



Syllabus
CRIM 1020
Introduction to Corrections
2026

Committee Members:

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The Institution agrees to the contents in this syllabus including course prefix, number, course description and other contents of this syllabus.

 Chief Academic Officer, Central Community College	02/12/2026	Adopt
 Chief Academic Officer, Little Priest Tribal College	02/13/2026	Not Offered
 Chief Academic Officer, Metropolitan Community College	02/16/2026	Adopt
 Chief Academic Officer, Mid-Plains Community College	02/11/2026	Adopt
 Chief Academic Officer, Nebraska Indian Community College	02/16/2026	Adopt
 Chief Academic Officer, Northeast Community College	02/11/2026	Adopt
 Chief Academic Officer, Southeast Community College	02/20/2026	Adopt
 Chief Academic Officer, Western Nebraska Community College	02/18/2026	Adopt



I. CATALOG DESCRIPTION

Course Number: CRIM1020
Course Title: Introduction to Corrections
Prerequisite(s): None

Catalog Description: Outlines corrections in a systematic process showing the evolving changes within institutional and community-based corrections. Topics include, but are not limited to the history of corrections, the influence of social thought and philosophy on the development of corrections, the rights of the incarcerated inmate, and the duties of the correctional officer.

Credit Hours: 3.0 semester hours/4.5 quarter hours
Contact Hours: 45 hours

II. COURSE OBJECTIVES/COMPETENCIES

A. Course will:

1. Examine the influences of social thought and philosophy on the development of corrections.
2. Identify how historical events and social issues have helped shape today's correctional system.
3. Analyze the evolving changes within institutional and community-based corrections.
4. Describe the duties, rights and responsibilities of the correctional staff, support staff and administration.
5. Analyze inmate's rights, treatment programs and the socialization process within a correctional setting.
6. Identify the major challenges in contemporary corrections, including the rise in mentally disordered offenders, private prisons, soaring costs, and wrongful convictions.

III. STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

A. Students will be able:

1. Explain the historical development of corrections in the United States and its relationship to social, political, and legal contexts.
2. Describe the structure and functions of correctional systems at the local, state, and federal levels.
3. Differentiate among correctional options including probation, parole, community-based alternatives, and institutional confinement.
4. Analyze correctional philosophies (e.g., punishment, deterrence, rehabilitation, retribution, restorative justice) and how they influence policy and practice.
5. Analyze the challenges faced by correctional institutions, including overcrowding, staffing, inmate management, and reentry.
6. Analyze ethical and legal issues in corrections, including the rights of incarcerated individuals and responsibilities of correctional staff.

7. Identify career paths within corrections and demonstrate an understanding of the professional skills and ethical standards required.
8. Identify the major challenges in contemporary corrections, including the rise in mentally disordered offenders, private prisons, soaring costs, and wrongful convictions.

IV. COURSE CONTENT / TOPICAL OUTLINE (chronology may vary)

- A. Corrections: An Overview
- B. Punishment: A Brief History
- C. Sentencing: Punishment or to Reform
- D. Diversion and Probation: How Most Offenders Are Punished
- E. Intermediate Sanctions Between Probation and Incarceration
- F. Jail: Way Stations Along the Justice Highway
- G. Prison Today: Change Stations or Warehouses
- H. Parole: Early Release and Reentry
- I. The Staff World: Managing the Prison Population
- J. The Inmate World: Living Behind Bars
- K. The Legal World: Prisoners' Rights
- L. Special Prison Populations: Prisoners Who Are Elderly, Mentally Challenged, and Who Have HIV/AIDS
- M. Prison Issues and Concerns: Overcrowding, Security, Accreditation, Privatization, and Technology
- N. The Victim: Helping Those in Need
- O. Death: The Ultimate Sanction
- P. Juvenile Corrections: End of an Era?

V. INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

- A. The following texts are suggested for this course:
 1. Corrections in 21st Century, Schmallegger, McGraw-Hill, Latest Edition
 2. Corrections Today, Siegel, L., Wadsworth/CENGAGE Learning. Latest Edition.
 3. American Corrections, Clear, T., Reisig, M., Cole, G., Wadsworth/CENGAGE Learning. Latest Edition.
 4. Corrections: An Introduction, Sieter, R. Pearson. Latest Edition
 5. Open Educational Resources that meet the listed course objectives/competencies and student outcomes, chosen at the instructors' discretion. These resources will be comparable in content to the textbooks listed above.
- B. Supplemental Materials (handouts, articles, videos, website, etc.) to be supplied by the instructor.

VI. METHOD OF PRESENTATION/INSTRUCTION

- A. Lecture/Discussion
- B. Hybrid, Blended, Virtual
- C. Online
- D. Subject Matter Experts

VII. METHODS OF EVALUATION

- A. Exams
- B. Written Assignments
- C. Oral Assignments
- D. Projects

VIII. INSTITUTIONAL DEFINED SECTION

Content and schedule determined by instructor.