

SYLLABUS FOR CRJ-1110

Introduction to Corrections

COURSE DESCRIPTION

How does the reality of prison life compare to the depictions seen in the media? What challenges does the United States correctional system currently face? In this course, students examine historical and contemporary correctional practices and are introduced to the theoretical concepts of criminal sanctions, institutional rehabilitation, and community-based corrections. Students explore the ways in which correctional systems are influenced and, in turn, how they influence various aspects of and institutions within American society. Corrections encompasses much more than just jails and prisons. The course discusses various aspects, such as community corrections and work release programs. Lastly, students explore the school-to-prison pipeline.

COURSE TOPICS

- The history of corrections and punishment in the United States
- Types of correctional institutions
- Types of punishment
- Current issues within the correctional system
- Prison populations and their needs
- The school-to-prison pipeline

COURSE OBJECTIVES

After completing this course, you should be able to:

- CO 1** Explain the history of corrections in the United States.
- CO 2** Compare prison types and functions.
- CO 3** Explain the major challenges within the U.S. correctional system.
- CO 4** Compare and contrast institutional and community-based corrections.
- CO 5** Examine racial and ethnic disparity within the correctional system.

CO 6 Analyze corrections law and inmate litigation.

CO 7 Explain sentencing systems and criminal sanctions.

CO 8 Examine the school-to-prison pipeline.

COURSE MATERIALS

You will need the following materials to complete your coursework. Some course materials may be free, open source, or available from other providers. You can access free or open-source materials by clicking the links provided below or in the module details documents. To purchase course materials, please visit the [University's textbook supplier](#).

Required Textbook

- Wymore, D., & Raber, T. (2023). [Introduction to corrections](#). LibreTexts. Licensed under [CC BY 4.0](#).

COURSE STRUCTURE

Introduction to Corrections is a three-credit, online course consisting of seven modules. Modules include an overview, topics, learning objectives, study materials, and activities. Module titles are listed below.

- **Module 1: History of Prisons**
Course objectives covered in this module: CO1, CO 2, CO 7
- **Module 2: Understanding the Sentencing Process and Prison Population**
Course objectives covered in this module: CO 3, CO 4, CO 7
- **Module 3: Alternatives to Traditional Sentencing**
Course objectives covered in this module: CO 4
- **Module 4: Prison and Its Effect on People Who Are Incarcerated**
Course objectives covered in this module: CO 3, CO 4, CO 5
- **Module 5: Special Populations**
Course objectives covered in this module: CO 3, CO 6

- **Module 6: Juvenile Corrections**

Course objectives covered in this module: CO 2, CO 3, CO 6, CO 7, CO 8

- **Module 7: Corrections as a Profession**

Course objectives covered in this module: CO 3, CO 5, CO 6

ASSESSMENT METHODS

For your formal work in the course, you are required to participate in online discussion forums and complete written assignments, quizzes, a presentation, a midterm exam, and a final project. See below for details.

Consult the Course Calendar for due dates.

Promoting Originality—One or more of your course activities may utilize a tool designed to promote original work and evaluate your submissions for plagiarism. More information about this tool is available in [this document](#).



Discussion Forums

You are required to complete **seven** discussion forums. The discussion forums allow you to share your learning with your classmates and apply concepts. There is also one ungraded but required Introductions Forum in Module 1.

Communication with your mentor and among fellow students is a critical component of online learning. Participation in online class discussions involves two distinct activities: an initial response to a discussion question and at least two subsequent comments on classmates' responses.

All of these responses must be substantial. Meaningful participation is relevant to the content, adds value, and advances the discussion. Comments such as "I agree" and "ditto" are not considered value-adding participation. Therefore, when you agree or disagree with a classmate or your mentor, state and support your position.

You will be evaluated on the quality and quantity of your participation, including your use of relevant course information to support your point of view, and your awareness of and responses to the postings of your classmates. Remember, these are discussions: responses and comments should be properly proofread and edited, mature, and respectful.



Written Assignments

You are required to complete **four** written assignments. The written assignments are on a variety of topics associated with the course modules.



Presentation

You are required to create and record a presentation on an innovation currently in place at a correctional facility. This activity will help prepare you for the presentation that is required as part of your final project.



Module Quizzes

You are required to take **five** module quizzes (Modules 1–4 and 6). All quiz questions are multiple choice. You may use any materials while taking the quizzes, and there is no time limit for taking each quiz.

Students find that quiz-taking is one way to prepare for examinations. Therefore, you will be able to take each quiz an unlimited number of times, and the gradebook will record your highest score. This arrangement will allow you to go back and reread portions of the text that you need to review and then take the quiz again for further practice.



Midterm Examination

You are required to take a **midterm exam**. The exam requires that you use the University's [Online Proctor Service](#) (OPS). Please refer to the “Examinations and Proctors” section of the Online Student Handbook (see [Student Handbooks](#) in the General Information area of the course website) for further information about scheduling and taking online exams and for all exam policies and procedures. You are strongly advised to schedule your exams within the first week of the semester.

