

**47:202:204**

**Corrections**

**Spring 2025**

**Mondays from 10:00 am to 11:20 am**

**Center for Urban & Public Service CPS (CPS-105)**

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**Mondays from 10:00 am to 11:20 am**

**Center for Urban & Public Service CPS (CPS-105)**

**Instructor Information**

**Instructor:** Fabian Armilla

**Email/Teams:** Fa203@scj.rutgers.edu

**Office Hours:** By arrangement in person or via Zoom.

**Course Overview**

This course provides a general overview of the theory and practice of legal punishment in the United States. It documents the evolution of correctional institutions and correctional systems including interactions between corrections and other components of State/Federal criminal justice systems (i.e., Courts, Police, State legislatures). This course also explores theories on the various uses and functions of punishment, as well as approaches to prisoner management within and beyond prison walls (i.e., jails, parole, community corrections) with an emphasis on social, political and economic dilemmas associated with mass incarceration and prisoner reentry.

**Course Structure**

This course meets weekly on Mondays & Wednesdays mornings from 10:00 am to 11:20 am. If we need to switch to remote learning anytime during the semester, we will continue to meet at the same time via Zoom.

**Course Introduction and Goals**

After this semester, students will gain a comprehensive understanding of the history and development of the corrections system. They will become familiar with the different types of correctional facilities, practices, and rehabilitation strategies used to manage offenders. Students will learn about the philosophies behind punishment, sentencing, and parole, as well as the key theoretical frameworks that guide modern correctional practices. In addition, students will explore the intersection of corrections with broader societal issues, including race, gender, and socio-economic factors. By the end of the course, students will be able to critically analyze current correctional policies and practices, and understand how they shape public opinion and influence legislative decisions.

**Program Level Goal**

Understand and articulate the key theories in corrections, including the nature and causes of criminal behavior, classification of offenders, crime typologies, and the impact on victims.

**Student learning outcomes and instruments of assessment**

1. Explain the origins and evolution of the corrections system.
2. Distinguish between different types of correctional data and measurement methods.
3. Compare and contrast various correctional theories and practices.
4. Analyze the public policy implications of different correctional philosophies and strategies.
5. Identify and categorize offenders based on crime typologies and classifications used in corrections.
6. Write a policy memo addressing current issues in the corrections field, with recommendations for reform or improvement.

**Required Text**

**Corrections Today**

Rimonda R. Maroun, Larry J. Siegel, Clemens Bartollas,

5th Edition

ISBN: 978-0-357-76350-6

Publisher: Cengage Learning, 2024

**Course Schedule**

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| **Class** | **TOPIC** | **ASSIGNMENT** |
| **Class# 1**  Wednesday- 1/22/25    **Class# 2**  Monday -01/27/2025 | **Introduction &**  **Syllabus**  Introduction  and Course Overview.  **Part 1.**  **The Correctional System:**  **How and Why We Correct** | **None**  **Ch.1**  **The Correctional System** |
| **Class# 3**  Wednesday- 01/29/25  **Class# 4**  Monday- 02/03/25 | **Chapter 1.**  **Chapter 2: Sentencing and the Correctional Process** | **Chapter 1. Continued**  **Chapter 2.** |
| **Class# 5**  Wednesday 02/05/25  **Class# 6**  Monday- 2/10/25 | **Chapter 2. Continued**  **Chapter 3: Community Corrections; diversion and Probation** | **Chapter 2. Continued**  **Part2: Types of Correctional Sanctions** |
| **Class# 7**  Wednesday- 2/12/25  **Class# 8**  Monday- 2/17/25 | **Chapter 3. Continued**  **Chapter 4: Intermediate Sanctions** | **Chapter 3. Continued**  **Chapter 4** |
| **Class# 9**  Wednesday- 2/19/25  **Class# 10**  Monday- 2/24/25 | **Chapter 4 Continued:**  **Chapter 5**  **Jails and Houses of Correction** |  |
| **Class# 11**  Wednesday- 02/26/25  **Class# 12**  Monday-3/03/25 | **Chapter 5 Continued**  **Chapter 6: Prisons** | **Chapter 5**  **Chapter 6** |
| **Class# 13**  Wednesday-03/05/25  **Class # 14**  Monday- 3/10/25 | **Chapter 6 continued**  **Chapter 7: The Prison Experience: Gendered Perspectives** | **Part 3: Living in and leaving the correctional institution** |
| **Class #15**  Wednesday-3/12/25  **Class #16**  Monday-3/17/25 | **Chapter 7 Continued**  **NO CLASS – Spring Break** |  |
| **Class # 17**  Wednesday- 3/19/25  **Class #18**  Monday- 3/24/25 | **NO CLASS – Spring Break**  **Midterm Review:** | Via Zoom |
| **Class #19**  Wednesday- 3/26/25  **Class # 20**  Monday- 3/31/25 | **Midterm via Canvas.**  **No class. Have until end of day to complete it.**  **Chapter 8: Prisoners’ Rights** | **No class**  **Chapter 8** |
| **Class # 21**  Wednesday- 4/02/25  **Class # 22**  Monday-4/07/25 | **Chapter 8 continued**  **Chapter 9. Correctional Programs and Services** |  |
| **Class # 23**  Wednesday-4/09/25  **Class # 24**  Monday-4/14/25 | **Chapter 9 continued**  **Chapter 10**  **Parole and Release to the Community** |  |
| **Class # 25**  Wednesday-04/16/25  **Class # 26**  Monday-04/21/25 | **Chapter 10 Continued**  **Chapter 11**  **Special Prison Populations** | **Part 4: Unique Problems and Issues in Corrections** |
| **Class #27**  Wednesday-04/23/25  **Class #28**  Monday-04/28/25 | **Chapter 11 continued**  **Chapter 12. Capital Punishment and Death Row** |  |
| **Class # 29**  Wednesday- 04/30/25  **Class #30**  Monday-05/05/25 | **Chapter 12 continued**  **Chapter 13. The Juvenile Offender** |  |
| **Class #31**  Wednesday-05/07/25  **Class #32**  Monday-05/12/25 | **Chapter 13.**  **Final Via Canvas** | **Last Day of Class**  **No Class** |

