



# Wayne County Community College District

## COURSE SYLLABUS

### COR 255 Legal Issues in Corrections

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**CREDIT HOURS:** 3.00

**CONTACT HOURS:** 45.00

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This course is an overview of the major legal issues, trends and the political and social dimensions of convictions. An analysis of constitutional law, courts decisions, current legislation of the federal and state law affecting prisons and the judicial proceedings. Additionally we will examine a forum for the legal rights of prisoners and the responsibilities of the legal system and the adjudication of juveniles and the alternatives to incarceration. Course needed to satisfy the requirements to become a State of Michigan Corrections Officer.

**PREREQUISITES:** *CJS 100*

**EXPECTED COMPETENCIES:**

Upon completion of this course, the student will be familiar with:

1. Describe and discuss the basic Constitutional Issues involved in the Care and Custody of incarcerated persons.
2. Describe the courts in both state and federal court systems, their roles and jurisdictions.
3. Understand and be able to differentiate between criminal and civil actions in the correctional context.
4. Understand issues surrounding access to Courts by those in confinement
5. Discuss and describe the issues around exhausting all administrative remedies before the filing of litigation.
6. Understand the basis for tort claims, negligence actions and federal civil rights litigation
7. Describe and discuss injunctive relief, equitable relief and damages
8. Understand and describe the "totality of circumstances" standard in reviewing first and eighth amendment rights and how they may be limited while in custody
9. Understand the differences and similarities between the adult and juvenile court systems and issues related to the confinement of both.
10. Identify and discuss current trends in correctional Law

**ASSESSMENT METHODS:**

Student performance may be assessed by examination, quizzes, case studies, oral conversation, group discussion, oral presentations. The instructor reserves the option to employ one or more of these assessment methods during the course.

**GRADING SCALE:**

90%-100% = A  
80%-89.9%= B  
70%-79.9%= C  
60%-69.9%= D  
<60% = E



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