

## Instructor Information

- **Instructor:** Michael Ferguson, MS
- **UTT Email:** [mferguson@uttyler.edu](mailto:mferguson@uttyler.edu)
- **Office Telephone:** 903.730.3927
- **Office Location:** CAS 134
- **Office Hours:** MWF from 10:15a - noon. For those who wish to meet via Zoom rather than F2F, click use the Zoom info in Canvas. I will be logged into Zoom during my MWF office hours, so there's no need to arrange an appointment beforehand on those days. If you need to meet on T/Th, send me an email to arrange a time after noon that works for both of us.

## Course Time and Location

- **Dates:** 01/12/2026 - 05/01/2026
- **Meeting Days:** Tuesday and Thursday
- **Time:** 8:00AM to 9:20AM
- **Location:** CAS Room 104

## Course Information

This course serves as an introductory examination of the correctional systems within the United States, both at the institutional and community level. Within this course, students will have the opportunity to identify the differences between prisons and jails, probation and parole, indeterminate and determinate sentencing structures, and the arguments surrounding the notion that the correctional system within the U.S. needs a total overhaul. This course serves as a prerequisite to CRIJ 4313, *Advanced Correctional Systems and Practices*.

## Course Rationale

This course will answer the “who, what, when, where, and why” questions you’ve always had about the way corrections is done in the US. The course curriculum provides an historical, structural, and operational overview of the American correctional system. Topics covered will help you to grasp the immense complexities of corrections in modern America.

## Student Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, you will be able to:

- Describe the organization and operation of correctional systems and alternatives to institutionalization.
- Describe treatment and rehabilitative programs.

- Differentiate between the short-term incarceration and long-term institutional environments.
- Evaluate current and future correctional issues.
- Identify the Constitutional rights applicable to the correctional setting.

## Textbooks

None -- OER material will be provided via Canvas.

## Technology Requirements

Students must have access to a computer or tablet with internet access to use UT-Tyler's Canvas LMS. Assignments and quizzes will be handled through Canvas. Additionally, students must have access to, and use of, a word processor (e.g., MS Word or Apple Pages) and presentation software (e.g., MS PowerPoint or Apple Keynote). Lastly, students must have access to a mind-mapping application. Work uploaded to Canvas must be in one of the following file formats:

- **Documents:** .docx, .doc, .pages, or .pdf (.pdf is the preferred format)
- **Presentations / graphs:** .docx, .doc, .pptx, .ppt, .key, or .pdf (.pdf is the preferred format)

## Attendance

You can't learn if you're not in class. You must attend and participate in the class to earn credit. I understand that life happens, but you need to be in class to learn the material we're covering. ***Attendance will be taken each class session and will count as a major exam grade when determining your final course grade. Your attendance grade will be based on your attendance in class. Each day you miss counts as a zero and each day you're late to class will result in a 50% reduction in that day's attendance grade.***

## Course Assignments

It is the student's responsibility to keep track of due dates. Please note that quizzes and assignments will be available for several days, so missing a due date for any given quizzes or assignments will translate into a 50% reduction in score. ***There will be no extensions to complete the final exam -- if you're not here to take the final, you will receive a score of zero for the final. PLEASE don't "forget" that you have an in-class final exam!***

- **Anti-Plagiarism Certificate (5%):** You must complete the free, online anti-plagiarism course for which I will provide a link. Upon completion of the two required modules, you must upload a copy of your completion certificate to Canvas. This certificate is worth 5% of your grade and is required for successful completion of the course. Certificates submitted after the due-date will receive a 50% reduction in score.

- **Quizzes (50%):** Reading the assigned chapters puts concepts into action. To help with retention and comprehension of the material, you will complete short quizzes each week. Quizzes will consist of multiple choice and true/false questions. Quizzes submitted after the due-date will receive a 50% reduction in score.
- **Activities (25%):** Your class consists of multiple units. You will complete various activities, including in-class discussion, over the course of the semester. Assignments submitted after the due-date will receive a 50% reduction in score.
- **Exams (20%):** There are two exam grades: your attendance average and your final exam. The final will consist of true/false and multiple-choice questions taken from the material covered during the semester. The attendance grade will be based on your physical attendance in class.

