

**Legal Aspects of the Criminal Justice System**  
**CJUS 5200.001 and .600**  
**Spring 2025**

**Professor Contact Information**

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**Course Description**

Graduate Catalog Course Description: Examination of the legal process and procedures of the criminal justice system, including investigation, arrest, prosecution and sentencing.

**Course Objectives**

Through this course, students should gain:

- 1) An understanding of the constitutional and judicial parameters of governmental authority to search and seize individuals and property and collect testimonial evidence.
- 2) An understanding of the constitutional and judicial parameters of the adjudication and punishment process.
- 3) An understanding of the origin, evolution, implementation, and effectiveness of an illustrative constitutional provision concerning criminal procedure through targeted research.

**Required Texts**

del Carmen, Rolando V. and Craig Hemmens. *Criminal Procedure: Law and Practice*, 11th ed. Mason, OH: Cengage, 2025.

**Course Requirements**

There are a total of 500 points that students can earn in this class: 4 assignments (100 points each, for a total of 400 points) and 1 research paper (100 points). The grading scale and descriptions of the assessment measures are described below.

## **Grading Scale**

450 – 500 points = A

400 – 449 points = B

350 – 399 points = C

300 – 349 points = D

Below 300 points = F

*I do not offer extra credit in this course.*

***PLEASE NOTE: I DO NOT DEVIATE FROM THE ABOVE GRADING SCALE EVEN IF YOU ARE ONLY ONE POINT AWAY FROM THE NEXT LETTER GRADE.***

## **Assignments (400 points total)**

*There will be 4 online assignments for this class which will be available on the course site in Canvas when they are released.* The assignments will consist of a mixture of conceptual/definitional/description questions, summaries of the rationale for specified Court decisions, and/or application of criminal procedure principles to factual scenarios. Each assignment is worth a maximum of 100 points each. The assignments are designed to assess the knowledge that each of you has individually learned regarding the course materials. Therefore, I expect your assignments to reflect your own individual and independent knowledge and work, without assistance from any other person. ***You may use all course materials while completing the assignments.*** The assignments themselves should not be copied or duplicated by you or anyone else for any purpose whatsoever. The university rules concerning academic integrity will be strictly enforced.

The assignments will be included in the related course materials in Canvas, under *Modules*, and should be submitted there.

Students who do not complete any assignment during the scheduled time period will receive a zero for the assignment. *Assignment grades will be available within 7 business days after the applicable assignment period closes.*

## **Research Paper (100 points total)**

Each student will select a specific constitutional provision concerning criminal procedure (for example, an exception to the search warrant requirement, the self-incrimination prohibition, right to counsel, or cruel and unusual punishment prohibition). Each student will then prepare a research

paper concerning the constitutional provision chosen. The *text* of this paper should be 16-18 typed pages long. The paper should include:

- 1) A description of the origin/history of the provision before its inclusion in the Bill of Rights (for example, predecessor provisions in English or other law, adoption by specific colonies, and consideration by the drafters of the Bill of Rights);
- 2) A description of the evolution of the Court's interpretation of the constitutional provision and current interpretation, including identification and description of specific Court decisions and the rationale(s) that the Court articulated in reaching its conclusions;
- 3) A description and discussion of the implementation and effectiveness of the constitutional provision in the American criminal justice system;
- 4) References to at least 8 Court decisions and at least 8 other scholarly sources (for example, scholarly journals, books, research studies, government statistics, etc.); and
- 5) Parenthetical references to sources and a bibliography containing the sources cited in the paper, both in APA format.

All students must identify in writing the provision on which their paper will be based by the beginning of class on Tuesday, February 4. Any major change in the topic should be approved by the instructor. The final paper will be due no later than Sunday, April 27 at 11:59 p.m.

To submit the research paper, click on "Submit Research Paper Here" in Canvas, under *Modules*, and follow the instructions to upload your final document.

Students who do not complete the research paper within the scheduled time period will receive a zero for the research paper. *Late research papers will generally not be accepted. Research paper grades will be available within 7 business days after the applicable research paper period closes.*

### **General Class Policies**

#### **Communication:**

I will return emails and voicemails within 48 hours during Monday-Friday. If you do not receive a response from me during that period, assume that I did not receive your communication and contact me again. You are, of course, also welcome to communicate with me in person in Chilton Hall 265 by appointment.

If you are having technical or technological issues regarding coursework via Canvas, your first communication should be with the help desk at [helpdesk@unt.edu](mailto:helpdesk@unt.edu) or 940-565-2324. The technicians there have the expertise to help you resolve your issues.

### **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 and all changes are documented. Failure to obtain syllabus changes because of failure to check and read announcements/notifications/emails does not constitute a basis for a missed applicable change.

### **Release of Coursework:**

The assignments will be released on the course site in Canvas according to the Course Schedule.

