

**University of Maryland, College Park**  
**Department of Criminology & Criminal Justice**

**CCJS342: CORRECTIONS**

Fall 2021

Section 0201

August 30 – December 21, 2021

**Professor:**

Dr. Jessica Deitzer

Email: [jdeitzer@umd.edu](mailto:jdeitzer@umd.edu)

Zoom Office hours: By appointment

**Course Prerequisite:**

CCJS 100: Introduction to Criminal Justice

**Course Description:**

This course provides an introduction to the field of corrections. By the end of this course, students are expected to have a firm understanding of the history and current state of corrections in the United States and the ability to think critically about current practices and policies of the corrections system.

This is an **online** class that will include readings, PowerPoint presentations, video and audio clips, responses, and a paper. Our course will be **asynchronous**, meaning that lectures will **not** be live and you will **not** be required to log in at a specific time for lecture.

Each Monday at 9:00am, a module for the week will open on ELMS with all of the information you need to complete the week's tasks. Start each week by reading the instructions file in the module (e.g., "Week One Instructions"). Lecture recordings will remain available until 10 minutes before the exam on which the material appears.

**Course Website:**

I will be using *ELMS-Canvas* to make announcements, post grades, readings, and other documents. You are responsible for knowing the course material posted to this site. You can log in with your Directory ID (logon ID) and password and select 342 from your courses. Please make certain that you have access to this course through ELMS (<http://www.elms.umd.edu>) and that the email listing you have attached to this account is active and routinely monitored. Please **use your University ".edu" email account** to communicate with me. This policy is to ensure the identity of each student and reduce the chances of your mail being filtered to spam. If you have any problems accessing ELMS, please contact the support desk at 301-405-1500.

**Required Text:**

Clear, Todd R., Michael D. Reisig, Carolyn Petrosino, & George F. Cole. (2016). *American Corrections in Brief* (3rd Edition). Stamford, CT: Cengage Learning. ISBN: 978-1-305-63373-5.

*Other required materials for this course include:*

- Readings outside the textbook posted on ELMS
- Podcast episodes linked online or downloaded for free using iTunes, Spotify, or Google Podcasts
- Visual media linked online

**Course Grading:**

Exam 1: 100 points\*

Exam 2: 100 points\*

Exam 3: 100 points\*

Weekly Responses: 50 points (12.5%)

Current Issues Paper: 100 points (25%)

Current Issues Presentation: 50 points (12.5%)

Extra Credit Assignment: 20 points (+5%)

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Total points Possible: 420/400 points

\*The lowest score of the 3 exams will be dropped. The two remaining exams will make up 25% of the final grade each, for a total of 50%.

**Grading Scheme:**

A+ 97% +	B+ 87 – 89%	C+ 77 – 79 %	D+ 67 – 69%	F < 60%
A 93 – 96 %	B 83 – 86%	C 73 – 76 %	D 63 – 66%	
A- 90 – 92%	B- 80 – 82%	C- 70 – 72%	D- 60 – 62%	

Grades will be rounded at a threshold of .5 to the nearest whole number (i.e. 86.4% will be a B and 86.5% will be a B+). Grades will not be curved or negotiated at the end of the course.

**Exams:**

Exams will be a combination of multiple-choice and true/false questions and will cover all of the course material assigned since the last exam. Exams will **not be cumulative**. It is your responsibility to prepare for each exam by carefully reviewing the textbook, my lectures, and the video and audio clips. I recommend you take notes on the course materials as you complete the weekly coursework. While you may refer to your notes during the exam, if needed, you will only have 60 minutes to complete each exam. I strongly recommend you study prior to taking any exam in the class. **The exam with the lowest score will be dropped.**

Exams will open with that week's module (9:00am EST on Monday) and are due by 11:59pm (EST) on Sunday (with the exception of the third exam, which will be due by 11:59pm EST on the following Tuesday). One you begin the exam, you have 60 minutes to complete it. If you begin the exam at on Sunday at 11:00pm, you will only have 59 minutes to complete it; the time further reduces as you near 11:59pm as no exam can be submitted after this time. You will only get one attempt to complete the exam. No exceptions or adjustments will be made for technical difficulties. It is highly recommended you complete the exam with minimal distractions and a reliable internet connection. Exams not completed by the deadline will receive a zero.

