiarism. Punishment for same may include expulsion from the university and a grade of F.

**Dates to Remember**

March 6	Examination
March 17-23	Spring Break!
May 1	Event response form due
May 8	Final examination (9 a.m.)

**Classroom Etiquette**

Students are reminded that once they enter the classroom, they are expected to behave courteously and respectfully to everyone. They are expected to turn off cell phones, refrain from talking to neighbors and eating, and they should not leave the classroom unless absolutely necessary to use the bathroom or in case of emergency. They are to use computers only to facilitate note taking. The teacher reserves the right to ask students to turn off computers.

## COURSE OBJECTIVES

**After completing this course students should be able to do the following:**

Explain why prison populations continue to rise even though the rate of serious crime in the US has been declining.

Understand the size, cost, and characteristics of the contemporary prison system.

Understand who comes to prison and the crimes for which they are convicted.

Understand how rising prison populations affect the costs of corrections and the character of correctional institutions.

Understand the history of punishment over time and explain the development of imprisonment as a response to crime.

Explain the significance of the Milgram Study and the Stanford Prison Experiment for understanding power relationships in the prison setting.

Explain the social world of imprisonment using the best sociological studies.

Understand the problems of violence in institutional settings, including riots and hostage taking. Explain causes and outcomes of the Attica and New Mexico prison uprisings. Explain the role and function of the Emergency Response Team in a riot situation.

Define 'Security Threat Group'. Explain the problem of Security Threat Groups in the contemporary prison and the institutional response to it.

Understand the role of correctional officers in managing the prison population, the difficulties of this work, and explain the concept of 'officer subculture'.

Explain what is meant by 'prisoners' legal rights'. Describe the major changes that have taken place in regard to prisoners' rights since *Ruffin v. Commonwealth*.

Describe the distinctive problems of women in prison.

Define the term 'special-needs inmate'. Describe the key problems faced by the elderly, HIV/AIDS-infected, and the mentally challenged in prison.

Explain the importance of professionalism in the management and operation of the prison system.

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The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact the Disability Services Office at (361) 825-5816 or visit the office in Driftwood 101.

If you are majoring, or planning to major in a field taught in the College of Liberal Arts, and if you have not yet obtained a signed degree plan, you should see your Academic Advisor immediately. Degree plans are important and useful to successful progress toward graduation.