

CJUS 4480 White Collar Crime – Fall 2026

Instructor Information

Alessa S. Juárez, Ph.D.

Email: Alessa.Juarez@unt.edu

Office: Chilton 273K

Office Hours: Wednesdays in my office at 10:00am – 12:00pm

Class Meeting Time: Mondays & Wednesdays, 2:20pm – 3:40pm

Class Location: General Academic Building (GAB) 105

TA Information

Name: Bethany Dunn

Email: Bethany.Dunn@unt.edu

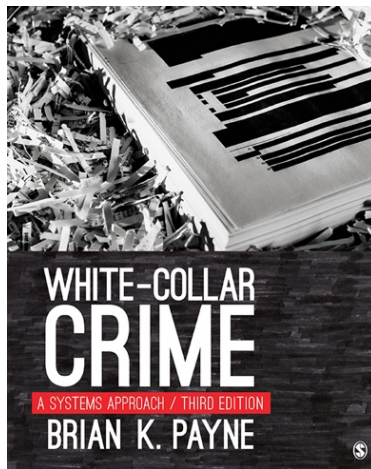
Emailing your Instructor and TA: When sending an email, please put the course number (CJUS 5620) in the subject line of the email. **Only emails sent from your UNT email account (username@my.unt.edu) will receive a response.** Please allow 48 hours of turnaround time (weekdays) for your email inquiry.

****Email me directly, do not use Canvas Inbox.****

Required Materials

The assigned text listed below is required for all students enrolled in this course. Please refer to the Course Calendar in the syllabus for reading assignment dates.

Payne, B. K. (2022). *White-collar crime: A systems approach* (3rd ed.). SAGE Publications, Inc. ISBN: 9781071833902 (physical paperback). ISBN: 9781071848722 (epub).



Course Description, Structure, and Objectives

Course Description: This course examines crimes committed by persons of high social status, corporations, and governments, explores the causes and consequences of violations of environmental, safety, health, and labor laws, finance crimes, corporate abuses of power, fraud, crimes of globalization, and violations of the public trust. This course will contrast the legal, social, and political response to criminal wrongdoing by corporate and high social status offenders with responses to “street crime.”

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

1. Evaluate the nature, extent, and measurement of white-collar crime.
2. Describe the various forms of white-collar, occupational, and corporate crimes.

3. Compare relevant case studies surrounding white-collar crimes nationally and internationally.
4. Identify practical solutions and potential policy implications to address white-collar crimes.

Course Organization: Students will divide their time between class, readings in the textbook, and any materials uploaded to Canvas. All students should review the syllabus (posted in Canvas) early in the semester and keep a copy of the syllabus for easy reference throughout the course. It is recommended that you become familiar with the tools and tutorials to better equip you to navigate the course. Updates to the course and important information will be shared on the Announcements page. Finally, students can view their Grades in the course using the Grades tab in Canvas and review pages 6 & 7 of this syllabus for grading information.

Access and Login Information: This course was developed and will be facilitated utilizing the University of North Texas' Learning Management System, Canvas. To get started with the course, please go to: <https://unt.instructure.com/login/ldap>. You will need your EUID and password to log in to the course. If you do not know your EUID or have forgotten your password, please go to: <http://ams.unt.edu>.

Technical Requirements/Assistance: The following information has been provided to assist you in preparation for the technological aspect of the course.

UNT Technical Support

Email: helpdesk@unt.edu

Phone: 940.565-2324

In Person: Sage Hall, Room 130

Canvas Student Guides

[Canvas Video Guides for Students](#)

[Basic Technical Requirements for Canvas](#)

How to Succeed in this Course

[-What Makes a Successful Online Student?](#)

[-Self Evaluation for Potential Online Students](#)

UNT strives to offer a high-quality education in a supportive environment where you can learn, grow, and thrive. As a faculty member, I am committed to supporting you, and I want to remind you that UNT offers a range of mental health and wellness services to help maintain balance and well-being. Utilizing these resources is a proactive way to support your academic and personal success. To explore campus resources designed to support you, check out [mental health services \(https://clear.unt.edu/student-support-services-policies\)](https://clear.unt.edu/student-support-services-policies), visit unt.edu/success, and explore unt.edu/wellness. To get all your enrollment and student financial-related questions answered, go to scrappysays.unt.edu.