Online exams are administered through the course website. Consult the Course Calendar for official dates.

The midterm exam is a closed-book, proctored exam. It is 2 hours long and assesses material from Modules 1 through 3. The exam consists of multiple-choice and essay questions. For a list of key topics that may appear on the exam, consult the **Study Guide** available in the Examinations section of the course website.

Statement About Cheating

You are on your honor not to cheat during the exam. Cheating means:

- Looking up any answer or part of an answer in an unauthorized textbook or on the Internet, or using any other source to find the answer.
- Copying and pasting or in any way copying responses or parts of responses from any other source into your online test. This includes but is not limited to copying and pasting from other documents or spreadsheets, whether written by yourself or anyone else.

- Plagiarizing answers.
- Asking anyone else to assist you by whatever means available while you take the exam.
- Copying any part of the exam to share with other students.
- Telling your mentor that you need another attempt at the exam because your connection to the Internet was interrupted when that is not true.

If there is evidence that you have cheated or plagiarized in your exam, the exam will be declared invalid, and you will fail the course.



Final Project

You are required to complete a five-part final project on a topic of your choice related to a current issue that correctional systems face. See the Final Project area of the course for details about what is required for each part. Refer to the Course Calendar to see specific due dates.

GRADING AND EVALUATION

Your grade in the course will be determined as follows:

- **Online discussions (7)**—21%
- **Written assignments (4)**—20%
- **Module quizzes (5)**—7%
- **Presentation**—5%
- **Midterm exam**—15%
- **Final project**—32%
 - **Part 1: Project Proposal**—1%
 - **Part 2: Annotated Bibliography**—5%
 - **Part 3: Presentation**—8%
 - **Part 4: Discussion Forum**—3%
 - **Part 5: Research Paper**—15%

All activities will receive a numerical grade of 0–100. You will receive a score of 0 for any work not submitted. Your final grade in the course will be a letter grade. Letter grade equivalents for numerical grades are as follows:

A	= 93–100	C+	= 78–79
A–	= 90–92	C	= 73–77
B+	= 88–89	C–	= 70–72
B	= 83–87	D	= 60–69
B–	= 80–82	F	= Below 60

To receive credit for the course, you must earn a letter grade of C or better (for an area of study course) or D or better (for a course not in your area of study), based on the weighted average of all assigned course work (e.g., exams, assignments, discussion postings).

STRATEGIES FOR SUCCESS

First Steps to Success

To succeed in this course, take the following first steps:

- Read carefully the entire Syllabus, making sure that all aspects of the course are clear to you and that you have all the materials required for the course.
- Take time to read the entire Online Student Handbook. The Handbook answers many questions about how to proceed through the course, how to schedule exams, and how to get the most from your educational experience at Thomas Edison State University.
- Arrange to take your examination by following the instructions in this Syllabus and the Online Student Handbook.
- Familiarize yourself with the learning management systems environment—how to navigate it and what the various course areas contain. If you know what to expect as you navigate the course, you can better pace yourself and complete the work on time.
- If you are not familiar with web-based learning, be sure to review the processes for posting responses online and submitting assignments before class begins.

Study Tips

Consider the following study tips for success:

- To stay on track throughout the course, begin each week by consulting the Course Calendar. The Course Calendar provides an overview of the course and indicates due dates for submitting assignments, posting discussions, and submitting the final project.
- Check Announcements regularly for new course information.

Using AI Ethically: A Guide for TESU Students

TESU's [Academic Code of Conduct](#) permits student AI use in support of their writing and research process--not as a replacement for original writing. Document AI use with an acknowledgment statement at the end of each assignment, noting the tools and prompts used. Cite any AI-generated content on the References page. Please review [Using AI Ethically: A Guide for TESU Students](#) for more detailed information.

COMMITMENT TO DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION

Thomas Edison State University recognizes, values, and relies upon the diversity of our community. We strive to provide equitable, inclusive learning experiences that embrace our students' backgrounds, identities, experiences, abilities, and expertise.

ACCESSIBILITY AND ACCOMMODATIONS

Thomas Edison State University adheres to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA, 1990; ADAAA, 2008) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. The Office of Student Accessibility Services (OSAS) oversees requests for academic accommodations related to disabilities; a student who is pregnant, postpartum, or a student parenting a newborn who is not the birth parent [as covered under NJSA18A]; and students requesting academic accommodation for a short-term/temporary illness and/or injury. Information can be found on the [Office of Student Accessibility Services](#) web page and questions can be sent to ADA@tesu.edu.

ACADEMIC POLICIES

To ensure success in all your academic endeavors and coursework at Thomas Edison State University, familiarize yourself with all administrative and academic policies including those related to academic integrity, course late submissions, course extensions, and grading policies.

For more, see:

- [University-wide policies](#)
- [Undergraduate academic policies](#)
- [Undergraduate course policies](#)
- [Graduate academic policies](#)
- [Graduate course policies](#)

- [Nursing student policies](#)
- [Nursing graduate student policies](#)
- [International student policies](#)
- [Academic code of conduct](#)