

SOUTHEAST COMMUNITY COLLEGE
COMMUNITY SERVICES DIVISION
Criminal Justice Program
Revision Date: 08-18-25

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
Class Hours: 45
Lab Hours: 0
Total Contact Hours: 45

II. COURSE OBJECTIVES: *Course will:*

- A. Examine the influences of social thought and philosophy on the development of corrections.
- B. Identify how historical events and social issues have helped shape today's correctional system.
- C. Analyze the evolving changes within institutional and community-based corrections.
- D. Describe the duties, rights and responsibilities of the correctional staff, support staff and administration.
- E. Analyze inmate's rights, treatment programs and the socialization process within a correctional setting.
- F. 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 AND GENERAL EDUCATION LEARNING OUTCOMES:

- A. Student Learning Outcomes: *Student will be able to:*
 - 1. Explain the influences of social thought and philosophy on the development of corrections.
 - 2. Explain the historical development of corrections in the United States and its relationship to social, political, and legal contexts.
 - 3. Describe the structure and functions of correctional systems at the local, state, and federal levels.
 - 4. Differentiate among correctional options including probation, parole, community-based alternatives, and institutional confinement.
 - 5. Analyze correctional philosophies (e.g., punishment, deterrence, rehabilitation, retribution, restorative justice) and how they influence policy and practice.
 - 6. Analyze the challenges faced by correctional institutions, including overcrowding, staffing, inmate management, and reentry.
 - 7. Analyze ethical and legal issues in corrections, including the rights of incarcerated individuals and responsibilities of correctional staff.
 - 8. Identify career paths within corrections and demonstrate an understanding of the professional skills and ethical standards required.
 - 9. Identify the major challenges in contemporary corrections, including the rise in mentally disordered offenders, private prisons, soaring costs, and wrongful convictions.

- B.** General Education Learning Outcomes (GELOs):
 - 1.** GELO 1: Oral Communication
Outcome 4: Competently communicate messages – both verbally and nonverbally – to a variety of audience types and in a variety of situations.
 - 2.** GELO 2: Written Communication
Outcome 5: Read and write in mechanically-sound, college-level English.
 - 3.** GELO 6: Career and Life Skills
Outcome 7: Demonstrate choices that reflect personal responsibility in one's academic, civic, social, and vocational/professional life.

IV. CONTENT/TOPICAL OUTLINE (*course outline may provide more detailed information*)

- 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.** Required Text(s): Corrections Today, Siegel, L., Wadsworth/CENGAGE Learning. Current Edition.
- B.** Other Resources: In addition to required text and study guide, the instructor may provide supplemental material or sources that the student will be required to integrate into their knowledge base.

VI. METHODS OF PRESENTATION/INSTRUCTION

- A.** Lecture/Discussion
- B.** Electronic Presentation
- C.** Demonstrations
- D.** Case Studies
- E.** Field Trips
- F.** Course Books
- G.** Group Projects
- H.** Hybrid, Blended, Virtual
- I.** Online
- J.** Subject Matter Experts

VII. METHODS OF EVALUATION

- A.** Exams
- B.** Quizzes
- C.** Written Assignments
- D.** Oral Assignments

E. Practical Applications

F. Discussion

G. Projects

H. SCC STANDARD GRADING SCALE POLICY:

A+	95-100	C+	75-79
A	90-94	C	70-74
B+	85-89	D+	65-69
B	80-84	D	60-64
		F	Below 60

VIII. SPECIFIC COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

A. See individual instructor's course outline.