Survivor Advocacy: UNT is committed to providing a safe learning environment free of all forms of sexual misconduct, including sexual harassment, sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. Federal laws (Title IX and the U.S. Violence Against Women Act) and UNT policies prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex, and therefore prohibit sexual misconduct. If you or someone you know is experiencing sexual harassment, relationship violence, stalking, and/or sexual assault, there are campus resources available to provide support and assistance. UNT's Survivor Advocates can assist a student who has been impacted by violence by filing protective orders, completing crime victim's compensation applications, contacting professors for absences related to an assault, working with housing to facilitate a room change where appropriate, and connecting students to other resources available both on and off campus. The Survivor Advocates can be

reached at SurvivorAdvocate@unt.edu or by calling the Dean of Students Office at 940-565-2648. Additionally, alleged sexual misconduct can be non-confidentially reported to the Title IX Coordinator at oeo@unt.edu or at (940) 565 2759.

Mandatory Reporting: All faculty and staff are now mandatory reporters. This means that if we learn about something that might be sex discrimination (e.g., sexual harassment, sexual assault, intimate partner violence, stalking, pregnancy discrimination, LGBTQ discrimination), then we must report what we know to the Title IX Office. Usually, reports will only leave a record of concern, but sometimes, a report can be escalated into an investigation without a victim's consent. Mandatory reporters are expected to share information learned in all settings, including during class activities, assignments, office hours, and outside of class. *Please be thoughtful about what you disclose to me.*

I recognize that you may need to seek help from me, even if you do not want to report. If you need assistance in class or help navigating available resources, you can always ask me. You do not need to tell me why you are asking for help for a friend, another student, or yourself. I will respect your privacy and I will help you.

Class Community Expectations: I strive to provide an inclusive, safe, and fun learning environment, whether the setting is online or face-to-face. I expect my students to treat each other, including guest speakers and myself, with respect. Our classroom is a collaborative environment where every student should feel comfortable expressing ideas and opinions and engaging in thoughtful discussions. Students will respect the views and opinions of others at all times; name-calling and personal attacks are not permitted. Students engaging in disruptive or disrespectful behavior in the classroom will be given one warning through an email from the instructor. A second violation will result in the student being locked out of future discussions, eliminating their ability to participate in future discussions or earn additional discussion points for the course. No hate speech or discrimination will be tolerated at any point in class (e.g., during discussions or in assignments).

Time management is an important skill for academic performance and in a professional environment. If a student will be out of town on vacation, work-related travel, is expected to work at the time an assignment is due, or other reasons, the student should plan accordingly to complete any assignments before leaving. I reserve the right to consider extreme circumstances and modify this rule.

NETiquette: When sending an email, please put the COURSE NUMBER (CJUS 4480) in the email's subject line. ***Only emails from your UNT email account (username@my.unt.edu) will receive a response.*** Please allow 48 hours of turnaround time (weekdays) for email inquiries when contacting the instructor or the TA. Also, to ensure that you receive timely course-related correspondence, ensure your official UNT email address is forwarded to your preferred email address. **The instructor and TA will not respond to Canvas messages – please contact us through our UNT emails.**

Our Learning Community: I value the many perspectives students bring to our campus. Please work with me to create a classroom culture of open communication, mutual respect, and belonging. All discussions should be respectful and civil. Although disagreements and debates are encouraged, personal attacks are unacceptable. Together, we can ensure a safe and welcoming classroom for all. If you ever feel like this is not the case, please stop by my office and let me know. We are all learning together. I encourage you to review UNT's student code of conduct so that we can all start with the same baseline civility understanding ([Code of Student Conduct](https://policy.unt.edu/policy/07-012)) (<https://policy.unt.edu/policy/07-012>).

