

CONTEMPORARY ISSUES IN CORRECTIONS

CRIJ 5313 Summer Course Syllabus



Course Description

This course is a core, graduate-level criminal justice course designed to critically examine contemporary issues within institutional and community-based corrections. Students will explore the historical foundations of the American correctional system while analyzing modern correctional policies, practices, and reform efforts through empirical research and applied case analysis. Throughout the course, students will critically evaluate current correctional issues such as solitary confinement, institutional management, prisoner reentry, special inmate populations, and healthcare and mental health access within correctional systems.

DR. DANIELLE BAILEY

My office is in the College of Arts & Sciences building, Office 135A. You can reach me at dbailey@uttyler.edu or 903.566.7432. My personal Zoom Meeting room ID is my office phone number.

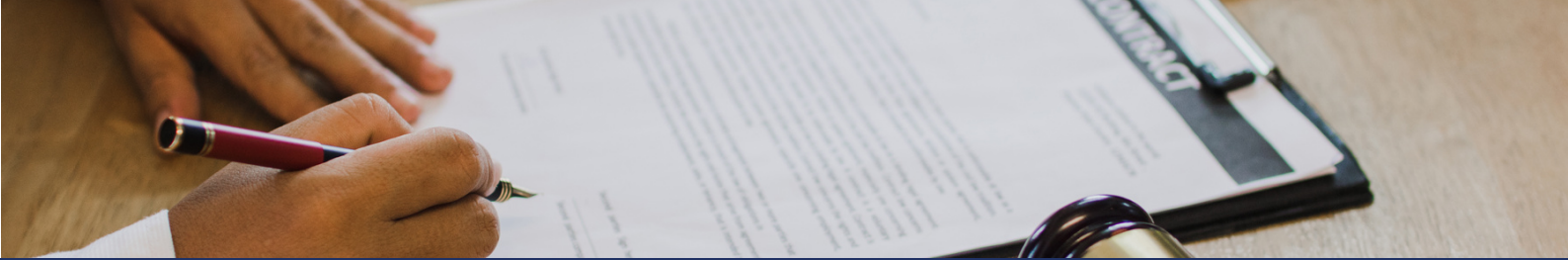
I am available for Open Office Hours on Thursdays from 1PM - 4PM, in my office or via Zoom. I am also available by appointment outside of this time. Please email me to request an appointment.

This class is taught fully online. We will meet on Zoom every Tuesday from 6PM - 7:30PM.

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This syllabus was created to provide you with an overview of the learning expectations for this course. Additional assignment details, student resources, and UT Tyler policies and Information are provided on Canvas.



Course Learning Objectives

By the completion of this course, you will be able to:

- Explain the historical development, philosophies, and goals of the American correctional system.
- Critically evaluate contemporary correctional policies, practices, and institutional challenges using empirical research.
- Assess the impact of correctional policies on institutional management, offender supervision, prisoner reentry, and community reintegration.
- Analyze the experiences and unique needs of special populations within correctional systems.
- Evaluate the organizational, ethical, and occupational challenges facing correctional professionals and institutions.
- Apply correctional theory, empirical research, and policy analysis to realistic offender case scenarios and contemporary reform discussions.

Course Format

This course is taught entirely online. All course interactions will take place through Canvas, UT Tyler's learning management system. In order to be successful, you will need to complete all online components of the course. To help you stay organized, a course schedule is provided for you in Canvas.

Open Educational Resources

There are no required textbooks for this class!

This class is taught using Open Educational Resources (OER), meaning that you will be able to access all of the assigned readings for this course without paying anything. There are multiple OER resources used during this course. All readings are provided on Canvas as PDF files that you can download, print, and/or read online.

Dr. Bailey's Website

Additional instructional materials are provided for you on Dr. Bailey's website (link below). Use of Dr. Bailey's website is not required but is highly recommended for students seeking additional instruction or assistance with the course material.

<https://daniellebaileyphd.com/>



Course Assignments

Article Annotations

Each week, you will locate a scholarly or professional source related to the module topic and your assigned offender profile. You may use generative AI tools to assist with summarization and organization, but you remain responsible for critically evaluating and verifying all information. You will submit a physically annotated copy of the article demonstrating your personal engagement with the material.

Case Analysis Video Exam

For your final assessment, you will complete an individual case analysis involving a fictional correctional scenario. Using concepts from across the semester, you will identify correctional concerns, policy implications, reentry barriers, ethical considerations, and evidence-based intervention strategies relevant to the case. Final videos will be created and submitted via Canvas Quizzes.

