



CJUS 3600.401 Criminology

Instructor: Jhon A. Pupo, Ph.D.

Class Meeting: Online

Term: Fall 2026

INSTRUCTOR CONTACT INFORMATION:

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Emailing Instructor & TA: When sending an email, please put the course number (CJUS 3600) 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.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Crime is a complex problem. There are so many seemingly distinct types of crime, and crimes occur for different reasons and under different circumstances. In fact, the complexity of crime is increasing. For example, the globalization of communications (e.g., the internet) and conflict (e.g., terrorism) has had substantial impacts on the nature of crime. Despite this complexity, it is imperative that we gain as great an understanding of crime as possible through criminology. Criminology can be defined as the study of the nature of crime, its causes, and the systemic practices that (re)produce patterns of harm. At its core, criminology attempts to understand what crime is and why it occurs. We will study the major theoretical traditions that have emerged over the past several centuries to offer insight into the crime problem. We will also evaluate each theory using extant research and identify policy implications.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

Students who successfully complete this course will be able to:

1. Evaluate the nature, extent, and measurement of crime.
2. Describe the study of victimology and theories of crime victimization.
3. Explain that several different theories offer us a wide variety of perspectives on why people offend.
4. Describe and compare criminological theories.
5. Determine theories' policy implications and explain why some are more realistic than others.

REQUIRED READING MATERIALS:

Siegel, Lary J. (2018). *Criminology: The Core* (7th Edition). Cengage. ISBN-13: 978-1337557719

Note: In addition to the required textbook, journal articles, documentaries, and other sources of reference **may** be used to further enhance student learning and will be made available on Canvas.

COURSE STRUCTURE:

This course will take place completely online through Canvas. The course is composed of 15 modules. Each module contains the relevant chapter outlines as well as other supplementary material as needed. Note that not all modules will contain supplementary materials or require extra reading beyond the textbook. Throughout the semester, students will participate in five (5) discussions through Canvas. Students will also take six (6) quizzes and complete one (1) movie and theory paper.

Course Prerequisites or Other Restrictions: There are no prerequisites for this course.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS & GRADING:

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.

Quizzes (250 points total). There will be a total of six (6) quizzes in this course, with the five (5) highest scores counting towards your grade for a total of 250 points (each worth 50 points). *Your lowest quiz score will be dropped.* Each quiz will consist of 25 multiple choice and true/false questions, and will cover all module note material, videos, and other assigned reading material. Quizzes can be accessed via the “Quiz” tab in their respective week’s module in Canvas.

Each quiz will be available for 40 minutes upon opening the quiz and must be completed in **one** attempt. Thus, please be sure you have a reliable internet connection and are ready to complete the entire quiz when you open it (Technical issues will only be considered in extreme circumstances, once per semester and at the instructor’s discretion). **Quiz due dates are listed in the course calendar below.**

Discussion Posts (200 points total). Each student will be required to respond to 5 Canvas discussion posts throughout the course of the semester. Each discussion post is worth 40 points, for a total of 200 points towards your final grade. Discussion posts should include your response to the post, and a response to a classmate’s post. Initial discussion posts should be a minimum of 250 words of original content. Students must reply to at least one other student’s post for full point potential (responding appropriately, of course). Discussion post replies should be a minimum of 100 words of original content. **Discussion due dates are listed in the course calendar below.**

Your discussions will be graded based on depth of explanation, utilization of outside sources, specific efforts to back up your arguments with logical points and sources, grammar and spelling, and adhering to the assignment instructions. **Please be sure to review the detailed rubric provided on Canvas.**

To locate the discussion posts, click the Discussions tab to the left of the main screen. Select the appropriate discussion assignment. Next click on the appropriate forum. To post a comment select “Create Thread.” **Note** that you will NOT be able to see any other students’ posts until you have first posted a thread yourself.

