CRIJ 4341-01 Correctional Casework & Counseling  
UTRGV Spring 2018  
Monday/Wednesday 12:15pm-1:30pm, Sabal Hall 2.102

Professor: Deborah Hartley, Ph.D.  
Office: M1.124 (MO Building-next to SETB)  
Phone: 956-882-7266  
Office Hours: Mon/Wed: 10:30am-12:00pm, & 1:45pm-2:45pm (other times by appointment only)  
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**Course Description:** This course is designed to “examine the role and techniques of casework in corrections with emphasis on integrating casework and counseling responsibilities and procedures. The course includes an examination of therapy techniques and processes in various correctional settings, and studying of service delivery programs tailored to the specific needs of correctional clients.”

**Course Objectives:**

**Goal 1:** The student will develop and apply knowledge regarding selected criminological theory, interviewing techniques, Presentence Investigation Reports, assessment and classification tools utilized in corrections, and various correctional counseling and service delivery techniques.

**Objective A:** The student will complete assigned readings and be prepared to discuss these readings in class.

**Objective B:** The student will be expected to demonstrate an understanding of the assigned material through in-class examinations and online quizzes.

**Objective C:** The students will conduct an in-class Interview Exercise with verbal and written components.

**Objective D:** The students will discuss class material within Blackboard’s Discussion Board.

**Goal 2:** The student will develop and improve verbal communication, critical thinking, and writing skills.

**Objective A:** The student will be expected to be able to participate in (verbal) class discussions regarding class materials.

**Objective B:** The students will conduct an in-class Interview Exercise with verbal and written components.

**Objective C:** The students will discuss class material within Blackboard’s Discussion Board.


*The ISBNs above are from Amazon but the UTRGV bookstores (Follett) have the textbook to buy or rent.*
Blackboard:

I will use Blackboard heavily throughout the semester to post the course syllabus, lecture material, announcements, grade information (Gradebook), assignment instructions, exam reviews, and related materials. To log on to Blackboard, you will need your UTRGV student ID and your password. It is your responsibility to obtain these. Materials posted on Blackboard will use Microsoft Word, PowerPoint, or PDF format. All items posted on Blackboard open on any computer that runs these applications. If you have trouble opening any postings on Blackboard, try another computer on campus.

Class Map: a.k.a. How to Navigate this Class (in class and Blackboard)

- The Syllabus is posted under the “Syllabus” button in Blackboard.
- Be sure to check the “Announcements” page regularly for important class/schedule information/changes.
- All assignments for the semester will be posted within the class Syllabus. The Syllabus will include all assignments including weekly textbook readings, the course schedule/calendar by week, and due dates for each assignment. Open/close dates for the quizzes and exams are also posted in the Syllabus.
- Instruction sheets detailing requirements, expectations, and grading information for each assignment will be posted under the “Course Materials” button and discussed in class.
- Exams will be given in-class, and Exam Reviews will be posted under the “Course Materials” button.
- Access the Quizzes by clicking on the “Quizzes” button in Blackboard.
- Discussion Questions can be accessed by clicking on the “Discussion Board” button.
- PowerPoint outlines of assigned textbook chapters can be accessed by clicking on the “Course Materials” button.
- Follow your grade throughout the semester using Gradebook.
- Supplemental videos and websites/links that correspond with class material are posted under the “Course Materials” button.
- Interact with your fellow students using the optional “Class Blog” button.

Course Requirements:

1) Be an Active Learner: I want all of you to be an “active learner.” What this means is that you come to class, buy/rent the required textbook, keep up with all of the assigned text readings, review all instruction sheets carefully, and ask the professor if you have any questions about readings or assignments. Being an active learner also means that you check Blackboard regularly (and your UTRGV email) for class announcements and newly posted course information. Being an active learner means that you put the effort into earning your class grade and your degree. Don’t wait until the last week of class to worry about your grade—be an active learner throughout the semester—this is especially important if you are graduating. Your grade will reflect the amount of work and effort you put into this class—Do not ask your professor to “bump up” your grade at the end of the semester. There is no extra credit. Be sure to also pay attention to assignment/exam/quiz due dates/times—All of this information can be found in this Syllabus.

2) Class Participation & Attendance: Students will be expected to have read assigned textbook readings prior to class and be prepared to discuss the material in an open, respectful environment. Students are highly encouraged to share their opinions and experiences. Do not talk when others are speaking or when I am lecturing—it is rude and you may be asked to leave. Turn your cell phones off/put on vibrate before class. Do not use your phone/laptop for texting or social media during class.

