



Syllabus

Lamar University, a Member of The Texas State University System, is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools to award Associate, Baccalaureate, Masters, and Doctorate degrees (more details at <http://www.lamar.edu>).

Department:	Sociology, Social Work and Criminal Justice
Course Number:	CRIJ 3380
Course Title:	Correctional Law
Faculty:	Ahmet Guler, PhD.
Contact Information:	aguler@lamar.edu
Office:	MAES 82
Office Hours:	11:30-1:30 (Monday/Wednesday/Friday) and by appointment.

Personal Introduction

Welcome to CRIJ 3380, Correctional Law. My name is Ahmet Guler, and I will be your instructor of record for this course. By way of a very brief introduction, I earned my doctoral degree from State University of New York (SUNY). I joined the faculty at Lamar in 2017 and I am currently an assistant professor for the Department of Sociology, Social Work and Criminal Justice in the College of Arts and Science.

Course Description

What separates the United States, and other democracies, from totalitarian nations is that our leaders must follow the rule of law just like the rest of us. This rule of law is also what makes our correctional systems different from those in many other countries- correctional workers are guided by laws, whether it be statutory or common law, and not by the political influences and impulses of government leaders. However, these laws are not set in stone, they are constantly changing based on court decisions and the public's view of decency. This course will take a look at the evolution of correctional law, where it is today, and look at where it might be headed.

Course Objectives and Student Learning Outcomes

Students who successfully complete this course will be able:

- List the four components of the U.S. Criminal Justice System
- Describe the three most common suits filed by inmates
- Explain the rights inmates have under the 1st, 4th, 5th, 8th and 14th Amendments, and how these rights can be limited or restricted
- Identify sources of inmate rights, other than the U.S. Constitution
- Explain the similarities and differences between probation and parole, and prisons and jails
- Describe special considerations given to juveniles and young offenders
- Discuss the pros and cons of the privatization of prisons
- Identify rights that can be lost if convicted of a felony

Academic Prerequisites

Admission to Lamar University.

Technology Prerequisites

Students are not required to have advanced technology training or skills in order to be successful in the class. They should, however, feel confident about their ability to navigate through typical online websites and their ability to use common word processing software in order to submit written assignments. The minimum technical skills and the system requirements for this course:

System Requirements

Computer/Technology Requirements

1. Students will need regular access to a computer with a broadband Internet connection. The minimum computer requirements are:
 - Any current Flash-compliant browser (recent versions of Firefox or Safari)
 - Please note that Blackboard may not support Internet Explorer or Chrome.
 - 512 MB of RAM, 1 GB or more preferred
 - Broadband connection (cable modem, DSL, or other high speed) required – courses are heavily video intensive
 - Video display capable of high-color 16-bit display – 1024 x 768 or higher resolution
 - A sound card and speakers or headphones
 - Current anti-virus software must be installed and kept up to date.
 - Students will need some additional free software for enhanced web browsing. Be certain to download the free versions of the software.
 - Adobe Reader
 - Adobe Flash Player
 - Most home computers purchased within the last 3-4 years meet or surpass these requirements.
2. At a minimum, students must have Microsoft Office 2003, XP, 2007 or OpenOffice, or Student Office for Mac. Microsoft Office is the standard office productivity software utilized by faculty, students, and staff. Microsoft Word is the standard word processing software, Microsoft Excel is the standard spreadsheet software, and Microsoft

PowerPoint is the standard presentation software. Copying and pasting, along with attaching/uploading documents for assignment submission will also be required. If you do not have Microsoft Office or Student Office for Mac, you can check with the bookstore to see if they have any student copies.

3. **Your computer must be compatible with Blackboard.** Please see the [Blackboard Supported Browsers and Operating System](#) page to make sure your system will allow you to use all the tools and features available.

Technology Skills Requirements

You need to be able to:

- Navigate websites, including downloading and reading files from them.
- Download and install software or plug-ins such as Adobe Reader, Window Media Player or Flash.
- Use e-mail, including attaching and downloading documents/files from e-mail.
- Save files in commonly used word processing formats (.doc, .docx, .rtf).
- Copy and paste text and other items in computer documents.
- Save and retrieve documents and files on your computer.
- Locate information on the Internet using search engines.
- Locate information in the library using the online catalog.

Course Materials

Required Electronic Course Materials

Access to Course Blackboard page.

Required Text

Cripe, Clair A., *Legal Aspects of Corrections Management*, 3rd Ed. (2013).

Suggested Text

Collins, William C., *Correctional Law for the Correctional Officer*, 5th Ed. (2010)

Students with Disabilities

It is the policy of Lamar University to accommodate students with disabilities, pursuant to federal and state law. Should you need accommodation, visit the Disability Resource Center website at <http://www.lamar.edu/disability-resource-center/> or call the office by dialing (409)-880-8347. Also know that I will assist in whatever way I can to ensure that this course supports the university's commitment to equal education opportunities.