Movie & Theory Paper (150 points total). The purpose of this assignment is to examine the entertainment media’s portrayal of explanations of criminal behavior. Further details on this assignment can be accessed through the assignment details on Canvas under the ‘Movie & Theory Paper’ Module. **Please review the Assignment Instructions and Rubric prior to completing the assignment.**

Grade Breakdown:

Students will earn points through three evaluation methods, totaling **600 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:

Assignment	Points Possible	% of Final Grade
<i>Reading Quizzes – 5 @ 50 points each</i>	250 points	42%
<i>Discussion Posts – 5 @ 40 points each</i>	200 points	33%
<i>Movie & Theory Paper</i>	150 points	25%
Total	600 points	100%

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.

Grading Scale:

540 – 600 =	A
480 – 539 =	B
420 – 479 =	C
360 – 419 =	D
0 – 359 =	F

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 concern over the first discussion. Instead, contact the instructor immediately upon grades being posted to discuss these concerns.

*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 this course.** Focus your efforts on submitting all assignments on time to earn the most points possible.

COURSE POLICIES:

Make-Up, Late Work & Authorized Absence Policy. Make-up assignments and late work will only be accepted when an absence or missed deadline is authorized according to UNT policy. Authorized absences include religious holy days, official UNT functions (including university-sponsored activities), required military service, student pregnancy/parenting (Title IX), university closure, and other extenuating circumstances approved by the Dean of Students. If you anticipate an *authorized* absence, you must notify me as soon as possible—before the due date—and provide written documentation.

Absences for school-sponsored activities require prior approval from the department chair and academic dean, along with authorized absence documentation from the Dean of Students. Requests for excused absences for religious holy days must be made in writing within the university's prescribed time frame. Late work is generally not accepted unless linked to a documented authorized absence, in which case it will be treated under the same guidelines as make-up work. For unexpected emergencies, notify me as soon as possible. Students with excused absences will be granted a reasonable period—no fewer than 10 business days—to complete missed work unless otherwise specified.

If you have questions about what qualifies as an authorized absence or need assistance, please consult [UNT's Student Attendance and Authorized Absences Policy](#) or contact the Dean of Students. While I want all students to succeed, withdrawal may sometimes be the best option for those facing significant challenges. The last day to withdraw with a "W" is November 6, 2026.

Student Behavior & University Policy. I value the many perspectives students bring to campus. Please work with me to create an online classroom culture of open communication, mutual respect, and inclusion. All discussions should be respectful and civil. Although disagreements *may* arise, 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.

To be successful at learning and understanding the material in this class, it is essential that you read and complete the assigned material and engage in thoughtful discussions online. Your active participation, along with your willingness to engage in thoughtful discussions will be taken into account at all times during the semester. Certain topics in criminal justice policy are controversial; thus, discussions may become heated where there will be disagreements. The online classroom is a place to express ideas, opinions, and engage in thoughtful discussions. Students will respect the views and opinions of others at all times in the online environment. While I do not foresee any problems, if problems do arise, I will address them with the individual student *and* in accordance with [UNT's Code of Student Conduct](#).

General Guidelines for Communicating in an Online Classroom:

- Remember that college communication is still *professional* communication. Use correct spelling and grammar and always double-check your response before hitting send or reply. Do not use slang and limit the use of emoticons.
- Use standard, readable fonts, sizes, and colors and avoid writing in all caps.
- Use your instructor's title of "Dr." or "Professor," or if you don't know use "Mr." or "Ms."
- Be mindful of tone in online communication as it lacks the nonverbal cues of face-to-face communication that provide clarity and context to conversations.
- Respect the personal identities of others based on gender/sexuality, race/ethnicity, and/or culture.
- Respect the privacy of yourself, the instructor, and your peers. Keep in mind what you reveal and do not reveal, particularly if this information involves personal health and/or classroom performance, such as grades.
- Give people the benefit of the doubt. Though there may be a computer between you, there are people on the other side of the screen.
- Do not make assumptions about others' technological skills. Technological skills vary across a variety of factors, including experience, age, culture, etc.
- Read these [Core Rules of Netiquette](#) for additional tips about online communication.

Communicating via Email:

- Check the syllabus before asking a question about the course and let the instructor know you checked the syllabus before asking. Instructors put a lot of time into making syllabi as comprehensive as possible for students.
- Please include a descriptive subject line to get the instructor's attention. Instructors receive a lot of emails and a descriptive subject line helps them identify student inquiries more efficiently.
- Be concise and to the point.
- For a sample email, read this article, "[How to Email Your Professor](#)."