Attendance will be taken each class period with a sign-in sheet. Students are expected to attend scheduled class meetings, and to come to class on time. If you have to come in late, come in quietly and don’t disrupt the class and the lecture—it is rude. If a student has a valid reason for not attending a class session, please inform the instructor in advance (email). You will be asked to provide documentation regarding your absence. Because you have chosen this class schedule, your work schedule will not be considered a valid excuse for absences. Class attendance is not worth points, however, if you have 5 un-excused absences from class (total, not necessarily in a row), you will be dropped from the class for excessive, unexcused absences (see the University Policy below). If you have someone else sign in for you, that is a form of cheating.

3) Quizzes (Online): There is a Quiz over the class Syllabus, and a Quiz that corresponds to Chapter 6 (PSI Reports) specifically. Each Quiz will consist of 10 multiple choice and true/false questions, and is timed at 10 minutes. Access each quiz by clicking on the “Quizzes” button in Blackboard—the quizzes are not open notes/Syllabus/textbook/Internet, etc. The Syllabus quiz will cover general policy information from the class Syllabus, and the Chapter 6 Quiz focuses on material from Chapter 6. Questions appear all at once and you must complete each quiz in one sitting. Quizzes will automatically close after the time is up whether you have finished or not. You must complete the quizzes within the posted date/time range—they will be left open across several days, so you may not take them late.
4) **Discussion Questions:** Discussion Questions can be accessed by clicking on the “Discussion Board” button in Blackboard. Post your answers to each discussion question within the Discussion Board. Each original Discussion Board post must be a minimum of 400 words in length. You are also required to post a reply to at least one other students’ posting. Click on their post and hit the “reply” button. **This is your chance to interact with your fellow students.** Remember to be respectful when discussing other student postings. Your reply to a fellow-student’s post must be a minimum of 50 words in length (do you agree/disagree with their post and why). Do not re-type the original questions—and do not number your answers—Just answer the questions as a comprehensive whole (a mini-essay), and be sure to follow the basic rules of writing (complete sentences, paragraph breaks, correct spelling/grammar, etc.). Adding headings or citations (which you do not need) or your name will not be counted toward the total required word count. Please do **not do bullet-list** your responses. Do **not use quotes** from the textbook—paraphrase the material—it is always better to use your own words! **Never plagiarize**—plagiarism will result in a zero. Instructions for use of the Discussion Board are posted under the “Course Materials” button, and detailed instructions for each question, including grading information will be posted in Blackboard under the “Discussion Board” button. The Discussion Board is set up so that you will not be able to view your fellow student’s posts until you have posted your original post 1st—in other words, answer the discussion questions first and then you will be able to reply to a fellow student. I will not accept emailed assignments.

*Do not plagiarize—this means you must do your own work and use your own words—never use another student’s work, and never copy from any other source. For more information about how to avoid plagiarism, go to: [http://sja.ucdavis.edu/files/plagiarism.pdf](http://sja.ucdavis.edu/files/plagiarism.pdf)*

*Late Work Policy and a Note on Discussion Board Assignments:* You may turn in written work early, but turning in an assignment early does not guarantee that it will be graded early. Be sure to look carefully at the dates/times that assignments are due—all of this information is in the class Syllabus. If you miss the deadline for a Discussion Board assignment, you may turn it in LATE (after the posted deadline), but you will lose **10 points** for each day the assignment is late, including weekends. An assignment is considered late even if it is turned in one minute past the deadline. Be sure to double check that your Discussion Board posting was successful—if it is blank I cannot grade it. If you submit the wrong assignment (or a blank post) it will be considered late until the correct assignment is submitted. No late work will be accepted after the last official day of class (see the University schedule). Do not wait until the last minute to submit your assignments because you never know when you will have computer/Internet problems. I will not accept assignments via email.

*Written Work Grading Timeline:* Written work for this class will consist of Discussion Board assignments. The professor will post grades within one weeks’ time, but it may take up to a week to grade written work. The professor will email all students through Blackboard (and post as a course announcement, and announce in class) when the grades have been entered in Gradebook. All written work receives grading feedback within Gradebook (an explanation for your grade).