Attendance Policy: Students are expected to attend class regularly and abide by the attendance policy established for the course. Please see page 6 and how attendance can impact your grade as it pertains to completing in class assignments. Students are expected to manage all other absences, such as minor illnesses, travel, car trouble, etc., as they would in a professional work environment.

It is important that you communicate with the professor prior to being absent, so you and the professor can discuss and mitigate the impact of the absence on your attainment of course learning goals. Please inform the professor if you are unable to attend class meetings because you are ill, in mindfulness of the health and safety of everyone in our community.

Authorized Absences: The first point of contact for all students should be the instructor. Absences that do not fall under Title IX, Required Military Service, and Official University Functions are deemed a matter between the student and their faculty member. If the absence is due to a circumstance that exceeds 5 consecutive days, the faculty member may request for the student to provide documentation through the Dean of Students' office.

Absences are authorized only in cases to participation in school sponsored activities and/or religious holidays. For an excused absence due to a school sponsored activity, students must be approved in advance. Students who wish to request an excused absence for religious holidays can do so and will be excused from class if they make a request within the required time frame set by the university (see the most recent undergraduate catalog). Notification must be in writing so that I may have it for my records. You must arrange to make up any work missed during the excused religious absence or school sponsored activity.

Grading and Late Work: *There are no make-up/assignments in this class with the exception of authorized absences according to the University policies prescribing authorized absences in certain situations.* Those in athletics, those who are absent for religious holidays, and /or those involved in other school supported activities that require being absent from class will be allowed to make up assignments if proper procedures are followed in requesting an excused absence. I must have written documentation in advance that you will be away from class for the absence to be excused (e.g., traveling for a basketball game, observing a religious holiday).

Grade-related questions or concerns must be addressed within 1 week of the grade being posted to Canvas. Students should email the instructor with exam questions after they have reviewed the correct responses within one week of the grade being posted. Questions related to the exam will not be answered while the exam is still available. Do not wait until the end of the semester or halfway through the semester to ask questions about previous assignments. Students are expected to stay on top of their grades as well as their course standings and ask questions promptly.

Final grades are determined based on the point total listed in the syllabus. *There is no rounding.* Students should do their best on each assignment and submit all completed assignments on time to maximize their performance and earn points for the final course grade.

Make-Up Policy: *There are no make-up assignments in this class with the exception of authorized absences according to the University policies prescribing authorized absences in certain situations.* Those in athletics, those who are absent for religious holidays, and /or those involved in other school supported activities that require being absent from class will be allowed to make up assignments if proper procedures are followed in requesting an excused absence. I must have written documentation in advance that you will be away from class for the absence to be excused (e.g., traveling for a basketball game, observing a religious holiday). If you are ill in such a way that you could not complete any required assignment or exam, you must contact me via email within 3 calendar days.

Follow individual assignment instructions for formatting and submission expectations. **Do not wait to submit any assignment last minute.** Students should be careful to submit assignments as attachments, unless specifically instructed, as this increases the likelihood an assignment will not be visible to the instructor.

Method of Evaluation

As this is an online class, students must be prepared to take responsibility for their own learning. Students should be prepared to complete assignments and discussions with little direction beyond that provided in the syllabus and individual assignment instructions.

Exams: Students will complete a total of 4 ($N = 4$) exams in the semester. Each exam is worth 100 points and consists of 50 questions. Questions may consist of multiple choice, true/false, matching, short answer questions, and/or essays. Exams will take place in class on the corresponding date as indicated on pages 10-11 of the course syllabus.

Case Study Assignments: White-collar crime may be a topic of discussion across local or national news outlets and internationally. Students will submit three case study assignments for a total of 150 points (i.e., each assignment is worth 50 points). For the first two assignments, students will select from pre-screened news articles from either *The New York Times* (NYT) or *Associated Press News* (AP) and write a short response. These news articles are linked on Canvas and are available through UNT Libraries. For the last assignment, students will be tasked with identifying a news article from the NYT or AP of their choice.