## Grading

The following grading system will be used for this course:

* Attendance 5%
* Criminology Paper 25 %
* Quizzes 40 %
* Midterm Exam 15 %
* Final Exam 15 %

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**Total** 100 %

The following scale will be used to determine the final letter grade of this course:

A Outstanding 90 – 100%

B+ 85 – 89%

B Good 80 – 84%

C+ 75 – 79%

C Satisfactory 70 – 74%

D 60 – 69%

F Failing < 60%

**Attendance 5%**

According to Rutgers University regulations, attendance is expected at all regularly scheduled course meetings. Attendance for this course counts for 5% of your final grade. **Four (4) missed classes will result in a drop of one entire grade.** **Six (6) missed classes will result in course failure.** Two tardiness amounts to one absence.

**Quizzes (40%)**

It will cover assigned readings, class lectures, and videos. Keeping up with the assigned readings is essential, as most quiz questions will be derived from them. Students must arrive on time for the quiz to be able to take the exam. The quizzes will consist of 10 questions administered weekly throughout the semester. The professor will drop the two lowest quiz grades at the end of the semester.

**Mid-term Exam (15%)**

This course will measure knowledge of the outlined topic areas by administering a mid-term exam. The exam will combine multiple-choice, true or false, and matching based on course lectures and assigned readings.

**Final Exam (15%)**

This course will measure knowledge of the outlined topic areas by administering a mid-term exam. The exam will combine multiple-choice, true or false, and matching based on course lectures and assigned readings.

**Corrections Paper 25%**

Your paper will focus on a topic in the American Corrections system from the list below. The paper should be five pages long, double-spaced, and formatted using APA style. Use 12-point Times New Roman font. You must use at least three sources, one of which must be from a peer-reviewed journal. Your paper must be uploaded to CANVAS in PDF or Microsoft Word format. Submissions via email or paper will not be accepted.

**The following topics are available for your paper:**

 **How Incarceration Affects Mental Health**  
Explore how being in prison can impact a person's mental well-being and why mental health care is important for inmates.

 **Do Rehab Programs Really Help Reduce Reoffending?**  
Look into whether programs designed to help prisoners change their behavior are successful in keeping them from committing crimes again.

 **What is Restorative Justice?**  
Research how restorative justice (focusing on repairing harm rather than punishment) works in prisons and if it helps reduce reoffending.

 **Is Solitary Confinement Too Harsh?**  
Discuss the effects of solitary confinement on prisoners and whether it should be used less often.

 **Should Prisons Be Run by Private Companies?**  
Analyze the pros and cons of having private companies manage prisons instead of the government.

 **How Do Men and Women Experience Prison Differently?**  
Look at the different needs of male and female prisoners and how correctional programs can be tailored for each gender.

 **What Are the Solutions to Prison Overcrowding?**  
Discuss the problem of overcrowded prisons and possible ways to reduce the number of people in prison.

 **Racial Disparities in Prisons: Why Do They Exist?**  
Examine why there are racial differences in who ends up in prison and how the system can address these inequalities.

 **Do Education Programs in Prison Work?**  
Research whether education programs in prisons help reduce the chance of inmates committing crimes again once they are released.

 **Alternatives to Jail for Non-Violent Offenders**  
Discuss alternatives like community service or probation for people who commit non-violent crimes, and whether they are effective.

 **How Effective Are Parole and Probation in Preventing Recidivism?**  
Analyze whether parole (early release under supervision) and probation (supervised release instead of jail) work to stop people from reoffending.