5) **In-Class Exams:** Students will be given a Midterm Exam and a Final Exam covering assigned readings and class discussions. Each exam will consist of 50 multiple choice and true/false questions. Students must finish the exam within class time (not online). Exam reviews will be discussed in class and posted in Blackboard. Students will be required to bring a **Scantron** (Form # 882-E or a compatible form) and a **#2 pencil with an eraser** to class for the exams, which can be purchased at the bookstore. If you use a pen on your exam, or if your Scantron is in such poor shape that the Scantron machine cannot read it, your exam will not be graded. Only answers marked on the Scantron will be graded. If you are caught cheating on an exam, you will fail the exam and you will be reported to academic affairs and fail the class. Be sure to use the restroom prior to the exam. If a student is more than half an hour late to take a scheduled exam, that student will not be allowed to take the exam. If you cannot make it to the midterm exam due to a documented emergency, you need to contact me within TWO DAYS to schedule a make-up exam, and you must take the make-up exam within the same week the exam was given, and you must provide documentation (e.g. a doctor’s note). Make-up exams will be in essay or short answer format. The final exam cannot be taken after the time/date in this Syllabus because final grades will be due. Exams are NOT open book/notes/etc.

6) **In-Class Interview Exercise:** Chapter 5 in the textbook covers interviewing techniques. I am going to provide the class with offender information, and each student is going to pair up with a classmate, and they will take turns pretending to be the offender (who is being interviewed), and a Probation Officer conducting a Presentence Interview with the offender. You are role-playing as the interviewee and the interviewer. You will then critique each other’s interview skills at the end of class with a critique form that I will provide. This exercise will take place during one class period (see the schedule below). Detailed instructions for this assignment will be posted under the “Course Materials” button in Blackboard and discussed in class.

*Current Events:* New developments in the field of criminal justice will be examined throughout the semester to reflect the constantly evolving nature of the field. Updated statistics and developments will be presented to supplement the required textbook, and current events in criminal justice will be discussed in class throughout the semester.

*Contacting the Professor:* Either e-mail me at Deborah.Hartley@utrgv.edu or call my office at 956-882-7266, or come to my office during scheduled office hours. I will be sending out class e-mails throughout the semester using Blackboard. If you e-mail me, I will always reply promptly (typically within 24-48 hours) to let you know that I received your e-mail. I do not check my UTRGV e-mail.
through my personal cell phone, meaning, be patient. If you do not receive an e-mail reply from me within 24-48 hours, your e-mail did not reach me. Remember—UTRGV only uses official UTRGV emails—be sure you are using and checking your official UTRGV email (so in other words, no emails will be sent to your gmail, yahoo, etc.). This is your responsibility—you don’t want to miss important deadlines or other class announcements.

*As part of a University-wide effort to “go green,” instead of using handouts, all course materials except exams and this syllabus will be available in Blackboard under the “Course Materials” button.

GRADING:

*Detailed expectations and grading guidelines will be given to students within each assignment instruction sheet. Detailed instruction sheets will be posted for each assignment under the “Course Materials” button in Blackboard, and discussed in detail in class. Instructions for each Discussion Question can also be found under the “Discussion Board” button. Contact me if you have any questions. There is no extra credit in this course.

* Follow your grades using Gradebook in Blackboard. Assignments for this class will be graded using numbers on a 100 point scale, but each assignment will be given a different weight (percentage), which will be used to determine your final course grade. Your final course grade will not be based on total points—it will be calculated in Gradebook using grade weights/percentages (see the column in Gradebook called Final Grade %):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Weight/ %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Syllabus Quiz</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapter 6 Quiz</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterm Exam</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discussion Questions (2)</td>
<td>14% (2 at 7% each)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interview Exercise</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>100% Total</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

University Grading Scheme:
A = 100-90
B = 89-80
C = 79-70
D = 69-60
F = 59 and below

UTRGV—UNIVERSITY POLICY:

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:

Students with a documented disability (physical, psychological, learning, or other disability which affects academic performance) who would like to receive academic accommodations should contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS) as soon as possible to schedule an appointment to initiate services. Accommodations can be arranged through SAS at any time, but are not retroactive. Students who suffer a broken bone, severe injury or undergo surgery during the semester are eligible for temporary services.

Brownsville Campus: Student Accessibility Services is located in Cortez Hall Room 129 and can be contacted by phone at (956) 882-7374 (Voice) or via email at ability@utrgv.edu. Edinburg Campus: Student Accessibility Services is located in 108 University Center and can be contacted by phone at (956) 665-7005 (Voice), (956) 665-3840 (Fax), or via email at ability@utrgv.edu.