For the case study assignment, students will summarize the article and connect it to different topics that we have covered in the course. These assignments are designed to increase your ability to research current events related to white collar crime and to practice applying the course materials to real-world issues. These assignments will be submitted through Canvas. Additional instructions will be posted in the “Case Study Assignment” module in Canvas. Deadlines for these assignments are located on page 10-11 of the course syllabus.

Guest Speaker Reflections: This semester, we will have two (2) guest speakers with real-world experience in investigating white-collar crime cases. Guest speakers may provide a case study activity or deliver an interactive presentation. At the conclusion of their talk, students will complete a reflective assignment detailing what they learned and how the expert’s profession ties back to the course materials, particularly how we can address white collar crime. Both reflection assignments will be completed in class and are worth a total of 50 points (e.g., each assignment is worth 25 points).

In-Class Assignments: Throughout the semester, students will complete various assessments individually or in groups related to the course material covered. These class activities will range between case studies, exam wrappers, and informal discussions on documentaries or movies related to white collar crimes. The purpose of these assignments is to prepare students for the upcoming exams. Some material or questions on these activities may appear on future exams. These assessments are unannounced. Thus, it is imperative that students attend every class. In total, the assignments will be worth 100 points toward your final grade.

Last-minute technical issues will not warrant a reset after the assignment’s due date. For example, if a student chooses to wait until the weekend or evening, the assignment is due, and there is a technical issue (such as my internet stopped working, Canvas kicked me out, etc.), the submission will retain the score at the time the assignment is due – which may be a 0.

*If an extra credit opportunity presents itself, it will be posted as an announcement and assignment and available to the entire class. **There are no individual opportunities for extra credit in the course.** Focus your efforts on submitting all assignments on time to earn the most points possible.

Grade Breakdown: Students will earn points through three evaluation methods, totaling **700 points**. The course is based on a point scale, not percentages, and will not be rounded or adjusted in any way. The possible points can be earned in the following manner:

Assessment	Points	Quantity	Total Points
Exams	100	4	400
Case Study Assignments	50	3	150
Guest Speaker Reflections	25	2	50
In Class Assignments	-	-	100
Total			700

Grade Conversion: To calculate final grades, add the number of points acquired throughout the course and divide by the total points possible. *I do not curve nor negotiate student grades at the end of the semester.* It is recommended that students monitor their own progress using Canvas.

At the end of the semester, a student's total number of earned points will be converted to the appropriate letter:

A = 700-630points

B = 629-560 points

C = 559-490 points

D = 489-420 points

F = 419 and below

Grade-related questions or concerns must be addressed within one week of the grade being posted to Canvas. Do not contact the instructor at the end of the semester with a concern over the first discussion – instead, contact the instructor immediately upon grades being posted to discuss these concerns.

Generative AI Use: In this course, I want you to engage deeply with the materials and develop your own critical thinking and writing skills. For this reason, the use of Generative AI (GenAI) tools like [insert tool(s) here, e.g., Claude, ChatGPT, and Gemini] is not permitted. While these tools can be helpful in some contexts, they do not align with our goal of fostering the development of your independent thinking. Using GenAI to complete any part of an assignment, exam, or coursework will be considered a violation of academic integrity, as it prevents the development of your own skills, and will be addressed according to the [Student Academic Integrity policy \(https://policy.unt.edu/policy/06-003\)](https://policy.unt.edu/policy/06-003).

*Do not plagiarize (from the internet or other source). Do not simply quote sections from other researchers as your answer. The reaction essays, activities, final paper and discussion responses must be written in your own words. If you are going to cite someone, write the sentence in your words, cite them in APA 7th Edition format, and provide a Reference list.