**Weekly Responses:**

Students are expected to participate in the weekly content and write a short response. Each week, I will post a question or prompt. Students are expected to respond to questions in an insightful and thoughtful manner. The goal of the weekly responses is to assess comprehension, hear student's thoughts about course content, and allow students a space to signal points they would like clarified. The weekly response will close each week at 11:59pm (EST) on Fridays. Weekly responses should be between 150 and 250 words unless otherwise specified. Specific instructions will be provided on ELMS each week. A grading rubric will be posted on ELMS. There will be 12 weekly responses. The two lowest response scores will be dropped. Each remaining response score will be worth up to 5 points, for a total of 50 points.

**Current Issues Assignments:**

For this paper, students will write a report on a current issue in the United States correctional system. Students will select from one of these major topic areas: Bail, Jail, Alternative Sanctions, Probation, Mass Incarceration, Prison Experience, Punishment in Prison, Special Populations in Prison, Correctional Rehabilitation, Risk Assessment, Reentry, Rehabilitation, or Collateral Consequences. Students should 1) identify an issue that is in a need of a policy response, 2) research the issue based on published reports, books, and peer-reviewed journal articles, and 3) recommend an evidence-based solution to the issue. More detailed explanation of the assignment, a description of the research requirements, and a grading rubric will be posted on ELMS. **Your paper should be 3-4 pages and is due by 11:59pm (EST) on Tuesday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>.**

For the presentation, students will present their research the Current Issues Assignment to the rest of the class on a discussion board. Students will have the choice of a video or visual presentation. Students will also respond to two other student presentations in place of the weekly response. More details on the requirements of this assignment and a grading rubric will be posted on ELMS. **Your presentation is due by 11:59pm (EST) on Tuesday, November 30<sup>th</sup>.**

**Extra Credit Assignment:**

For this assignment, students will create a meme or an infographic on a topic related to course content. More details on the requirements of this assignment will be posted on ELMS. The extra credit assignment is due **by 11:59pm (EST) on Tuesday, December 14<sup>th</sup>.**

**Grade Disputes:**

If you have questions or concerns about your grade(s) and believe I should review them, you must submit a written request over email that describes your concern in detail. This request must be submitted within one week after grades for the relevant assignment have been posted.

**Missed or Late Work:**

Exams must be completed on the date listed in the course schedule. Since you have nearly a week to complete the exam, and your lowest exam score will be dropped, there will be no makeup exams except in cases of extraordinary circumstances such as serious injury or death in the family. In all cases, you must notify me **prior to the due date** for me to consider giving a makeup exam. Official documentation will be required. Failure to adhere to these policies will result in a grade of zero for the exam.

Weekly responses must be made by the weekly due date to receive credit. As the lowest two weekly responses will be dropped, there will be no credit granted for late responses.

Current issues papers submitted after the due date will be accepted late up to seven (7) days after the due date. There will be a 5% penalty per day the assignment is late. Late begins at 12:01am the day after the due date. No projects will be accepted after seven (7) days after the due date except in cases of extraordinary circumstances.

The **three exams** and the **paper** are considered to be Major Scheduled Grading Events and therefore the university medical excuse policy (<http://www.president.umd.edu/policies/docs/V-100G.pdf>) which allows one student-signed honor statement attesting to illness does **not** apply to them.

### **Course Related Policies:**

The University of Maryland expects each student to take full responsibility for their academic work and academic progress. As a student, you have the responsibility to be familiar with and uphold the Code of Academic Integrity and the Code of Conduct, as well as for notifying your course instructors in a timely fashion regarding academic accommodations related to absences and accessibility. University policies outlined in the link below are particularly relevant to your experience in academic courses. <http://www.ugst.umd.edu/courserelatedpolicies.html>

### **Academic Integrity:**

The University of Maryland has a nationally recognized *Code of Academic Integrity* which sets standards for academic integrity for all undergraduate and graduate students. As a student you are responsible for upholding these standards in your courses. It is very important for you to be aware of the consequences of cheating, fabrication, facilitation, and plagiarism. In this course, academic dishonesty of any form will **not** be tolerated.

### **Disability Support:**

Students who are registered with the Disability Support Service (DSS)/Accessibility and Disability Service (ADS) Office and who provide me with required DSS/ADS documentation will be accommodated in the classroom. Please provide me with an updated Accommodations Form by **Friday, September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021** so that accommodations can be considered in this class. Pertaining to exams, students are expected to take exams on the same day as the rest of the class.

### **Athletes and Religious Observations:**

If you will be observing a religious holiday or will have a University athletic obligation that will cause you to miss a due date or an exam, please let me know by **Friday, September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021**.