Discussion Board Communication:

- Treat your discussion posts and replies like the professional communication that they are. Use correct spelling and grammar and always double-check a response before hitting send or reply. Do not use slang and limit the use of emoticons.
- Read all the messages in a thread before replying so you do not repeat something one of your peers may have already said.
- Avoid replies such as “I agree” and instead explain why you agree or do not agree. • Show your work by sharing resources and utilizing citations.
- When disagreeing, do not make personal attacks or use language that discriminates based on gender, sexuality, race, ethnicity, class, and/or culture.

Academic Dishonesty/Integrity. Students caught cheating or plagiarizing will receive a "0" for that particular assignment. Additionally, the incident will be reported to the Dean of Students, who may impose further penalty. According to the UNT catalog, the term "*cheating*" includes, but is not limited to: (a) use of any unauthorized assistance in taking quizzes, tests, or examinations; (b) dependence upon the aid of sources beyond those authorized by the instructor in writing papers, preparing reports, solving problems, or carrying out other assignments; (c) the acquisition, without permission, of tests or other academic material belonging to a faculty or staff member of the university; (d) dual submission of a paper or project, or resubmission of a paper or project to a different class without express permission from the instructor; or (e) any other act designed to give a student an unfair advantage.

The term "*plagiarism*" includes but is not limited to: (a) the knowing or negligent use by paraphrase or direct quotation of the published or unpublished work of another person without full and clear acknowledgment; and (b) the knowing or negligent unacknowledged use of materials prepared by another person or agency engaged in the selling of term papers or other academic materials. Students should consult the [UNT Student Academic Integrity Policy](#) for questions, guidelines, appeals, and other information related to these policies.

Generative Artificial Intelligence (*GenAI*). 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 (e.g., Claude, ChatGPT, Gemini, etc.) 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](#).

Office of Disability Access. UNT makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking reasonable accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Access (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, ODA will provide you with a reasonable accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course. You may request reasonable accommodation at any time; however, ODA notices of reasonable accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note: students must obtain a new letter of reasonable accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. Students are strongly encouraged to deliver letters of reasonable accommodation during faculty office hours or by appointment. Faculty members have the authority to ask students to discuss such letters during their designated office hours to protect the privacy of the student. Students can access resources and information regarding disability accommodations in the Academic Support tab in Canvas. For additional information, please refer to the [ODA Website](#). You may also contact ODA by phone at: 940.565.4323.

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

Syllabus Changes. 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 the syllabus must be modified. In the case that the syllabus 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/email so that any and all syllabus changes are documented. Failure to obtain syllabus changes because of failure to check and read announcements does not constitute a defense against missed assignments, test dates, and other applicable changes.

Succeed at UNT. UNT endeavors to offer you a high-quality education and to provide a supportive environment to help you learn and grow. And, as a faculty member, I am committed to helping you be successful as a student. Here's how to succeed at UNT: Show up. Find Support. Get advised. Be prepared. Get involved. Stay focused. To learn more about campus resources and information on how you can achieve success, go to: <https://www.unt.edu/success/index>.

Emergency Notification and Procedures. UNT uses a system called [Eagle Alert](#) to quickly notify you 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). The system sends voice messages (and text messages upon permission) to the phones of all active faculty staff, and students. Please make certain to update your phone numbers at my.unt.edu. Some helpful emergency preparedness actions include: 1) know the evacuation routes and severe weather shelter areas in the buildings where your classes are held, 2) determine how you will contact family and friends if phones are temporarily unavailable, and 3) identify where you will go if you need to evacuate the Denton area suddenly. In the event of a university closure, please refer to Canvas for contingency plans for covering course materials.

Retention of Student Records. Student records pertaining to this course are maintained in a secure location by the instructor of record. All records such as exams, answer sheets (with keys), and written papers submitted during the duration of the course are kept for at least one calendar year after course completion. Course work completed via the Canvas online system, including grading information and comments, is also stored in a safe electronic environment for one year. You have a right to view your individual record; however, information about your records will not be divulged to other individuals without the proper written consent. You are encouraged to review the Public Information Policy and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) laws and the university's policy in accordance with those mandates at [this link](#). Information regarding data privacy for Canvas can be found at [this link](#).