For students with disabilities, this course will comply with all accommodations prescribed by the Lamar University Office of Services for Students with Disabilities. **It is the responsibility of the student to insure that the instructor has been informed of all prescribed accommodations.** Lamar University's Office of Services for Students with Disabilities offers a variety of services designed to provide for students with disabilities and can be contacted at (409) 880-8363.

The Office of Services for Students with Disabilities (SFSWD) offers a variety of services designed to assure students with disabilities equal access to the university's activities, programs and services. Some of the services provided include academic accommodations, assistive equipment, communication access service providers, note-takers, physical access and priority registration. Documentation of a disability from a professional in the field is required to receive services.

Students with disabilities should notify the director of SFSWD prior to registration in any university program. The director will arrange a meeting with the student to determine reasonable academic adjustments/accommodations. The Office of Services for Students with Disabilities is located in 105 Communication Building. Students may write to P.O. Box 10087, Beaumont, Texas 77710, call 409.880.8347, fax 409.880.2225 or e-mail SFSWD@lamar.edu. Additional information is available at the SFSWD web site, <http://dept.lamar.edu/sfswd>.

Academic Integrity Statement

Lamar University expects all students to engage in academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in their academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action. Disciplinary proceedings may be initiated against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work which is to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion, and the abuse of resource materials.

Plagiarism shall mean the appropriation of another's work or idea and the unacknowledged incorporation of that work or idea into one's own work offered for credit.

Collusion shall mean the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing work offered for credit.

Abuse of resource materials shall mean the mutilation, destruction, concealment, theft or alteration of materials provided to assist students in the mastery of course materials.

Academic work shall mean the preparation of an essay, report, problem, assignment, creative work or other project that the student submits as a course requirement or for a grade.

Students are specifically warned against all forms of plagiarism, which include "purchasing, or otherwise acquiring and submitting as one's own work any research paper or other writing assignment prepared by an individual or firm." Plagiarism is defined as, "the appropriation and the unacknowledged incorporation of another's work or ideas into one's own offered for credit" (82). Students seeking to avoid plagiarism should consult either the course instructor or the most recent addition of the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*. The course instructor will complete a thorough and impartial investigation of any instance of academic dishonesty. A student found guilty of academic dishonesty will be notified in writing by the instructor of the violation, the penalty, and the student's right to appeal the determination of dishonesty and/or the sanction imposed. Penalties for academic dishonesty in this course will result in either a lowered letter grade or failure of the course as determined by the instructor.

Copyright Policy Statement

Copyright is defined as the ownership and control of the intellectual property in original works of authorship which are subject to copyright law. As an institution of higher learning that values intellectual integrity, Lamar University prohibits the distribution of published materials (print or electronic) in violation of copyright law.

Netiquette (Online Etiquette) Statement

Please adhere to the same standards of behavior and professional respect online that you would follow in face-to-face communication with others, but most particularly when writing email and when taking part in collaborative and discussion board activities. Lamar provides access to network resources, including the Internet, in order to support learning and to prepare students for the 21st century world. Students, however, are expected to adhere to the *Lamar University Acceptable Use Policies when Using Networks*

- **Acceptable Use**

Students must respect the integrity and security of LU's computer systems and network, and the privacy and preferences of other users. Responsibility for learning about and complying with LU's Acceptable Use Policy ultimately rests with the individual. The network may be used to download, copy, or store any software, shareware, digital media files or freeware, as long as the use complies with copyright law; licensing agreements, and campus policies such as storage space limitations and network bandwidth restrictions. The network may not be used for any activity, or to transmit any material, that violates United States or local laws.

- **Unacceptable use**

The network may not be used for commercial purposes. Advertising and sponsorships on UW web sites is restricted. In addition, students may not permit other persons to use their usernames, passwords, accounts or disk space, or disclose their usernames, passwords or account information to any third party. Students may not log on to someone else's account, internet address, or other network codes, or attempt to access another user's files. Students may not create false or dummy accounts to impersonate someone else. Students may not try to gain unauthorized access ("hacking") to the files or computer systems of any other person or organization. Students may not impersonate another person by forging e-mail, web pages or other electronic media. Students who maliciously access, alter, delete, damage or destroy any computer system, computer network, computer program, or data will be subject to disciplinary action by LU, and criminal prosecution as well. Students may not disrupt or attempt to disrupt network traffic, and they may not attempt to monitor or capture network traffic in any way. Finally, students may not intentionally create, store, display, print or transmit information that violates the university's Sexual Harassment Policy.

General Guidelines to Respect All Participants

- Respect the right of each person to disagree with others.
- Treat people the same as you would face-to-face.
- Respect the time of others

Guidelines When Communicating with Others (email, discussion, blogging, and etc.)