**General Information (School of Criminal Justice and University)**

**Academic Integrity**

As a member of the Rutgers University community, you are not to engage in any academic dishonesty. You are responsible for adhering to basic academic standards of honesty and integrity as outlined in the Rutgers University Policy on Academic Integrity for Undergraduate and Graduate Students <http://studentconduct.rutgers.edu/academic-integrity>

Your academic work should be the result of your individual effort, you should not allow other students to use your work, and you are required to recognize and reference any material that is not yours. Violations of the university’s policy will result in appropriate action.

**COVID-19 Protocol**

Please keep updated with all university COVID-19 related information at RU-N’s Operating Status page located at [https://www.newark.rutgers.edu/covid-19-operating-status.](https://www.newark.rutgers.edu/covid-19-operating-status) You can also access the University-wide COVID 19 page at [https://coronavirus.rutgers.edu/.](https://coronavirus.rutgers.edu/)

Student support related to COVID 19 information can be found at [https://myrun.newark.rutgers.edu/.](https://myrun.newark.rutgers.edu/)

COVID 19 and health related questions can be sent to student-wellness@newark.rutgers.edu.

**Accommodation and Support Statement**

Rutgers University Newark (RU-N) is committed to the creation of an inclusive and safe learning environment for all students and the University as a whole. RU-N has identified the following resources to further the mission of access and support:

**For Individuals Experiencing Disability:** The Office of Disability Services (ODS) works with students with medical, physical, and/or mental conditions who encounter disabling barriers in order to determine reasonable and appropriate accommodations for access. Students who have completed the process with ODS and have approved accommodations are provided a Letter of Accommodation (LOA) specific to each course. To initiate accommodations for their course students must both provide the LOA to and have a conversation with the course instructor about the accommodations. This should occur as early in the semester as possible. More information can be found at the [RU-N ODS website (ods.newark.rutgers.edu).](https://ods.newark.rutgers.edu/) Contact ODS at (973) 3535375 or via email at ods@newark.rutgers.edu.

**For Individuals who are Pregnant**: The Office of Title IX and ADA Compliance is available to assist with any concerns or potential accommodations related to pregnancy. Students may contact the Office of Title IX and ADA Compliance at (973) 353-1906 or via email at TitleIX@newark.rutgers.edu.

**For Short-term Absence Verification:**  The Office of the Dean of Students can provide assistance for absences related to religious observance, emergency or unavoidable conflict (illness, personal or family emergency, etc.). Students should refer to [University Policy 10.2.7](https://policies.rutgers.edu/1027-currentpdf) for information about expectations and responsibilities. The Office of the Dean of Students can be contacted by calling (973) 353-5063 or emailing deanofstudents@newark.rutgers.edu.

**For Individuals with temporary conditions/injuries:** The Office of the Dean of Students can assist students who are experiencing a temporary condition or injury (broken or sprained limbs, concussions, or recovery from surgery). Students experiencing a temporary condition or injury should submit a request using the following link: [https://temporaryconditions.rutgers.edu.](https://temporaryconditions.rutgers.edu/)

**For Gender or Sex-Based Discrimination or Harassment:** The Office of Title IX and ADA Compliance can assist students who are experiencing any form of gender or sex-based discrimination or harassment, including sexual assault, sexual harassment, relationship violence, or stalking. Students can report an incident to the Office of Title IX and ADA Compliance by calling (973) 353-1906 or emailing TitleIX@newark.rutgers.edu. Incidents may also be reported by using the following link: tinyurl.com/RUNReportingForm. For more information, students should refer to the University’s Title IX Policy and Grievance Procedures located at <https://uec.rutgers.edu/wp-content/uploads/60-1-33-current-1.pdf>

**For support related to Interpersonal Violence:** The Office for Violence Prevention and Victim Assistance (VPVA) can provide any student with confidential support. The office does **not** have a reporting obligation to Title IX. Students can contact the office by calling (973) 353-1918 or emailing run.vpva@rutgers.edu. There is also a confidential text-based helpline available to students; students can text (973) 339-0734 for support. Students do not need to be a victim/survivor of violence; any student can receive services, information and support.

**For Crisis and Concerns:** The Campus Awareness Response and Education (CARE) Team works with students in crisis to develop a plan of support plan and address personal situations that might impact their academic performance. Connect with the CARE Team by using the following link: [tinyurl.com/RUNCARE](https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?RutgersUniv&layout_id=11) or emailing careteam@rutgers.edu.

**For Stress, Worry, or Concerns about Well-being:** The Counseling Center has confidential therapists available to support students. Students should reach out to the Counseling Center to schedule an appointment:counseling@newark.rutgers.edu or (973) 353-5805. If students are not quite ready to make an appointment with a therapist but are interested in self-help, check out *Sanvello* for an easy, web-based approach to self-care and support. Visit [https://my.rutgers.edu/,](https://my.rutgers.edu/) click on Sanvello: Wellness @ RUN, and log in with your netid to begin your journey toward wellness.

For emergencies, call 911 or contact Rutgers University Police Department (RUPD) by calling (973) 353-5111.