## Activities

Below are the learning objectives for each online activity. More detailed instructions, including grading rubrics, are provided to you on the respective assignment page in Canvas. Assignments submitted after the due-date will receive a 50% reduction in score.

### *Reflection Papers*

- You will write one- to two-page reflection papers based on information provided in the class.

### *Mind-map Project*

- You will build a mind-map based on information provided in the class.

## Census Date

The census date for this summer class is **01/26/2026**. Drops/withdrawals after Census Date and before the Last Day to Withdraw will result in a grade of W. Courses dropped prior to Census Date will not appear on the student's record or the transcript.

## Artificial Intelligence Policy

UT Tyler is committed to exploring and using artificial intelligence (AI) tools as appropriate for the discipline and task undertaken. We encourage discussing AI tools' ethical, societal, philosophical, and disciplinary implications. All uses of AI should be acknowledged as this aligns with our commitment to honor and integrity, as noted in UT Tyler's Honor Code. Faculty and students must not use protected information, data, or copyrighted materials when using any AI tool. Additionally, users should be aware that AI tools rely on predictive models to generate content that may appear correct but is sometimes shown to be incomplete, inaccurate, taken without attribution from other sources, and/or biased. Consequently, an AI tool should not be considered a substitute for traditional approaches to research. You are ultimately responsible

for the quality and content of the information you submit. Misusing AI tools that violate the guidelines specified for this course (see below) is considered a breach of academic integrity. The student will be subject to disciplinary actions as outlined in UT Tyler's Academic Integrity Policy.

The work submitted by students in this course will be generated by themselves. This includes all process work, drafts, brainstorming artifacts, editing, and final products. This extends to group assignments where students must collaboratively create the project. Any instance of the following constitutes a violation of UT Tyler's Honor Code: a student has another person/entity do any portion of a graded assignment, which includes purchasing work from a company, hiring a person or company to complete an assignment or exam, using a previously submitted assignment and/or using AI tools (such as ChatGPT).

## **Student Resources and UT-Tyler Policies**

[Student Resources](#)

[University Policies and Information](#)

## Schedule of Classes

Week	Dates	Topic	Assignment(s)
1	01/12 - 01/16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Welcome to class</li> <li>Review Syllabus</li> <li>Theories of Punishment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Week One Quiz</li> <li>Anti-Plagiarism Certificate</li> </ul>
2	01/19 - 01/23	History of Corrections and Punishment	Week Two Quiz
3	01/26 - 01/30	The Court Process and Sentencing	Week Three Quiz
4	02/02 - 02/06	Probation and Diversion	Week Four Quiz
5	02/09 - 02/13	Intermediate Sanctions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Week Five Quiz</li> <li>Poster Assignment: Intermediate Sanctions</li> </ul>
6	02/16 - 02/20	Jails	Week Six Quiz
7	02/23 - 02/27	Prisons	Week Seven Quiz
8	03/02 - 03/06	Prison Life	Week Eight Quiz
9	03/09 - 03/13	<i>N/A - Spring Break</i>	<i>N/A - Spring Break</i>
10	03/16 - 03/20	The Rights of Prisoners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Week 10 Quiz</li> <li>Reflection Paper: The Attica Riot</li> </ul>
11	03/23 - 03/27	Correctional Programming	Week 11 Quiz
12	03/30 - 04/03	Parole	Week 12 Quiz
13	04/06 - 04/10	Special Populations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Week 13 Quiz</li> <li>Reflection Paper: Special Populations</li> </ul>

## Schedule of Classes

Week	Dates	Topic	Assignment(s)
14	04/13 - 04/17	Capital Punishment	Week 14 Quiz
15	04/20 - 04/24	Correctional Employment	Week 15 Quiz
16	04/27 - 05/01	Final Exam	Final Exam