Department:

Criminal Justice

Course Description:

This course is an introductory study of the entire field of corrections, beginning with conviction. The course will cover the sentencing grid from the state of Kansas, including mitigating and aggravating factors, post-conviction remedies, and appeal processes. The course also examines alternatives to confinement, probation and parole practices and current trends in incarceration.

Course Competencies:

Upon completion of the course, the student should be able to:

1. Provide a summary outline of the corrections field and the criminal justice system.
2. Conduct a statistical analysis of recidivism rates, incarceration rates, demographic trends, and other factors that impact corrections.
4. State the purpose of corrections and describe the historical and political changes influencing modern day correctional practices.
5. Describe alternatives to confinement, such as probation, parole, halfway houses, and others.
6. Explain the Kansas sentencing grid and sentencing protocol.
7. Describe the procedures related to special conditions, confinement, aftercare, and revolution.

Course Content:

A. Corrections in America
B. Demographics and Population Characteristics of Americans Under Court Supervision
C. Basic Sentencing Structures
   1. Criminal history scores, PSI, credit for time served, etc.
   2. Aggravating and mitigating factors, special sentencing considerations
   3. Upward and downward departures
D. Examining Types of Punishment
   1. The 8th amendment: What is cruel and unusual punishment?
   2. Justifications and limitations on life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness
E. Prison Life and Inmate Rights
   1. Types of incarceration
   2. Classification of offenders
   3. Prison industries
F. Special Issues in Corrections
   1. Managing mentally ill inmates, gangs in prison, and geriatric populations
2. Future trends in corrections

Learning Assessments:

Course competencies will be assessed by class participation, research assignments, current events and critical thinking exercises, in-class assignments, exams, a comprehensive final exam, and a state prison project.

Instructional Materials:


Guidelines for Requesting Accommodations Based on Documented Disability or Medical Condition

It is the intention of Highland Community College to work toward full compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, to make instructional programs accessible to all people, and to provide reasonable accommodations according to the law.

Students should understand that it is their responsibility to self-identify their need(s) for accommodation and that they must provide current, comprehensive diagnosis of a specific disability or medical condition from a qualified professional in order to receive services. Documentation must include specific recommendations for accommodation(s). Documentation should be provided in a timely manner prior to or early in the semester so that the requested accommodation can be considered and, if warranted, arranged.

In order to begin the process all students must complete the "Disabilities Self-Identification Form" at this link: https://highlandcc.edu/pages/disability-services.

This form can also be accessed at the Highland Community College homepage under Students Services/Student Resources/Disability Service or by contacting the Disabilities Coordinator.