### **Names/Pronouns and Self Identifications:**

The University of Maryland recognizes the importance of a diverse student body and we are committed to fostering equitable classroom environments. I invite you, if you wish, to tell us how you want to be referred to both in terms of your name and your pronouns (he/him, she/her, they/them, etc.). The pronouns someone indicates are not necessarily indicative of their gender identity. Visit [trans.umd.edu](http://trans.umd.edu) to learn more. Additionally, how you identify in terms of your

gender, race, class, sexuality, religion, and dis/ability, among all aspects of your identity, is your choice whether to disclose and should be self-identified, not presumed or imposed. I will do my best to address and refer to all students accordingly and encourage students to do so as well.

**Copyright:**

The lectures that I deliver in this class and the course materials I create and distribute are protected by federal copyright law as my original works. You may not record, reproduce, or distribute my lectures/notes for any commercial purpose without my written consent. Persons who sell or distribute copies or modified copies of my course materials, possess commercial copies of my notes (i.e. Terpnotes), or assist another person or entity in selling or distributing those materials may be considered in violation of the University Code of Student Conduct, Part 9(k).

**Course Evaluations:**

Your feedback about this course is very important to me and to the program. You will have the opportunity to fill out the online evaluation at the end of the semester, which you can access via [www.courseevalum.umd.edu](http://www.courseevalum.umd.edu). Students who complete evaluations for all of their courses in the previous semester (excluding summer) are able to access the posted results of the evaluations for any course that has a response rate of at least 70%.

**COURSE SCHEDULE (Subject to Change)**

<b>Week</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Lecture Topic</b>	<b>Reading Assignments</b>	<b>Due Dates</b>	
Unit 1	Week 1 8.30	Introduction		<i>Response due Friday at 11:59pm</i>	
		History of Corrections and Punishment	Ch. 1		
	Week 2 9.7	<b>Labor Day</b>		Ch. 2	<i>Response due Friday at 11:59pm</i>
		Philosophies of punishment			
	Week 3 9.13	Mass Incarceration	Readings on ELMS		<i>Response due Friday at 11:59pm</i>
		Watch documentary posted on ELMS			
	Week 4 9.20	Pretrial Detention and Bail	Readings on ELMS		<i>Response due Friday at 11:59pm</i>
		Jail	Ch. 3		
	Week 5 9.27	Alternative Sanctions	Ch. 4		<i>Response due Friday at 11:59pm</i>
		Probation	Ch. 5		
	Week 6 10.4	Review			<i>Exam due Sunday at 11:59pm</i>
		<b>Exam 1</b>			
Unit 2	Week 7 10.11	Prisons in the US	Ch. 6	<i>Response due Friday at 11:59pm</i>	
		The Prison Experience	Ch. 7		
	Week 8 10.18	Punishment and Pains in Prison	Readings on ELMS	Ch. 9, Ch.12	<i>Response due Friday at 11:59pm</i>
		Special Populations	Readings on ELMS		
	Week 9 10.25	Prison Management	Ch. 8		<i>Response due Friday at 11:59pm</i>
		Watch documentary posted on ELMS			
	Week 10 11.1	Correctional Rehabilitation	Readings on ELMS		<i>Response due Friday at 11:59pm</i>
		Risk Assessment	Readings on ELMS		
			Review		

	Week 11 11.8	<b>Exam 2</b>		<i>Exam due Sunday at 11:59pm</i>
Unit 3	Week 12 11.15	Parole and Reentry	Ch. 10 Readings on ELMS	<i>Response due Friday at 11:59pm</i>
		Reintegration and Rehabilitation	Readings on ELMS	
	Week 13 11.22	Collateral Consequences	Readings on ELMS	<i>Current Issues Paper due 11/23 at 11:59pm</i>
		<b>Thanksgiving Break</b>		
	Week 14 11.29	Children and Families	Readings on ELMS	<i>Current Issues Presentation due 11/30 at 11:59pm</i>  <i>Response due Friday at 11:59pm</i>
		Punishment and Inequality	Readings on ELMS	
	Week 15 12.6	Issues of Justice	Readings on ELMS	<i>Response due Friday at 11:59pm</i>
		Current Trends in Corrections	Readings on ELMS	
	Week 16 12.13	Review		<i>Exam due on Tuesday, 12/21 at 11:59pm</i>
		<b>Final Exam</b>		