

**Seminar in Contemporary Policing**  
**CJUS 5350.400**  
**5WK2 Summer 2025**

Welcome to the online section of CJUS 5350, Seminar in Contemporary Policing. I look forward to having you in this class.

**PLEASE NOTE: THIS COURSE IS 100% ONLINE AND DOES NOT HAVE ANY SCHEDULED CLASS MEETINGS.**

**Professor Contact Information**

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- Office phone: 940-565-4954
- Email contact: fritsch@unt.edu
- Office hours: By appointment

**Online Class Considerations**

This class is completely online. For those of you who have not taken an online class before, these classes require your personal discipline and motivation to keep up with the pace of the class materials. For example, materials in Canvas will be released on Mondays at 8:00 am, as applicable, in the Course Schedule later in this syllabus. During most weeks, there is an assignment, discussion board or exam that is due by the end of the week on Sundays at 11:59 pm. Students will have several days in the course schedule (from Monday at 8:00 am until Sunday at 11:59 pm) to identify time to complete the assignments, discussion boards and exams.

Because students have an extended period of time to complete exams, assignments, and discussion boards, *there will generally be no make-up exams and late discussion boards and assignments will generally not be accepted. A zero will be awarded for any work that is submitted late or not turned in at all during the scheduled time period.* 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 an assignment, discussion board, or exam 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 make-up exam, the submission of a late discussion board or assignment, or receive a*

*time extension.* To avoid such issues, I encourage you to *not wait* until the final available hours or minutes to complete assigned coursework and/or complete your exams/discussion boards/assignments in a UNT computer lab. It is further recommended that you submit assigned work through a supported web browser on a computer or laptop rather than an iPad or other electronic device and that you avoid using wireless internet connections.

Because the class is online, you will, of course, need to use a personal computer that is compatible with the UNT online course system or use one of the computers available in the campus computer labs. This is important for submitting your coursework in a timely manner.

Because most of the communication in this course will occur online, you will need to make sure that you keep up with the class communications. I will primarily use the *Inbox* function, and occasionally the *Announcements* page in Canvas, to communicate with the class as a whole. You should check these areas frequently. These communications will also be sent to your *UNT email address if you have notifications in Canvas set up in this manner.* If you do not routinely check your UNT email address, make sure to forward your UNT email to your preferred email address so that you can stay up-to-date with class announcements and information.

Finally, online classes also require some basic technological skills to access course materials and complete assigned coursework. UNT has a variety of resources to assist you with the technological aspects of navigating this and other online classes. *One of the most important of these resources is the help desk. It can be reached by email at [helpdesk@unt.edu](mailto:helpdesk@unt.edu) and via phone at 940-565-2324. Personnel at the help desk can assist you with issues concerning access to UNT's online system and other technological issues.*

## **Course Description**

Graduate Catalog Course Description: Survey of classical and recent literature in policing. Studies of the trends, issues and reform movements currently prominent in the field of policing.

The course material is divided into chapters/articles and modules. The order in which we will cover the chapters/articles and modules is provided in the Course Schedule later in this syllabus.

The assignments, discussion boards, and exams are designed to apply, verify, and extend your knowledge and understanding of the class materials.

## **Course Objectives**

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Discuss the history of American policing
- Discuss the evolution of police strategies, particularly in terms of how the functions of crime control, order maintenance, and service provision have been prioritized
- Discuss contemporary issues regarding the police culture, police misconduct, and use of force
- Identify current trends in policing in terms of technology, operations, and accountability

## **Required Texts**

Dunham, Roger G., Geoffrey P. Alpert, and Kyle D. McLean. (2021). *Critical Issues in Policing: Contemporary Readings* (8<sup>th</sup> Edition). Long Grove, IL: Waveland Press.

The text is required for all students enrolled in the class and is the only required text for the course. Reading assignments are noted in the Course Schedule.

