

**Las Positas College**  
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**Course Outline for AJ 55**

**INTRO TO CORRECTIONAL SCIENCE**

**Effective: Fall 2004**

**I. CATALOG DESCRIPTION:**

AJ 55 — INTRO TO CORRECTIONAL SCIENCE — 3.00 units

Aspects of modern correctional process as utilized in rehabilitation of adult and juvenile offenders. Emphasis on custody, rehabilitation, and treatment programs as recognized by modern penology. Exploration of career opportunities.

3.00 Units Lecture

**Grading Methods:**

**Discipline:**

	<b>MIN</b>
<b>Lecture Hours:</b>	54.00
<b>Total Hours:</b>	54.00

**II. NUMBER OF TIMES COURSE MAY BE TAKEN FOR CREDIT: 1**

**III. PREREQUISITE AND/OR ADVISORY SKILLS:**

**IV. MEASURABLE OBJECTIVES:**

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

1. discuss the historical development of corrections;
2. explain the relationship of corrections to the other components in the criminal justice system;
3. describe the legal issues and specific laws involved in corrections;
4. discuss the structure and operations of a correctional institution;
5. explain the corrections process from an inmate's intake to release;
6. list the major treatment processes used in institutions, probation, and parole;
7. explain the effects of institutional life on inmates and institutional staff;
8. write appropriate reports, including police, probation and court reports.

**V. CONTENT:**

- A. Introduction
  1. Historical development of corrections
  2. Purpose of corrections
  3. Legal basis for corrections
    - a. United States Constitution
    - b. State and local legal codes
  4. Society's goals in corrections
  5. Issues involved in the protection of society and the punishment of offenders
- B. The legal process
  1. Adult judicial procedures
  2. Juvenile judicial procedures
- C. Alternatives to incarceration
  1. Probation and conditions
  2. Public treatment facilities – county camps
  3. Community service work furlough
  4. Private treatment facilities
- D. Incarceration
  1. Classification system
  2. Custody and control
  3. Security
  4. Programs
    - a. Treatment
    - b. Educational
    - c. Vocational
- E. Effects of institutional life
  1. The institutional personality
  2. Prisoner attitudes and values
  3. Informal social control
  4. Prisoner unions
- F. Special areas in corrections
  1. Alcohol offender

2. Narcotic addict and dealer
3. Female offender
- G. Treatment approaches in corrections
  1. Traditional approaches
  2. Psychological approaches
  3. Group methods
  4. Family therapy
  5. Medicinal approaches
- H. Post-institutional programs
  1. Probation and parole
  2. Re-entry programs
  3. Return or discharge process
  4. Revocation or release from further court obligation
- I. Current trends and future needs in corrections
  1. New reporting techniques
  2. Teleprocessing and other modes of communication
  3. Word processing innovations
  4. Education
- J. Report writing
  1. Police reports
  2. Probation reports
  3. Court reports
  4. Logs
- K. Court appearances by correctional personnel
  1. Preparation
  2. Demeanor in court
  3. Testimony
  4. Preparation for direct cross-examination

#### VI. METHODS OF INSTRUCTION:

- A. **Discussion** -
- B. **Guest Lecturers** -
- C. **Lecture** -
- D. Tours of institutions
- E. **Audio-visual Activity** -

#### VII. TYPICAL ASSIGNMENTS:

- A. Brief research project on current issues in corrections
- B. Submit written answers to questions at end of textbook chapters.
- C. Write a probation report.
- D. Prepare written questions for use in discussion with a guest speaker.

#### VIII. EVALUATION:

- A. **Methods**
  1. Exams/Tests
  2. Quizzes
- B. **Frequency**

#### IX. TYPICAL TEXTS:

1. Fox, Vernon *Introduction to Corrections.*, Prentice Hall, 1999.
2. Allen, Harry E *Corrections in America, An Introduction.* 10th ed., Prentice Hall, 2004.

#### X. OTHER MATERIALS REQUIRED OF STUDENTS: