

Criminal Justice: An Overview of the System

Module 6: Prisons, Jails, and Community Corrections

Section 6.2 Prisons

American Correctional Association: An international association of corrections professionals dedicated to improving the effectiveness of corrections.

Congregate System: Another name for the Auburn System, which was a philosophy of penitentiary management where inmates worked in silence during the day, and were in solitary confinement at night.

Crime Control Model: A conceptualization of the criminal justice system developed by Herbert Packer that is characterized by an emphasis on aggressive crime suppression and control.

Custody Level: A corrections term that indicates the extent of security measures that must be in place for an inmate of a particular classification.

Death Row: An area within a prison set aside for inmates sentenced to death.

Declaration of Principles: The guiding principles of the National Prison Association (now the ACA) which were adopted in 1870; considered a milestone in the professionalization of corrections.

Elmira Reformatory: America's first reformatory, built in New York in 1876.

John Howard: An important English prison reformer during the penitentiary movement.

Lease System: A corrections system popular in the South during Reconstruction where convicts were leased to private companies to provide hard labor.

Maximum–security Prison: A type of prison designed to house very dangerous inmates and characterized by a very high degree of physical and procedural security measures.

Medical Model: The philosophical approach to corrections that focuses on the identification, prevention, and elimination of the underlying causes of crime.

Medium–security Prison: Type of prison that holds the largest number of inmates; characterized by dormitory living arrangements.

Minimum–security Prison: A type of institution designed to house the least dangerous offenders who pose little flight risk.

Penitent: A person who repents wrongdoing and asks for forgiveness.

Penitentiary: Another name for prison that arose during the period when offenders were expected to be penitent.

Pennsylvania System: A system of prison discipline characterized by solitary confinement which was believed to foster penitence; arose in the late 18th century.

Prison Overcrowding: A situation that occurs when the number of inmates within a particular facility exceeds the amount of space required for safe and legal operations.

Prison Programs: Activities that are designed to help the offender reintegrate into society and avoid recidivism, such as substance abuse programs, anger management programs, and educational programs.

Private Prisons: Prison facilities operated by third-party for profit companies under government contracts.

Reception Facility: A place where inmates or juveniles are sent for assessment and screening prior to being sent to a more permanent facility.

Reformatory Movement: A period beginning in the mid-1800s when juveniles were moved out of adult prisons and into specialized facilities geared toward rehabilitating youth.

Rehabilitation Model: The idea that criminal offenders commit crimes for reasons outside of choosing to do so, and they can be rehabilitated (made noncriminal) by some form of treatment that eliminates the causes of crime.

Special Populations: People that require special consideration or resources from corrections, such as the infirm, the elderly, juveniles, and women.

Super-maximum-security Prison: Prisons that hold the highest risk prisoners in the most secure institutions in the country.

Walnut Street Jail: The first prison in the United States to feature individual cells and work details; opened in Philadelphia in 1773.

Women's Prisons: A prison facility that houses only female inmates; there are far fewer of these than male prisons.

Zebulon Brockway: A prison reformer and the "Father" of American Parole.