



MCKENDREE UNIVERSITY

COURSE NUMBER AND COURSE TITLE

SOC 235: Corrections

COURSE DESCRIPTION & PREREQUISITES

Examination and analysis of contemporary correctional systems. Consideration will be given to such issues as the goals of incarceration, prisoners' rights, prison violence, treatment and rehabilitation programs, and parole.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. describe historical and societal issues that frame our contemporary experience of corrections;
2. examine the current state of correctional practices at the local level;
3. discuss the development, structure, and methods of institutional corrections;
4. examine a number of cutting edge issues and trends that are at the forefront of correctional discussions.

REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS

Clear, Todd R., *et al.* (2017). *American Corrections In Brief*. Boston, MA: Cengage Learning.

(Other readings, videos, or materials may be posted on Blackboard).

HOW TO SUCCEED IN THIS COURSE

P F P E – Be Present. Be Focused. Be Prepared. Be Engaged. The policies in this syllabus exist to support your success in this course.

Research shows the variable that most strongly predicts student success, as measured by GPA, is class *attendance*. (Credé, Roch & Kieszcznka, 2010). Or, as Woody Allen once famously said, “Eighty percent of success is showing up.” Showing up in an online class means you should:

- Sign on to Blackboard and check for announcements/updates/new material at least once a day.
- Check your email for messages from your instructor and/or classmates at least once a day.
- Read the assigned material and watch the course videos well in advance of the date that discussion board assignments are due. Give yourself time to digest the material and get questions answered, if you have any. Do *not* try to cram everything into one day!



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- Engage with your classmates on the discussion boards! Not only is this a significant part of your grade; it is also the best way to interact with, and learn from, each other.
- Stay in contact with your instructor. If you have questions about the material or an assignment – ASK!
- 2017-18 is the Year of Engagement at McKendree, so here is a reminder to stay engaged:



E N G A G E M E N T

You should also know that students have access to a number of free services designed to help them succeed in college while maintaining a healthy lifestyle. The Academic Success Center offers tutoring and individualized academic guidance; the Writing Center offers assistance with all steps in the writing process; and Health Services provides confidential counseling for students who need assistance with personal stress, problematic behaviors, or mental health concerns.

EVALUATION METHODS

Discussion Boards

Each chapter of the text will have a corresponding discussion board question on Blackboard. You will be required to answer the question *and* make a substantive response to at least two other students' answers. In



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total, your discussion board posts will comprise 30% of your final grade in this course. The rubric used to grade your discussion board posts will be available on Blackboard under the Course Documents link.

Non-Cumulative Exams

There will be a total of four non-cumulative exams in this course. They will correspond with the modules in Blackboard. Each will be worth 15% of your final grade in this course.

Corrections Paper

You will be required to write one 5-8 page APA-style paper that describes a real correctional institution or program near you. More specific instructions regarding this assignment, along with the rubric that will be used to grade it, can be found in Blackboard under the Corrections Paper link. This assignment will be worth 10% of your final grade in this course.

GRADING INFORMATION

Assignment Title	Percentage of Final Grade
Discussion Boards	30%
Exam 1	15%
Exam 2	15%
Exam 3	15%
Exam 4	15%
Corrections Paper	10%
TOTAL	100%

GRADING SCALE

93-100%	A	77-80%	C+
90-93%	A-	74-77%	C
87-89%	B+	70-73%	C-
84-87%	B	60-69%	D
80-83%	B-	0-59%	F

POLICY ON LATE WORK

No late assignments will be accepted. No work will be accepted after the course ends unless an incomplete has been granted.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY



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Any student detected of academic dishonesty will receive the appropriate sanctions, which can include a failing grade (“F”) for the course. In cases of serious violations, additional sanctions (such as academic probation or suspension) are possible.

ACCOMODATIONS AND ADA POLICY

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), McKendree University provides services, auxiliary aides, and accommodations to meet the unique learning needs of students with disabilities.

Students with officially documented disabilities, medical needs, legal problems, or who are the victims of crimes may qualify for educational accommodations. A student requiring assistance should contact the McKendree Student Success and Advising Center (SSAC). The SSAC provides coordination and implementation of special accommodations for students with documented disabilities. Students requiring accommodations for other issues should contact their instructor, Student Affairs, or Health Services.

For further information regarding university or course policies, please consult with your instructor and/or refer to the catalog.

EMAIL

Every student is issued a McKendree email account, which is one of the major means of communication from offices such as the Office of Academic Records, Student Affairs and the Business Office. All students are responsible for checking their McKendree email accounts regularly and are accountable for information disseminated to their email accounts. Failure to read university communications sent to McKendree email accounts does not absolve students from knowing and complying with the content of these communications.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT

Situated in the lower level of the Piper Academic Center, the Information Technology Department and HelpDesk office hours are Monday – Friday from 6:00 am to 5:00 pm. Support is also available via email at helpdesk@mckendree.edu or by phone (618)537-6445. Information Technology provides a variety of services to students. These services include login assistance, student ID cards, computer and mobile device support, e-mail assistance, on campus internet services, which includes on campus wireless access and more. Please visit support.mckendree.edu for a full list of IT services provided by the McKendree Information Technology Department.

HOLMAN LIBRARY



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Holman Library, completed in 1969, houses a collection of books, periodicals, government documents, and audiovisual equipment and materials that are available to all students for check-out or for in-library use. The library also provides ample space for students to study, including individual study carrels and group study rooms. The library also offers a Mac computer lab, scanners, and collaborative workstations. In addition to the materials available in the library, other resources can be accessed via interlibrary loan. The library belongs to the CARLI consortium, which allows you to request items through many academic libraries throughout the state of Illinois. We also offer interlibrary loan services for journal articles. The library staff is always available to assist you in locating materials, and staff members can also help you get started on research for papers and projects.



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COURSE SCHEDULE

Module (Weeks)	Dates	Topic (Chapters)	Assignments	Due Dates	
				Answer	2 Responses
Module 1 (Weeks 1-2)		Part 1: The Correctional Context (Chapters 1-2)	Discussion Board Chapter 1		
			Discussion Board Chapter 2		
			Exam 1		
Module 2 (Weeks 3-4)		Part 2: Corrections in the Community (Chapters 3-5)	Discussion Board Chapter 3		
			Discussion Board Chapter 4		
			Discussion Board Chapter 5		
			Exam 2		
Module 3 (Weeks 5-6)		Part 3: Institutional Corrections (Chapters 6-9)	Discussion Board Chapter 6		
			Discussion Board Chapter 7		
			Discussion Board Chapter 8		
			Discussion Board Chapter 9		
			Exam 3		
Module 4 (Weeks 7-8)		Part 4: Correctional Issues (Chapters 10- 13)	Discussion Board Chapter 10		
			Discussion Board Chapter 11		
			Discussion Board Chapter 12		
			NO Discussion Board Chapter 13		
			Exam 4		
Other			Corrections Paper		

If necessary, adjustments to the Grading Information and/or Course Schedule may occur.