### **Late Policy:**

Because students have an extended period of time to complete assignments and the research paper, *coursework deadline extensions are not granted. A zero will be awarded for any coursework that is submitted late or not turned in at all during the scheduled time period.* However, students with absences that are authorized pursuant to university policy 06.039 Student Attendance and Authorized Absences **and** that impact the timeliness of their work (for example, by covering the entire time period during which the coursework could be done), should contact me and provide documentation *prior to any due date* in order for such absence to receive any consideration.

*Individual technical or technological difficulties in completing coursework in a timely manner (e.g., computer crashes or viruses or interrupted internet connections) do not constitute a basis to request a coursework deadline extension.* To avoid such issues, I encourage you to not wait until the final available hours or minutes to complete assigned coursework.

### **Course Etiquette:**

This course provides the opportunity to thoughtfully discuss issues and exchange ideas. Your communication with me and your fellow students should be appropriate to the course and respectful of the opinions of others. Engaging in disruptive or disrespectful behavior in this course may result in your dismissal from this class, as provided in university policy.

**Posting of Grades:**

Students can access their grades via the *Grades* tab on the course page in Canvas. *Coursework grades will be available within 7 business days after the applicable coursework period closes.*

**Academic Integrity:**

The university rules (UNT Policy 06.003) concerning cheating and plagiarism will be strictly enforced. *Your work on assignments and the research paper should be your own individual and independent work. These are not group projects. You should not consult other persons when completing coursework.*

**Policy on Server Unavailability or Other Technical Difficulties:**

The University is committed to providing a reliable online course system to all users. However, in the event of any unexpected server or any unusual technical difficulty which prevents students from completing a time sensitive assessment activity, the instructor will extend the time window for coursework submission.

**SPOT (Student Perception of Teaching):**

You will have the opportunity to complete the SPOT survey at the end of the semester and share your thoughts about the course. I value the feedback that I receive from the SPOT survey and strongly encourage you to participate by completing the survey in this class and all your classes.

**ADA Statement:**

The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic accommodations for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Access (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide you with an accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course. You may request accommodations at any time, however, ODA notices of accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of accommodation for every semester and must meet (i.e., electronically, phone, or in person) with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. For additional information, see the Office of Disability Access website at <http://disability.unt.edu/>. You may also contact them by phone at 940.565.4323.

**Intellectual Property Statement:**

Some of the material provided in this course is my personal intellectual property or that of the university. You may not use this material for anything other than class purposes.

**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 Canvas for contingency plans for covering course materials.

### Course Schedule

Class Meeting Date	Activity	Activity Due Date/Time
<b>Week 1</b> January 14	Class Introduction	
<b>Week 2</b> January 21	Chapter 3: Probable Cause and Reasonable Suspicion	
<b>Week 3</b> January 28	Chapter 4: The Exclusionary Rule	
<b>Week 4</b> February 4	Chapter 5: Stop and Frisk and Stationhouse Detention	
<b>Week 5</b> <i>No Class Meeting on February 11</i>	Assignment 1 over Chapters 3-5	Assignment 1 due on <b>Sunday February 16</b> at 11:59PM
<b>Week 6</b> February 18	Chapter 6: Arrest and Use of Force	
<b>Week 7</b> February 25	Chapter 7: Searches and Seizures of Things	
<b>Week 8</b> March 4	Chapter 7: Searches and Seizures of Things ( <i>continued</i> )	
<b>Monday March 10 – Sunday March 16 – SPRING BREAK</b>		
<b>Week 9</b> <i>No Class Meeting on March 18</i>	Assignment 2 over Chapters 6-7	Assignment 2 due on <b>Sunday March 23</b> at 11:59PM
<b>Week 10</b> March 25	Chapter 8: Motor Vehicle Stops, Searches, and Inventories	

<b>Week 11</b> April 1	Chapter 9: Plain View, Open Fields, Abandonment, and Border Searches Chapter 10: Lineups and Other Means of Pretrial Identification	
<b>Week 12</b> April 8	Chapter 11: Confessions and Admissions: <i>Miranda v. Arizona</i>	
<b>Week 13</b> <i>No Class Meeting on April 15</i>	Assignment 3 over Chapters 8-11	Assignment 3 due on <b>Sunday April 20</b> at 11:59PM
<b>Week 14</b> April 22	Chapter 12: Basic Constitutional Rights of the Accused during Trial	Research paper due on <b>Sunday April 27</b> at 11:59PM
<b>Week 15</b> April 29	Chapter 13: Sentencing, the Death Penalty, and Other Forms of Punishment	
<b>Week 16</b> <i>No Class Meeting on May 6</i>	Assignment 4 over Chapters 12-13	Assignment 4 due on <b>Tuesday May 6</b> at 11:59PM