MANDATORY COURSE EVALUATION PERIOD:

Students are required to complete an ONLINE evaluation of this course, accessed through your UTRGV account (http://my.utrgv.edu); you will be contacted through email with further instructions. Students who complete their evaluations will have priority access to their grades. Online evaluations will be available:

Spring 2018 (full semester) April 11 – May 2

ATTENDANCE:

Students are expected to attend all scheduled classes and may be dropped from the course for excessive absences. UTRGV’s attendance policy excuses students from attending class if they are participating in officially sponsored university activities, such as
athletics; for observance of religious holy days; or for military service. Students should contact the instructor in advance of the excused absence and arrange to make up missed work or examinations.

**SCHOLASTIC INTEGRITY:**
As members of a community dedicated to Honesty, Integrity and Respect, students are reminded that those who engage in scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and expulsion from the University. Scholastic dishonesty includes but is not limited to: cheating, plagiarism (including self-plagiarism), and collusion; submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person; taking an examination for another person; any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student; or the attempt to commit such acts. Since scholastic dishonesty harms the individual, all students and the integrity of the University, policies on scholastic dishonesty will be strictly enforced (Board of Regents Rules and Regulations and UTRGV Academic Integrity Guidelines). All scholastic dishonesty incidents will be reported to the Dean of Students.

**SEXUAL HARASSMENT, DISCRIMINATION, and VIOLENCE:**
In accordance with UT System regulations, your instructor is a “Responsible Employee” for reporting purposes under Title IX regulations and so must report any instance, occurring during a student’s time in college, of sexual assault, stalking, dating violence, domestic violence, or sexual harassment about which she/he becomes aware during this course through writing, discussion, or personal disclosure. More information can be found at [www.utrgv.edu/equity](http://www.utrgv.edu/equity), including confidential resources available on campus. The faculty and staff of UTRGV actively strive to provide a learning, working, and living environment that promotes personal integrity, civility, and mutual respect that is free from sexual misconduct and discrimination.

**COURSE DROPS:**
According to UTRGV policy, students may drop any class without penalty earning a grade of DR until the official drop date. Following that date, students must be assigned a letter grade and can no longer drop the class. Students considering dropping the class should be aware of the “3-peat rule” and the “6-drop” rule so they can recognize how dropped classes may affect their academic success. The 6-drop rule refers to Texas law that dictates that undergraduate students may not drop more than six courses during their undergraduate career. Courses dropped at other Texas public higher education institutions will count toward the six-course drop limit. The 3-peat rule refers to additional fees charged to students who take the same class for the third time.

**STUDENT SERVICES:**
Students who demonstrate financial need have a variety of options when it comes to paying for college costs, such as scholarships, grants, loans and work-study. Students should visit the Students Services Center (U Central) for additional information. U Central is located in BMAIN 1.100 (Brownsville) or ESSBL 1.145 (Edinburg) or can be reached by email (ucentral@utrgv.edu) or telephone: (888) 882-4026. In addition to financial aid, U Central can assist students with registration and admissions. Students seeking academic help in their studies can use university resources in addition to an instructor’s office hours. University Resources include the Learning Center, Writing Center, Advising Center and Career Center. The centers provide services such as tutoring, writing help, critical thinking, study skills, degree planning, and student employment. Locations are:

- Learning center: BSTUN 2.10 (Brownsville) or ELCTR 100 (Edinburg)
- Writing center: BLIBR 3.206 (Brownsville) or ESTAC 3.119 (Edinburg)
- Advising center: BMAIN 1.400 (Brownsville) or ESWKH 101 (Edinburg)
- Career center: BCRTZ 129 (Brownsville) or ESSBL 2.101 (Edinburg)

**UTRGV CJ Student Learning Outcomes:**
*1-4 do not all apply to every class. The SLOs are set by the CJ Department.*
1. Demonstrate knowledge of the structure, operations, and practices of the major components of the criminal justice system, which includes police, courts, corrections, and law.
2. Explain the fundamentals of research methods and statistical techniques used in criminal justice research.
3. Apply critical thinking, creativity, problem solving, and communication skills through classroom assignments.
4. Demonstrate knowledge of criminological theory and crime control techniques.

**UTRGV Help Desk for Technical Difficulties:** (Blackboard)

**COLTT Help Desk**
**Hours:** Monday - Friday, 7:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
**Location:** Brownsville Campus, Rusteberg 108, (956) 882-6792
Edinburg Campus, Education Complex 2.202, (956) 665-5327

Submit a ticket: [https://colttapps.utrgv.edu/helpme](https://colttapps.utrgv.edu/helpme)
Email: COLTThelp@utrgv.edu
Website: [www.utrgv.edu/online](http://www.utrgv.edu/online)
CRIJ 4341-01 Course Schedule:  TBA