Prisoner Case Study

Throughout the semester, you will work in a small team analyzing a fictional offender profile situated within a realistic correctional setting. Each week, your team will apply course concepts and empirical research to evaluate how contemporary correctional systems influence your assigned offender's experiences and outcomes. Throughout the semester, you will rotate collaborative roles to serve once each as Presenter, Discussion Coordinator, Recorder, and Debrief Writer.

Case Presentations

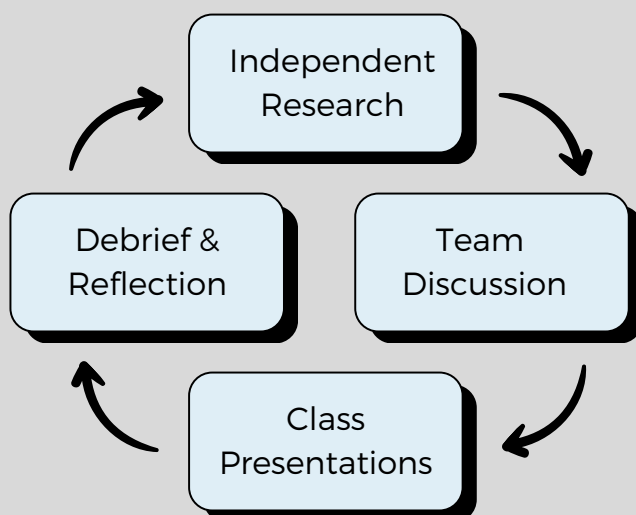
Presenters will deliver a brief 3-5 minute summary explaining how the week's topic affects their offender's correctional experiences, risks, opportunities, and outcomes. Presentations should incorporate empirical research, correctional policy considerations, and evidence-based practices discussed during the week.

Case Debrief

Following each class session, Debrief Writers will submit a brief summary of their team's discussion and findings. Debriefs should identify major research findings, explain how the week's topic affects the assigned offender, discuss relevant policy issues, and highlight any evidence-based interventions or reforms supported by the literature. You are expected to review other teams' debriefs throughout the semester to compare offender experiences across correctional contexts.

Participation and Team Engagement

Because this course relies heavily on discussion and applied case analysis, your active participation and collaboration are essential. You are expected to contribute meaningfully to weekly discussions and case study exercises throughout the semester.



GRADES

Assignments

Weekly Article Annotations	20%
Case Presentation	15%
Case Debrief	15%
Participation & Team Engagement	25%
Case Analysis Video Exam	25%

Total

100%

Standardized Performance Scale

Most assignments in this course are graded using a standardized performance scale. Instead of earning points for individual components, your work will be evaluated based on the overall quality, completeness, professionalism, critical analysis, and engagement demonstrated in the assignment.

Performance Description	Letter Grade
Exceeds Expectations	A+
Meets Expectations	A
Approaching Expectation	B
Needs Improvement	C
Does Not Meet Expectations	D
Unacceptable Submission	F
Not Submitted	Missing

Final Course Grades

Final course grades are assigned using the standard grading scale below.

A = 90 - 100% B = 80 - 89% C = 70 - 79%
D = 60 - 69% F = < 60%



Late Assignments

As graduate students, I believe you are capable of managing your time and meeting deadlines. However, I also recognize that many of you are balancing careers, families, and other responsibilities. To provide some flexibility, each student may submit one assignment late during the semester without penalty. Because timely feedback is important to your learning, late assignments may not receive the same quality or quantity of feedback as work submitted on time.

My Response Time

I try to respond to all emails and voicemails within one business day. I do not regularly check emails on weekends, holidays, and school breaks, so response time may be longer at these times. I try to grade all assignments, activities, and exams within two weeks of the due date. Much of the time you will be able to see grades sooner than the times listed. However, there are times when it takes longer to grade assignments, so please be patient if you do not see your grades immediately.

Open Office Hours

I hold Open Office Hours on campus and virtually during the summer semester. During office hours, I can go over assignments, discuss quizzes/exams, and answer any questions about course material. If you would like to meet with me outside of my scheduled office hours, please email me for an appointment. I am available to meet in my campus office (CAS 135A) or virtually in my personal Zoom room.

Class Attendance

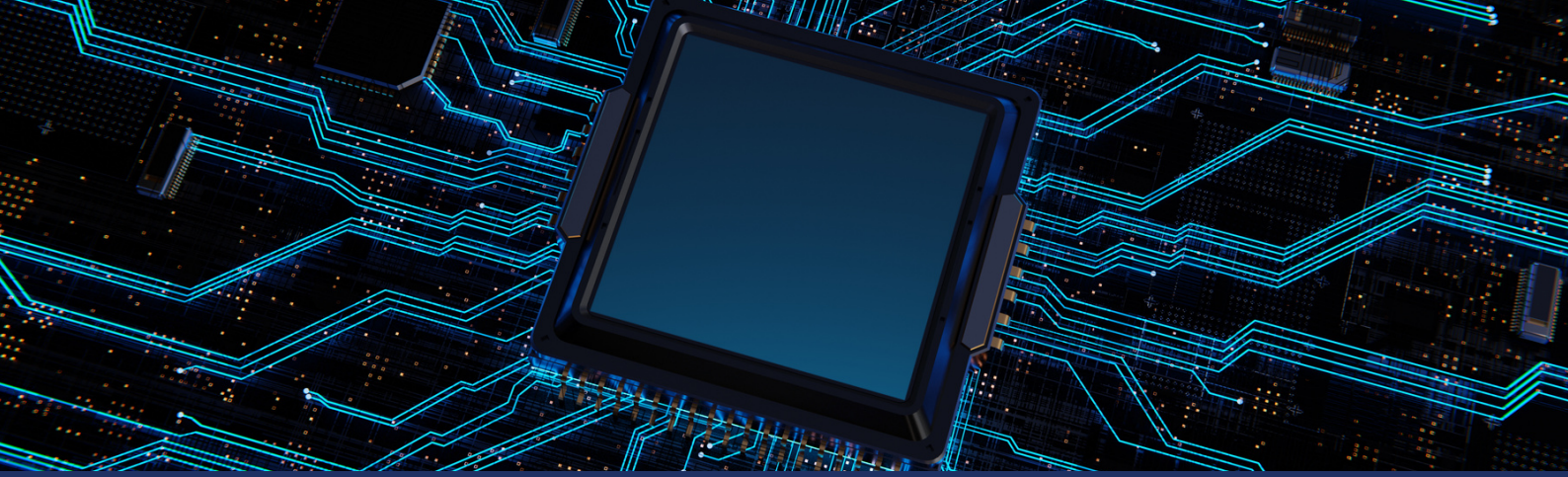
This course is taught as a live, graduate-level seminar, not a self-paced online course. Every class period, we will be engaged in discussion, collaboration, and Prisoner Case Study activities. Attendance and active participation are expected at every scheduled Zoom class meeting. Students should come to class prepared to contribute to discussion and keep their cameras on to promote meaningful engagement with classmates.

Due to the accelerated five-week format, missing a single class is equivalent to missing several weeks of instruction in a traditional semester. If an emergency or unavoidable circumstance prevents you from attending class, please notify me as soon as possible. When appropriate, alternative or makeup work may be assigned on a case-by-case basis.

I'm Here to Help You Succeed



During the course, if you experience any situation that impacts your physical, mental, or emotional health, please reach out to me by email. My goal is to help you be successful in the course, so I am happy to discuss alternative options if it becomes necessary.



Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policies

UT Tyler's AI 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.

Dr. Bailey's AI Policy

In this course, I encourage you to use generative artificial intelligence (genAI) tools, such as ChatGPT, Microsoft Copilot, or similar programs, to support your learning. AI can be a valuable tool for generating ideas, improving organization, clarifying difficult concepts, and strengthening your understanding of course material.

Most importantly, AI should support your learning, not replace it. You are responsible for evaluating the accuracy and appropriateness of any AI-generated information, verifying it against credible sources, and ensuring that all submitted work reflects your own critical thinking and professional judgment. You must also follow UT Tyler's Honor Code and uphold the highest standards of academic integrity.

If genAI makes a substantive contribution to a written assignment, you must acknowledge its use using current APA guidelines. Work that relies on genAI in place of your own learning, or submissions that include inaccurate, unsupported, or hallucinated content will not receive full credit, and may be subject to further sanctions through UT Tyler's Office of Student Conduct and Intervention.

Citing AI Sources

You must acknowledge your use of Artificial Intelligence programs in your written work using proper APA format. See below.

In-text citation
(Copilot, 2024)

Reference citation
Copilot. (2024). Microsoft Copilot (Sep 1 version) [Large language model].
<https://copilot.microsoft.com/>

Learn more about APA format and AI sources: [How to cite ChatGPT](#)

CLASS SCHEDULE



1

Foundations of Corrections

- Class Introduction
- Prisoner Case Study Team Selection

Institutional Corrections

- Video Lecture
- Article Annotations
- Case Presentations
- Case Debriefs

2

3

Community Corrections & Prisoner Reentry

- Video Lecture
- Article Annotations
- Case Presentations
- Case Debriefs

Special Populations in Corrections

- Video Lecture
- Article Annotations
- Case Presentations
- Case Debriefs

4

5

Correctional Careers and Future Challenges

- Video Lecture
- Article Annotations
- Case Presentations
- Case Debriefs
- Case Analysis Video Exam