Additional Course Policies

Academic Integrity: Standards of academic integrity are expected with regard to any course related work or submission. Academic violation of UNT policy consists of the following:

- A. Cheating. The use of unauthorized assistance in an academic exercise, including but not limited to:
 - i. Use of any unauthorized assistance to take exams, tests, quizzes or other assessments;
 - ii. Dependence upon the aid of sources beyond those authorized by the instructor in writing papers, preparing reports, solving problems or carrying out other assignments;
 - iii. Acquisition, without permission, of tests, notes or other academic materials belonging to a faculty or staff member of the University;
 - iv. Dual submission of a paper or project, or re-submission of a paper or project to a different class without express permission from the instructor;
 - v. Any other act designed to give a student an unfair advantage on an academic assignment.
- B. Plagiarism. Use of another's thoughts or words without proper attribution in any academic exercise, regardless of the student's intent, including but not limited to:
 - i. The knowing or negligent use by paraphrase or direct quotation of the published or unpublished work of another person without full and clear acknowledgement or citation;
 - ii. The knowing or negligent unacknowledged use of materials prepared by another person or by an agency engaged in selling term papers or other academic materials.
- C. Forgery. Altering a score, grade or official academic university record or forging the signature of an instructor or other student.
- D. Fabrication. Falsifying or inventing any information, data or research as part of an academic exercise.
- E. Facilitating Academic Dishonesty. Helping or assisting another in the commission of academic dishonesty.
- F. Sabotage. Acting to prevent others from completing their work or willfully disrupting the academic work of others.

Any violation of academic integrity will be handled on a case-by-case basis. At a minimum, the student will receive a zero on the assignment in question, but more serious academic violations may be subject to the assignment of a failing grade for the course. Please do not hesitate to contact the instructor with questions related to citations or other

ADA Statement and Disabled Student Policy: The University of North Texas makes reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. To request accommodations, you must first register with the Office of Disability Access (ODA) by completing an application for services and providing documentation to verify your eligibility each semester. Once your eligibility is confirmed, you may request your letter of accommodation. ODA will then email your faculty a letter of reasonable accommodation, initiating a private discussion about your specific needs in the course.

You can request accommodations at any time, but it's important to provide ODA notice to your faculty as early as possible in the semester to avoid delays in implementation. Keep in mind that you must obtain a new letter of accommodation for each semester and meet with each faculty member before accommodations can be implemented in each class. You are strongly encouraged to meet with faculty regarding your accommodations during office hours or by appointment. Faculty have the authority to ask you to discuss your letter during their designated office hours to protect your privacy. For more information and to access resources that can support your needs, refer to the [Office of Disability Access](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/office-disability-access) website (<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/office-disability-access>).

Syllabus Change: I reserve the right and have the discretion to change this syllabus. While every effort will be made to follow this syllabus as closely as possible, it is sometimes the case that it must be modified. In the case that it needs to be adjusted, I will announce such adjustments to the class. I will make every effort to ensure that any changes to the syllabus benefit the class as a whole. It is the student's responsibility to check announcements/notifications/emails so that any changes are documented. Failure to obtain syllabus changes because of failure to check and read announcements, notifications, and or emails does not constitute a basis for a missed applicable change.

Copyright Notice: Some or all of the materials on this course Web site may be protected by copyright. Federal copyright law prohibits the reproduction, distribution, public performance, or public display of copyrighted materials without the express and written permission of the copyright owner, unless fair use or another exemption under copyright law applies. Additional copyright information may be located at: <http://copyright.unt.edu/content/unt-copyright-policies>.

Notice for F-1 Students Taking Distance Education Courses: Federal regulations state that students may apply only 3 fully-online semester credit hours (SCH) to the hours required for full-time status for [F-1 Visa \(DOC\)](#) holders. Full-time status for F-1 Visa students is 12 hours for undergraduates and 9 hours for graduate students.