## **How the Course is Organized**

This course will take place completely online through Canvas. The course is composed of several readings, online modules, and graded coursework. *Online modules that accompany the assigned materials will highlight and supplement the assigned text readings.*

## **How Students Should Proceed Each Week for Class Activities**

At the beginning of each week, the student should refer to the Course Schedule (see below) for the coursework/readings/activities for that week. The textbook readings and online modules will help you complete the coursework and satisfy all learning objectives.

## **Course Requirements**

This course is made up of a series of assignments and assessments to assist you in achieving the course learning objectives. Each week you will work on various combinations of assignments, discussions, and readings. The due date/time for each assignment and assessment is located in the Course Schedule at the end of this syllabus. *Students can expect their grades and feedback to be released to them within 7 business days.* There are a total of 500 points that students can earn in this class: 2 exams (100 points each, for a total of 200 points); 4 assignments (50 points each, for a total of 200 points); and 4 discussion boards (25 points each, for a total of 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.*

## Exams (200 points total)

*There will be 2 online exams for this class which will be available on the course site when they are released. The exams will consist of essay questions. Each test will cover all module note material and assigned material in the course text. You may use your textbook and all course materials while completing the exams. The exams are designed to assess the knowledge that each of you has individually learned regarding the textbook and course materials. Therefore, I expect your exam responses to reflect your own individual and independent knowledge and work, without assistance from any other person. The exams themselves should not be copied or duplicated by you or anyone else for any purpose whatsoever. The university rules concerning academic dishonesty will be strictly enforced.*

The exams will be included in the related Course Materials, under *Modules*, and should be submitted there.

**EXAMS ARE TAKEN FROM THE COURSE TEXTBOOK AND INCLUDE MATERIAL COVERED IN THE ONLINE CANVAS MODULES. IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT YOU READ THE CORRESPONDING CHAPTERS/ARTICLES AND ONLINE CANVAS MODULES BEFORE ATTEMPTING TO TAKE AN EXAM.**

Students who do not complete any exam during the scheduled time period will receive a zero for the exam. There will *generally be no make-up exams. Exam grades will be available within 7 business days after the applicable exam period closes.*

### **Assignments (200 points total)**

*There will be 4 online assignments for this class which will be available on the course site when they are released.* The assignments are designed to assess the knowledge that each of you has individually learned regarding the textbook and 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 your textbook and 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 dishonesty will be strictly enforced.

The assignments will be included in the related Course Materials, under *Modules*, and should be submitted there.

Each assignment will be in an essay and/or short answer format. Each assignment is worth 50 points. Assignments will cover textbook readings and online Canvas modules, as applicable.

**ASSIGNMENTS ARE TAKEN FROM THE COURSE TEXTBOOK AND INCLUDE MATERIAL COVERED IN THE ONLINE CANVAS MODULES. IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT YOU READ THE CORRESPONDING CHAPTERS/ARTICLES AND ONLINE CANVAS MODULES BEFORE ATTEMPTING TO COMPLETE AN ASSIGNMENT.**

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

### **Discussion Boards (100 points total)**

*There will be 4 online discussion boards for this class which will be available on the course site when they are released. You may use your textbook and all course materials while completing the discussion boards.*

These discussion boards will be included in the related Course Materials, under *Modules*, and should be submitted there.

Grading rubrics will be utilized for the discussion boards so students can identify how their discussion posts will be graded.

Your discussions will be graded on depth of explanation, utilization of outside sources, specific efforts to back up your arguments with logical points and sources, integration of material from the

textbook and online course modules, grammar and spelling, and adhering to the discussion board requirements. In order to receive full credit you must post an original response and respond to at least 1 other students' post. Note that you will NOT be able to see any other students' posts until you have first posted a thread yourself.

The discussion boards will ask you to provide your own posting and respond to the posting of at least 1 other student. Each discussion submission should be thorough and well-written and *at least 3 paragraphs long*. Responses to other students should be *at least 1 paragraph long*. Each discussion board will be worth a maximum of 25 points – up to 15 points for your posting and up to 10 points for your response to another student's posting. The discussion posts are designed to extend your knowledge and understanding of the class materials and provide a vehicle to apply such knowledge and understanding. The discussions boards will close at the time indicated on the Course Schedule.