Sexual Assault Prevention. UNT is committed to providing a safe learning environment free of all forms of sexual misconduct. Federal laws and UNT policies prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex as well as 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. The Survivor Advocates can be reached at SurvivorAdvocate@unt.edu or by calling the Dean of Students Office at 940-565-2648. Please refer to [UNT's Office of Equal Opportunity & Title IX](#) for more resources.

F1 Visa Holder Regulation. Federal regulations state that students may apply only 3 fully online semester credit hours (SCH) to the hours required for full-time status for F1 Visa holders ([see here](#)). Full-time status for F1 Visa students is 12 hours for undergraduates and 9 hours for graduate students.

ACADEMIC CALENDAR

Please note that this schedule is subject to change. Any changes to the schedule will be announced on Canvas.

Date/Week	Topic, Reading(s), Assignments, and Due Dates
Week #1 8/17–8/23	Topic: Crime & Criminology (Module #1) Reading: Chapter 1 Assignment: Introductory Discussion Post due Sunday, 8/23 by 11:59 PM
Week #2 8/24–8/30	Topic: The Nature & Extent of Crime (Module #2) Reading: Chapter 2 Assignment: Discussion #1 Initial Post & Reply due Sunday, 8/30 by 11:59 PM
Week #3 8/31–9/6	Topic: Victims & Victimization (Module #3) Reading: Chapter 3 Assignment: Quiz #1 (Chapters 1-3) due Sunday, 9/6 by 11:59 PM
Week #4 9/7–9/13	Topic: Rational Choice Theory (Module #4) Reading: Chapter 4 Assignment: None
Week #5 9/14–9/20	Topic: Trait Theory (Module #5) Reading: Chapter 5 Assignment: Quiz #2 (Chapters 4-5) due Sunday, 9/20 by 11:59 PM
Week #6 9/21–9/27	Topic: Social Structure Theory (Module #6) Reading: Chapter 6 Assignment: Discussion #2 Initial Post & Reply due Sunday, 9/27 by 11:59 PM
Week #7 9/28–10/4	Topic: Social Process Theory (Module #7) Reading: Chapter 7 Assignment: Quiz #3 (Chapters 6-7) due Sunday, 10/4 by 11:59 PM
Week #8 10/5–10/11	Topic: Social Conflict, Critical Criminology, & Restorative Justice (Module #8) Reading: Chapter 8 Assignment: Discussion #3 Initial Post & Reply due Sunday, 10/11 by 11:59 PM
Week #9 10/12–10/18	Topic: Developmental Theories (Module #9) Reading: Chapter 9 Assignment: Quiz #4 (Chapters 8-9) due Sunday, 10/18 by 11:59 PM
Week #10 10/19–10/25	Topic: Violent Crime (Module #10) Reading: Chapter 10 Assignment: None
Week #11 10/26–11/1	Topic: Political Crime (Module #11) Reading: Chapter 11 Assignment: Quiz #5 (Chapters 10-11) due Sunday, 11/1 by 11:59 PM
Week #12 11/2–11/8	Topic: Economic Crimes (Module #12) Reading: Chapter 12 Assignment: Movie & Theory Paper due Sunday, 11/8 by 11:59 PM
Week #13 11/9–11/15	Topic: Public Order Crimes (Module #13) Reading: Chapter 13 Assignment: Discussion #4 Initial Post & Reply due Sunday, 11/15 by 11:59 PM

Date/Week	Topic, Reading(s), Assignments, and Due Dates
Week #14 11/16–11/22	Topic: Crimes of the New Millenium (Module #14) Reading: Chapter 14 Assignment: Discussion #5 Initial Post & Reply due Sunday, 11/22 by 11:59 PM
Week #15 11/23–11/29	Thanksgiving Break–UNT Closed
Week #16 11/30–12/6	Topic: Course Wrap-Up Reading: Review Chapters 12-14 Assignment: Quiz #6 (Chapters 12-14) due Sunday , 12/6 by 11:59 PM