Student Evaluation of Instruction (SPOT): *Student feedback is important and an essential part of participation in this course. The student evaluation of instruction (SPOT) is a requirement for all organized classes at UNT. This short survey will be made available to you at the end of the semester to provide you with an opportunity to evaluate how this course is taught. Student feedback is very important to UNT, please complete your SPOT (Student Perceptions of Teaching) survey during the open evaluation time.*

Emergency Notification & Procedures: UNT uses a system called Eagle Alert to quickly notify students with critical information in the event of an emergency (i.e., severe weather, campus closing, and health and public safety emergencies like chemical spills, fires, or violence). In the event of a university closure, please refer to the UNT Learning Management System (LMS) for contingency plans for covering course materials.

How Our Time Together Will Be Organized

Students are responsible for keeping up with the schedule, as well as any schedule changes throughout the progression of the course. This is a tentative schedule, and the instructor reserves the right to modify any part of the schedule at any time throughout the semester. All assignments must be submitted by 11:59 PM CT on the date listed below. *Late submissions are not accepted.* Students will be notified by Eagle Alert if there is a campus closing that will impact a class, and describe that the calendar is subject to change, per UNT's [Campus Closures Policy](https://policy.unt.edu/policy/15-006) (<https://policy.unt.edu/policy/15-006>).

Date	Topic & Assignment	Readings
Week 1 Aug. 17 & Aug. 19	Topic: Course Overview and Introduction	Course Syllabus and Chapter 1
Week 2 Aug. 24 & Aug. 26	Topic: Understanding White Collar Crime	Chapter 2
Week 3 Aug. 31 & Sept. 2	Topic: Crime in Sales-Related Occupations	Chapter 3
Week 4+ Sept. 7 & Sept. 9	No Class 9/7* Exam 1 (Ch. 1-3) 9/9	
Week 5 Sept. 14 & Sept. 16	Topic: Crime in the Health Care System	Chapter 4
Week 6 Sept. 21 & Sept. 23	9/21 Guest Speaker 9/23: Crime in Systems of Social Control	Chapter 5
Week 7 Sept. 28 & Sept. 30	9/28: Finish Crime in Systems of Social Control 9/30: Crime in the Political System Case Study Assignment #1 Due 9/30	Chapter 5 continued Chapter 6
Week 8 Oct. 5 & Oct. 7	10/5: Finish Crime in the Political System Exam 2 (Ch. 4-6) 10/7	Chapter 6 continued
Week 9 Oct. 12 & Oct. 14	Topic: Crime in the Educational System	Chapter 7
Week 10 Oct. 19 &– Oct. 21	10/19: Crime in the Economic System 10/21: Guest Speaker	Chapter 8
Week 11 Oct. 26 & Oct. 28	10/26 Finish Crime in the Economic System 10/28: Crime by the Corporate System Case Study Assignment #2 Due 10/28	Chapter 8 continued Chapter 10
Week 12 Nov. 2 & Nov. 4	11/2: Finish Crime by the Corporate System Exam 3 (Ch. 7, 8, & 10) 11/4	Chapter 10 continued

Week 13 Nov. 9 & Nov. 11	Topic: Environmental Crime	Chapter 11
Week 14 Nov. 16 & Nov. 18 [^]	Topic: Explaining White Collar Crime	Chapter 12
Week 15* Nov. 23 – Nov. 29 No Class – Thanksgiving Break		
Week 16 Nov. 30 – Dec. 2	11/30: Documentary Case Study Assignment #3 Due 11/30	
Finals Week	Exam 4 (Ch. 11, 12, Chernobyl Case Study): 12/7	

Note. In addition to the required textbook readings, journal articles, documentaries, podcasts, or other media sources may be used to enhance students' learning further and will be made available on Canvas. Scheduled conference dates are also noted which may delay communication between the instructor and student.

*Indicates a university holiday or break.

+Indicates the European Society of Criminology Annual Meeting will be taking place (Sept. 9-12).

[^]Indicates the American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting will be taking place (Nov. 18-21).

I intend to follow the course outline provided in this syllabus but reserve the right to make revisions as needed. Students will be notified in writing if the course agenda changes or if additional reading material is assigned. Any additional material will be posted in the class discussion forum on Canvas.