- Always sign your names to any contribution you choose to make.
- Be constructive in your responses to others in the class.
- Do not use all caps. (Doing so may be interpreted as shouting)
- Re-read your postings before sending them.
- Always think before you write.
- Respond respectfully.
- Use appropriate grammar and structure.
- Spell-check your postings.
- Use short paragraphs focused on one idea
- Use appropriate business language at all times

Privacy Policy Statement

Student records maintained by Lamar University comply with the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 as amended (PL93-380). Detailed information should be accessed through this link: <https://students.lamar.edu/registration/educational-records-and-student-rights.html>

Grading Policy and Evaluation

Your final grade will be based on:

1. Participation in online weekly discussions and self-evaluations
2. Four (4) application assignments
3. Three (3) quizzes
4. One (1) research paper
5. Final exam

Grading Scale:

% OF TOTAL POINTS	LETTER GRADE
90-100 %	A
80-89 %	B
70-79 %	C
60-69 %	D
59-0 %	F

Overview of assignments

Do not submit work for a grade using only the information on this syllabus. The description that follow are for general orientation only. Do not use them as instructions for an assignment. You will be given instructions for each assignment on the course homepage.

1, Participation in the online weekly discussions (15%)

Interaction with each other is a critical part of this, or any, course, online or in the classroom. We will have weekly threaded discussions where we will collaboratively explore the assigned readings. It is essential that you log into the course home page to read and engage in discussions on a regular basis, preferably daily. Your **MINIMUM** participation is **two (2)** contributions per week to each discussion post. I anticipate that each of you will be compelled to respond much more frequently than this. Most online discussions will be guided by questions or prompts, but there will also be opportunities to start your own discussions based on the course content.

You will also be graded on your participation in the self-evaluations. You will be given specific instructions on what your discussion contributions should look like. You will also receive a rubric against which your contributions will be graded in this course. Make sure to familiarize yourself with the discussion guidelines and the grading criteria.

2. Three (3) quizzes (15%)

In this course, you will take three quizzes. The quizzes will be at the end of the first three modules, in weeks 2, 4, and 6. Each quiz will contain multiple choose, and some fill-in-the-blank or short answer, questions. The quizzes are designed to help you assess your know in the course area, and prepare you for the final exam. All quizzes will be available on the first day of the week in which they are assigned, remain up until they are due.

3. Four (4) application assignments (20%)

You will complete four application assignments. These assignments will demonstrate your ability to apply the concepts discussed in this course, as well as allow me to gauge your understanding of the material. Further guidelines for each assignment are included on the course web page.

4. Research paper (20%)

Your research paper will be a **minimum of 1500 words, or approximately six to eight pages** in length, double spaced, 11-12 point font, in Times New Roman. The paper should include a title, outline, footnoted text, and a works cited page, and should be in conformity with the *APA Style Guide*. Each paper must have at least five to seven sources cited. Internet sources are acceptable if they are academic journals, online periodicals, or news reports, but a variety of sources types must be used. Papers will be due by the end of week 7. The topic of the paper can be any subject covered in this correctional law course that you choose, but each student must submit their proposal, with outline, for approval by the end of the week 4. The following topics are excluded:

- Death penalty
- Criminal court system/procedure
- Any topic not **directly** related to Corrections

5. Final exam (30%)

The final exam will be comprehensive, and will include questions based on the video lectures and the text, including vocabulary. The exam will be a combination of multiple choice, fill-in-the-blank, short answer, and essay questions. The exam will be made available beginning the final week of the course.

Drop Dates

This course adheres to the add/drop standards for each term as stated by Lamar University. For more details, refer to the [Lamar Academic Calendar](http://www.lamar.edu). If the link does not work, visit Lamar University at <http://www.lamar.edu>, and search the site with the term, “Academic Calendar.”

Course Evaluation

Instruction as well as student performance is subject to evaluation. Procedures for evaluation will be provided near the end of this course.

myLamar Portal

Students are asked to obtain a Lamar Electronic Account username and password so they can log onto the myLamar Web site. Students may get information on how to get into the myLamar Web site from the University’s homepage (<http://www.lamar.edu>) by clicking on the myLamar link on the left top corner of the screen. Follow the steps to secure your myLamar username and password. Access to library resources is described on the Academic Partnership page, also available through the <http://www.lamar.edu>.

Emergency Procedures

Many types of emergencies can occur on campus; instructions for specific emergencies such as severe weather, active shooter, or fire can be found at

[HTTP://WWW.LAMAR.EDU/ABOUT-LU/ADMINISTRATION/RISK-MANAGEMENT/INDEX.HTML](http://WWW.LAMAR.EDU/ABOUT-LU/ADMINISTRATION/RISK-MANAGEMENT/INDEX.HTML)

Severe Weather:

- Follow the directions of the instructor or emergency personnel
- Seek shelter in an interior room or hallway on the lowest floor, putting as many walls as possible between you and the outside
- If you are in a multi-story building, and you cannot get to the lowest floor, pick a hallway in the center of the building
- Stay in the center of the room, away from exterior walls, windows, and doors

Violence / Active Shooter (CADD):

- **CALL**- 9-1-1
- **AVOID**- If possible, self-evacuate to a safe area outside the building. Follow directions of police officers.
- **DENY**- Barricade the door with desk, chairs, bookcases or any items. Move to a place inside the room where you are not visible. Turn off the lights and remain quiet. Remain there until told by police it’s safe.
- **DEFEND**- Use chairs, desks, cell phones or whatever is immediately available to distract and/or defend yourself and others from attack.

Instructional Associates

The information about Instructional Associates will be provided through an email. If utilized, instructional Associates have been selected based upon their teaching experiences and accomplishments, their interest in correctional justice, and their understanding about corrections. Course activities, assignments, questions, and correspondence are to be emailed to the Instructional Associates. They are ready to help. University faculty members have ultimate responsibility for all assessments and final course grades. Each semester, faculty members will conduct random reviews of materials to ensure inter-rater reliability among all Instructional Associates.

Course Content Outline (Tentative)

Course Content and Assignments	
Week 1	<p>Welcome and Course Introduction</p> <p>Online Homework</p> <p>Students are encouraged to introduce themselves via a discussion board during the first week of the course.</p> <p>Readings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Welcome and Introduction• Course Syllabus• Text: Chapter 1- An Introduction to the Law and to the Legal Aspects of Corrections Management; pp. 1-19• Text: Chapter 2- Corrections and the Criminal Justice System; pp. 21-39• Text: Chapter 3- Habeas, Torts, and Section 1983; pp. 41-55 <p>Videos</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Welcome and Introduction• Module 1 lecture <p>Assessment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Student Introductions• Assignment #1• Discussion board
Week 2	<p>Readings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Text: Chapter 5- A General View of Prisoners' Rights Under the Constitution; pp. 71-96• Text: Chapter 6- Access to the Courts; pp. 97-113 <p>Assessment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Discussion board• Quiz #1• Self-evaluation
Week 3	<p>Readings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Text: Chapter 7- First Amendment: Inmate Mail; pp. 115-133• Text: Chapter 8- First Amendment: Inmate Association Rights and Visiting; pp. 135-152• Text: Chapter 9- First Amendment: Religion; pp. 153-175 <p>Videos</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Module 2 lecture

	<p>Assessment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assignment #2 • Discussion board
<p>Week 4</p>	<p>Readings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Text: Chapter 10- Fourth Amendment: Search and Seizure, and Privacy; pp. 177-200 • Text: Chapter 11- Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments: Due Process-Inmate Discipline; pp. 201-221 • Text: Chapter 12- Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments: Due Process-Classification, Transfers, Personal Injuries, and Property Loss; pp. 223-246 • Text: Chapter 13- Fourteenth Amendment: Equal Protection-Female Offenders and Others; pp 247-257 <p>Assessment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion board • Self-evaluation • Quiz #2 <p>Research topic and outline due for approval by professor</p>
<p>Week 5</p>	<p>Readings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Text: Chapter 14- Eighth Amendment: The Death Penalty and Other Sentencing Issues; pp. 259-274 • Text: Chapter 15- Eighth Amendment: Conditions of Confinement-Cruel and Unusual Punishment; pp. 275-306 • Text: Chapter 16- Eighth Amendment: Health Care; pp. 307-337 <p>Videos</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Module 3 lecture <p>Assessment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assignment #3 • Discussion board
<p>Week 6</p>	<p>Readings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Text: Chapter 18- Statutory and Administrative Law; pp. 371-394 • Text: Chapter 19- Federal Statutes: Equal Protection, Disabilities, and Tort Claims; pp. 395-427 <p>Assessment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion board • Quiz #3

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Self-evaluation
Week 7	<p>Readings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Text: Chapter 17- Probation and Parole, Community Corrections, and Fines; pp. 339-370 • Text: Chapter 20- Jails; pp. 429-445 • Text: Chapter 21- Juveniles and Young Offenders; 447-474 <p>Videos</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Module 4 lecture <p>Assessment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assignment #4 • Discussion board <p>Research Paper due</p>
Week 8	<p>Readings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Text: Chapter 22- Privatization Issues in Corrections; pp. 475-495 • Text: Chapter 23- Loss of Rights of Convicted Persons; pp. 497-509 • Text: Chapter 24- In Conclusion: A Postscript; pp. 511-516 <p>Assessment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion board • Self-evaluation <p>Final Comprehensive Exam – All chapters</p>