

Prepared by the Department of Social Sciences, Behavioral Sciences & Human Services

Date of Departmental Approval: February 10, 2016

Date approved by Curriculum and Programs: March 3, 2016

Effective: Fall 2016

1. **Course Number:** CRJ117

Course Title: Correctional Law

2. **Description:** This course is a survey of correctional law with emphasis on Federal and Massachusetts cases and regulation that govern the detention of prisoners, sentenced and un-sentenced. Emphasis will be placed on the balance between inmate's and detainee's rights versus the safety and security of the public. The relationship among local rules, Massachusetts Code of Regulation and Federal Regulations governing correctional facilities will be discussed.

3. **Student Learning Outcomes** (instructional objectives, intellectual skills):

Upon successful completion of this course, students are able to do the following

- Engage in critical thinking by reading, writing about and explaining the current law pertaining to those persons detained in the criminal justice corrections setting.
- Analyze dilemmas of law regarding the proper balance of rights for individuals and society as a whole.
- Develop communication skills by reading, discussing and advocating for opposing parties in legal cases.
- Demonstrate an appreciation for diversity and its role in the correctional system.
- Engage in critical thinking using logic and reason to understand and apply the law in various situations.
- Recognize moral and ethical dilemmas in the correctional setting, and devise solutions.
- Analyze constitutions, statutes and codes to determine appropriate responses.

4. **Credit(s):** 3 credits

5. **Satisfies General Education Requirement:** No

6. **Prerequisite(s):** CRJ116 (Introduction to Corrections)

7. **Semester(s) Offered:** Spring

8. **Suggested Guidelines for Evaluation:** A final grade is based on tests, research, written assignments, participation in debates and meaningful class participation that demonstrate the student learning outcomes. Evaluation includes demonstration of critical thinking and effective communication skills.

9. **General Topical Outline (Optional):**

Jails, Prisons, Penitentiaries and Houses of Correction
The Role of the U.S. Supreme Court
Hands-off/Hands-on & Inmate Rights
Inmate's Access to Courts, Attorneys & Law Libraries
First, Fourth, Eighth and Fourteenth Amendment Cases
Federal Regulations, Code of Massachusetts Regulations, Local Rules
Prison Litigation & Reform/Officer Liability/Deliberate Indifference/Immunity
Dietary, Religious, Recreational, Medical and Personal Rights
Technology in Corrections
Protective Custody and Administrative Supervision
Inmates with Disabilities/Inmates with Mental Illness
The Law of Maximum and Super-Maximum Detention
Classification Law & Conditions of Confinement
Custody, Security & Sanctions vs. Inmate Rights "Food Loaf"
Lethal and Non-Lethal Forces
Juveniles/History of Reform School
RICO/Gangs in Correctional Facilities