

Northern Marianas College
CURRICULUM ACTION REQUEST

Effective Semester / Session: Fall 2006

Type of Action:

New
 Modification
 Cancellation

Course Alpha and Number: CJ 108

Course Title: Law and the Corrections Officer

Reason for initiating, revising, or canceling:

To reflect a clarification in the Purpose of the course.

Sydney Rowe *3-6-06*

Proposer Date

Sam M. M. M. M. *6 March 06*

Department Chair Date

R.T. J. *3/21/06*

English and Format Reviewer Date

[Signature] *3/21/06*

Academic Council Chair Date

@ *3/22/08*

Dean of Academic Programs and Services Date

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Course Guide

Course: CJ 108 Law and the Corrections Officer

1. Department

Social Sciences and Fine Arts

2. Purpose

The purpose of this course is to examine the roles and functions of a corrections officer, specifically in its relation to the legal aspects. This is a required course for the Corrections Academy Certificate Program. The target population consists of correctional officers of the Department of Corrections.

3. Description

A. Required/Recommended Textbook(s) and Related Materials

Required: Collins, William C. Correctional Law for the Correctional Officer. 4th ed. Lanham, ML: American Correctional Association, 2004.
Readability level: Grade 11.

B. Contact Hours

1. **Lecture:** 3 hours per week / 45 per semester
2. **Lab:** None
3. **Other:** None

C. Credits

1. **Number:** 3
2. **Type:** Regular degree credits

D. Catalogue Course Description

This course presents a study of the legal aspects of the roles and functions of a correctional officer, with emphasis on inmates' rights and responsibilities, lawsuits and liability, and CNMI law. This course also introduces the student to the systems of parole and probation as well as courtroom testimony. (English Placement Levels: EN 093 / 094)

E. Degree or Certificate Requirements Met by Course

This course is required for the Corrections Academy Certificate Program.

F. Course Activities and Design

Course activities include lecture, group discussions, homework assignments, viewing relevant audio-visual material, guest speakers, student presentations, quizzes and a final project.

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- 4. Course Prerequisite(s); Concurrent Course Enrollment; Required English/Mathematics Placement Level(s)**
English Placement Level: EN 093 / 094

5. Estimated Cost of Course; Instructional Resources Needed

Cost to the Student: Tuition for a 3-credit course; cost of textbook.

Cost to the College: Instructor's salary.

Instructional resources needed for this course include TV/VCR, chalk, and chalkboard.

6. Method of Evaluation

Students grades will be based on the regular letter grade system as described below:

- A: Excellent – grade points: 4.0;
- B: Above average – grade points: 3.0;
- C: Average – grade points: 2.0;
- D: Below average – grade points: 1.0;
- F: Failure – grade points: 0.0.

NMC's grading and attendance policies will be followed.

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7. Course Outline

This is a topical outline and does not necessarily indicate the sequence in which the material will be presented.

- 1.0 Role of the Correctional Officer
- 2.0 History of Courts and Corrections
 - 2.1 Congress and inmate lawsuits
 - 2.2 The future of court intervention
- 3.0 Types of Lawsuits Inmates File
 - 3.1 Civil Rights Act, section 1983
 - 3.2 Habeas corpus
 - 3.3 Torts
 - 3.4 Supervisory liability
- 4.0 Inmates Access to Courts
 - 4.1 Law libraries
 - 4.2 The litigious inmate
 - 4.3 Attorney visits
- 5.0 Inmate Rights Versus Institutional Interests
 - 5.1 The balancing test
 - 5.2 O'Lone v. Estate of Shabazz
 - 5.3 Turner and Shabazz extended
- 6.0 The First Amendment
 - 6.1 Religion
 - 6.2 Mail
 - 6.3 Publications
 - 6.4 Visiting
 - 6.5 Expression
- 7.0 The Fourth Amendment Searches and Seizures
 - 7.1 "Reasonable suspicion"
 - 7.2 Searches in prisons and jails
 - 7.2 Searches by opposite sex

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8.0 The Eighth Amendment: Cruel and Unusual Punishment

- 8.1 Conditions of confinement
- 8.2 The Prison Litigation Reform Act

9.0 Use of Force

- 9.1 Justifying force
- 9.2 Weapons and special holds
- 9.3 Restraints
- 9.4 Deadly force and escapes
- 9.5 Documentation
- 9.6 Can force be avoided?

10.0 The Fourteenth Amendment: Due Process and Equal Protection

- 10.1 Procedural due process
- 10.2 "Wolff" requirements
- 10.3 Due process and the disciplinary process
- 10.4 Evidence and the reporting officer
- 10.5 Involuntary medication
- 10.6 Equal protection
- 10.7 Male versus female facilities and programs

11.0 The Correctional Employee and Litigation: How a Lawsuit Works

- 11.1 State and local employees
- 11.2 Summons and complaint
- 11.3 Discovery
- 11.4 Trial and appeal
- 11.5 Testifying

12.0 Officers' Rights

- 12.1 Sources
- 12.2 Sexual discrimination and harassment
- 12.3 Disabled staff
- 12.4 Workplace safety
- 12.5 Statutory rights
- 12.6 Due process and employee discipline

13.0 The Americans With Disabilities Act

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8. Instructional Goals

This course will introduce students to:

- 1.0 The legal role of the correctional officer;
- 2.0 The history of judicial involvement in correctional institutions;
- 3.0 Inmate access to courts;
- 4.0 Inmate lawsuits;
- 5.0 Inmate rights versus institutional interests;
- 6.0 The First Amendment;
- 7.0 The Fourth Amendment;
- 8.0 The Eighth Amendment;
- 9.0 The legal use of force;
- 10.0 The Fourteenth Amendment;
- 11.0 The Correctional employee and litigation;
- 12.0 The Correctional Officer's Rights; and
- 13.0 The Americans With Disabilities Act.

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9. Student Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of course, the student will be able to:

- 1.0 Evaluate the legal role of the correctional officer;
- 2.0 Describe the history of the Court's involvement in corrections;
- 3.0 Explain inmates' rights as to access to courts;
- 4.0 Analyze inmate lawsuits;
- 5.0 Compare inmates' rights to institutional interests;
- 6.0 Evaluate inmates' rights under the First Amendment;
- 7.0 Evaluate inmates' rights under the Fourth Amendment;
- 8.0 Distinguish inmates' rights under the Eighth Amendment;
- 9.0 Demonstrate the legal use of force;
- 10.0 Categorize inmates' rights under the Fourteenth Amendment;
- 11.0 Determine the factors involved in correctional employee litigation;
- 12.0 Demonstrate awareness of correctional officers' rights; and
- 13.0 Explain the Americans With Disabilities Act.

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10. Assessment Measures

Assessment of student learning may include, but not be limited to, the following:

- 1.0 Periodic testing to assess the students' understanding and their abilities to use critical thinking skills;
- 2.0 Writing assignments and exercises that assess students' comprehension and application of various concepts;
- 3.0 Small group discussions through which students explore, apply, and evaluate topics; and
- 4.0 Oral presentations on students' comprehension, application, analysis, and evaluation of what they have learned.