

Course Description

CJC4311 | Contemporary Issues and Trends in Corrections | 3.00 credits

Focuses on and analyzes major changes in incarceration philosophies and policies, prison populations, and operational costs.

Course competencies:

Competency 1: The student will analyze changes in the roles and philosophies of prison operations by:

- 1. Describing the emergence and evolution of prisons
- 2. Discussing prison operations
- 3. Discussing the current status of prison populations

Competency 2: The student will evaluate prison operations by:

- 1. Discussing historical operational trends
- 2. Identifying and discussing legal decisions regarding operations
- 3. Discussing confinement trends
- 4. Identifying and discussing treatment, recreational, and educational programs

Competency 3: The student will explain the mission of a prison by:

- 1. Defining a mission statement
- 2. Comparing and contrasting state and federal prison missions
- 3. Discussing prisons with dual purpose missions
- 4. Analyzing the balance between security and treatment

Competency 4: The student will analyze the increase in the number of prisons since 1980 by:

- 1. Discussing crime rate statistics and community safety concerns
- 2. Discussing the media's impact
- 3. Outlining sentencing practices
- 4. Discussing the impact of parole and probation

Competency 5: The student will discuss new prison construction and its relationship to inmate population growth by:

- 1. Describing growth demands and new prison construction
- 2. Discussing construction costs
- 3. Comparing and contrasting renovation versus new construction

Competency 6: The student will analyze the management issues impacted by changing inmate demographics by:

- 1. Tracing the demographics of inmates
- 2. Reviewing and discussing various rules, regulations, policies, procedures laws that govern the management of correctional management policies and procedures

Competency 7: The student will describe the creation and development of the federal prison system by:

- 1. Discussing legislation
- 2. Outlining the evolution of the Federal Bureau of Prisons
- 3. Identifying various federal criminal statutes
- 4. Discussing the impact of federalization of crimes and immigration enforcement

Competency 8: The student will describe the Federal Bureau of Prisons facilities by:

- 1. Identifying and discussing the federal prison system
- 2. Discussing and categorizing federal prison security

Updated: Fall 2025

3. classification levels

Competency 9: The student will compare the state and federal prison systems by:

- 1. Reviewing and discussing the organization
- 2. Comparing inmate population statistics

Competency 10: The student will examine and discuss the private prison phenomenon by:

- 1. Tracing the emergence of private prisons
- 2. Analyzing reasons for prison alternatives
- 3. Identifying and describing private correctional companies contracting with state and federal governments
- 4. Analyzing statistics of state and federal prisoners in private prisons by security level and population

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