Students who do not complete any discussion board assignment within the scheduled time period will receive a zero for the discussion board. *Late discussion postings will generally not be accepted. Discussion post grades will be available within 7 business days after the applicable discussion post period closes.*

## **General Class Policies**

### **Communication:**

*We will use the course site message function, Inbox, for communication purposes. Any email communication with me outside the course site should be done via my unt.edu email address: [fritsch@unt.edu](mailto:fritsch@unt.edu). You should use your UNT email account for all email communications with me. My phone number is 940-565-4954. If you leave a voicemail, please clearly identify yourself and leave a return phone number where I can reach you. 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 the course, 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 coursework and online Canvas modules will be released on the course site according to the schedule on the Course Schedule. Once released, they will remain available on the course site.

### **Late Policy:**

Because students have an extended period of time to complete exams, assignments, and discussion boards, *there will generally be no make-up exams and late discussion boards and assignments will generally not be accepted. A zero will be awarded for any work that is submitted late or not turned in at all during the scheduled time period.* 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 an assignment, discussion, or exam 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 an assignment, discussion, or exam in a timely manner (e.g., computer crashes or viruses or interrupted internet connections) do not constitute a basis to request a make-up exam or the submission of a late discussion or assignment.* To avoid such issues, I encourage you to *not wait* until the final available hours or minutes to complete assigned coursework and/or complete your assignments, discussions, and exams in a UNT computer lab. It is also recommended that you submit assigned work through a supported web browser on a computer or laptop rather than an iPad or other electronic device and that you avoid using wireless internet connections.

### **Online Etiquette:**

This online format provides the opportunity to thoughtfully discuss issues and exchange ideas. Your communication with me and your fellow students in this online format should be appropriate to the course and respectful of the opinions of others. Engaging in disruptive or disrespectful behavior in this online forum 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. *Coursework (i.e., assignments, discussions, and exams) grades will be available within 7 business days after the applicable coursework period closes.*

**Academic Dishonesty:**

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

**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 windows and provide an appropriate accommodation based on the situation.

**SPOT (Student Perceptions 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 of your classes.

**ADA Statement:**

The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic accommodation 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 posted online for 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.

**Important Notice for F-1 Students taking Distance Education Courses:** see Appendix 1.

## Course Schedule

Note: Materials in Canvas will be released on *Mondays* on the course site at 8:00AM as indicated in the Opening Date column below. Students will have until the following *Sunday* night at 11:59 pm to complete any related assignment, discussion board, or exam (**except Week 5 which has a Friday night at 11:59PM due date**).

Opening Date	Readings, Assignments, Discussion Boards, Exams	Due Dates
<b>Week 1</b> Opens Monday June 23 at 8AM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read Articles 1-9 Dunham, Alpert &amp; McLean book: <i>Critical Issues in Policing</i></li> <li>• Modules 1-4 in Canvas</li> <li>• <b>Discussion 1</b></li> <li>• <b>Assignment 1</b></li> </ul>	<p><b>Discussion 1</b> due by Sunday, June 29 at 11:59 pm</p> <p><b>Assignment 1</b> due by Sunday, June 29 at 11:59 pm</p>
<b>Week 2</b> Opens Monday June 30 at 8AM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read Articles 10-16 Dunham, Alpert &amp; McLean book: <i>Critical Issues in Policing</i></li> <li>• Modules 5-7 in Canvas</li> <li>• <b>Discussion 2</b></li> <li>• <b>Assignment 2</b></li> </ul>	<p><b>Discussion 2</b> due by Sunday, July 6 at 11:59 pm</p> <p><b>Assignment 2</b> due by Sunday, July 6 at 11:59 pm</p>
<b>Week 3</b> Opens Monday July 7 at 8AM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Midterm Exam</b> Covers Articles 1-16 in Dunham, Alpert &amp; McLean book and associated Module materials</li> <li>• Read Articles 17-21 Dunham, Alpert &amp; McLean book: <i>Critical Issues in Policing</i></li> <li>• Modules 8-9 in Canvas</li> <li>• <b>Discussion 3</b></li> </ul>	<p><b>Midterm Exam</b> due by Sunday, July 13 at 11:59 pm</p> <p><b>Discussion 3</b> due by Sunday, July 13 at 11:59 pm</p>
<b>Week 4</b> Opens Monday July 14 at 8AM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read Articles 22-30 Dunham, Alpert &amp; McLean book: <i>Critical Issues in Policing</i></li> <li>• Modules 10-12 in Canvas</li> <li>• <b>Assignment 3</b></li> <li>• <b>Discussion 4</b></li> </ul>	<p><b>Assignment 3</b> due by Sunday, July 20 at 11:59 pm</p> <p><b>Discussion 4</b> due by Sunday, July 20 at 11:59 pm</p>

<p><b>Week 5</b> Opens Monday July 21 at 8AM</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read Articles 31-36 Dunham, Alpert &amp; McLean book: <i>Critical Issues in Policing</i></li> <li>• Modules 13-14 in Canvas</li> <li>• <b>Assignment 4</b></li> <li>• <b>Final Exam</b></li> </ul> <p>Covers Articles 17-36 in Dunham, Alpert &amp; McLean book and associated Module materials</p>	<p><i>Assignment 4</i> due by <b>Friday</b>, July 25 at 11:59 pm</p> <p><i>Final Exam</i> due by <b>Friday</b>, July 25 at 11:59 pm</p>
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## **Appendix 1**

### **Important Notice for F-1 Students taking Distance Education Courses: Federal Regulation**

#### **Federal Regulation**

To read detailed Immigration and Customs Enforcement regulations for F-1 students taking online courses, please go to the Electronic Code of Federal Regulations website at <http://ecfr.gpoaccess.gov>. The specific portion concerning distance education courses is located at "Title 8 CFR 214.2 Paragraph (f)(6)(i)(G)" and can be found within this document: <http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/get-cfr.cgi?TITLE=8&PART=214&SECTION=2&TYPE=TEXT>

The paragraph reads:

(G) For F–1 students enrolled in classes for credit or classroom hours, no more than the equivalent of one class or three credits per session, term, semester, trimester, or quarter may be counted toward the full course of study requirement if the class is taken on-line or through distance education and does not require the student's physical attendance for classes, examination or other purposes integral to completion of the class. An on-line or distance education course is a course that is offered principally through the use of television, audio, or computer transmission including open broadcast, closed circuit, cable, microwave, or satellite, audio conferencing, or computer conferencing. If the F–1 student's course of study is in a language study program, no on-line or distance education classes may be considered to count toward a student's full course of study requirement.

#### **University of North Texas Compliance**

To comply with immigration regulations, an F-1 visa holder within the United States may need to engage in an on-campus experiential component for this course. This component (which must be approved in advance by the instructor) can include activities such as taking an on-campus exam, participating in an on-campus lecture or lab activity, or other on-campus experience integral to the completion of this course.

If such an on-campus activity is required, it is the student's responsibility to do the following:

(1) Submit a written request to the instructor for an on-campus experiential component within one week of the start of the course.

(2) Ensure that the activity on campus takes place and the instructor documents it in writing with a notice sent to the International Student and Scholar Services Office (ISSS). ISSS has a form available that you may use for this purpose.

Because the decision may have serious immigration consequences, if a F-1 student is unsure about their need to participate in an on-campus experiential component for this course, the student should contact the UNT International Student and Scholar Services Office (telephone 940-565-2195 or email [internationaladvising@unt.edu](mailto:internationaladvising@unt.edu)) to get clarification before the one-week deadline.