



CJUS 3610.001 Juvenile Justice

Instructor: Jhon A. Pupo, Ph.D.

Term: Fall 2026

Course Schedule: Tues/Thurs 11:10am–12:30pm

Classroom: Gate 137

INSTRUCTOR CONTACT INFORMATION:

Office Location: Chilton Hall, 273G

E-mail: Jhon.Pupo@unt.edu

Phone: 940.565.4971

Office Hours: Wed 10:00a.m.–1:00p.m.

Graduate Teaching Assistant: Arely Carrillo

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COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course provides an examination of the juvenile justice system and the handling of juvenile delinquents in the United States. Special attention is devoted to the legal and social history of the juvenile justice system and system-level policies and practices pertaining to youthful offenders. Additional topics covered include explanations of delinquency, the processing of cases from intake to disposition, the transfer of juvenile offenders to the adult (criminal) justice system, and assessments of delinquency prevention and correctional programs.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

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

- 1) Understand the historical origins and evolution of the juvenile justice system.
- 2) Understand key similarities and differences between the juvenile and adult justice systems.
- 3) Explain the contemporary structure of the juvenile justice system, including police contact, intake and detention processing, transfer to adult court, and delinquency hearings.
- 4) Summarize the various options for handling juvenile delinquents, including probation, secure placement, and community-based alternatives.
- 5) Read and interpret scholarly research related to the juvenile justice system.
- 6) Evaluate racial and ethnic disparities in juvenile justice processing.
- 7) Describe alternative approaches to juvenile justice, such as community-based corrections and delinquency prevention.
- 8) Think critically about juvenile justice reform efforts.

REQUIRED READING MATERIAL:

Burfeind, J., Bartusch, D. J., & Hollist, D. R. (2019). *Juvenile Justice: An Introduction to Process, Practice, and Research*. New York: Routledge. ISBN-13: 9781138843226

COURSE REQUIREMENTS & GRADING:

Exams (75% of grade). There will be three in-class exams for this course. Each exam will be non-cumulative and will consist of a combination of 50 multiple-choice, true/false, and short-answer questions. Each exam will be worth 25% of your final grade and will cover information from the required readings, lecture material, and in-class discussion(s).

Make-up Exams will not be given except in cases of a university-approved documented excuse. Proper documentation is, thus, required for a make-up exam to be granted. In such cases, students must contact me at least 24 hours prior to the exam to schedule a make-up exam. Make-up exams will be in the form of short-answer and fill-in-the-blank questions and must be taken within 10 days of the original exam date.

Critical Thinking Questions (20% of grade). There will be a total of 10 weekly “critical thinking” assignments throughout the semester. Students will submit each of these assignments via the course Canvas page. Critical thinking questions will be posted on Canvas, and students will answer one question of their choosing. Answers are to be 250-500 words (approximately 1-2 double spaced pages).

Notably, critical thinking assignments will be graded as satisfactory (full credit), not satisfactory (half credit), or no credit (zero). Assignments must be turned in by Sunday at 11:59pm during the assigned week for full credit. Half-credit will be considered for late assignments.

Attendance (5% of grade). Attendance will be taken sporadically and unannounced throughout the semester, via in-class assignments. These assignments will be graded as pass/fail, and will count for 5% of your final grade. 12 in-class attendance assignments will be given throughout the semester to grade attendance. Two of these will be dropped, meaning you can miss two in-class attendance assignments and still get the full 5% for attendance.

GRADING & EVALUATION:

Exam #1	25 points	(25%)
Exam #2	25 points	(25%)
Exam #3	25 points	(25%)
Critical Thinking Assignments – 10 @ 2pts Each	20 points	(20%)
Attendance	5 points	(5%)
Total	100 points	(100%)

GRADING SCALE:

Letter grades will be assigned as follows:

A	90-100%
B	80-89%
C	70-79%
D	60-69%
F	0-59%

COURSE POLICIES:

Student Behavior & University Policy. Student behavior that interferes with an instructor's ability to conduct a class or other students' opportunity to learn is unacceptable and disruptive and will not be tolerated in any instructional forum at UNT. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior will be directed to leave the classroom and the instructor may refer the student to the Center for Student Rights and Responsibilities to consider whether the student's conduct violated the Code of Student Conduct. The University's expectations for student conduct apply to all instructional forums, including university and electronic classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. (see [UNT Code of Student Conduct Policy](#)). Additionally, disruptive behaviors such as arriving late, having a conversation while someone else is talking, profanity, sleeping, text messaging, using laptops/tablets for anything other than course-related activities, cell phones going off during class, etc. are not acceptable. Students repeatedly engaging in any of these behaviors will be asked to leave the classroom.

Academic Dishonesty/Integrity. Students caught cheating or plagiarizing will receive a "0" for that particular assignment or exam. 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.

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](#).

Attendance Policy. In-person class attendance is essential. It is also your responsibility. Whether or not you attend class, **you** are responsible for all material delivered in class. This will probably include: deviations from the text, notification of errors in the text, rescheduled or canceled exams, etc. You can avoid many headaches by checking with a friend (or me) to see what you missed. Due to the course structure, there will **not** be the option to virtually attend class. Additionally, 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. Absences are authorized only in cases of a university excused absence such as active military service, a religious holy day, or an official university function as stated in the [Student Attendance & Authorized Absences Policy](#). If you cannot attend a class due to an emergency, please let me know. Your safety and well-being are important to me.

Make-Up Policy. There will be no opportunities to make up any missed coursework with the exception of authorized absences according to UNT policies prescribing authorized absences in certain situations. I reserve the right to consider extreme circumstances and modify this rule. Students should notify me prior to missing an assignment. 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 absent for the absence to be excused.

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 and once 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. ODA notices of reasonable 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 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 [Office of Disability Access 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.

Additional Policies:

- Recording devices are not allowed unless specifically approved by the instructor.
- Tobacco products of any kind (e-cigs, vapes, Zyn products, etc.) are not allowed in the classroom.
- Cell phones, pagers, or any other device that makes noise should be silenced before class.
- Due to liability concerns and the content of course discussions, children are not permitted in the classroom at any time.
- The material posted online is my personal intellectual property or that of the University of North Texas. You may not utilize the material for other than class purposes.

COURSE CALENDAR

** Denotes Critical Thinking Assignment due on Sunday (11:59p.m.) for that week*

Week	Date	Topic	Readings/Assignments
Week 1	August 18 August 20	Course Introduction Introduction to Juvenile Justice	Chapter 1
Week 2	August 25 August 27	History of Juvenile Justice: Origins & Transformation	Chapter 2*
Week 3	September 1 September 3	Juvenile Justice Law, Structure, & Process	Chapter 3*
Week 4	September 8 September 10	Data on Juvenile Delinquency & Case Processing	Chapter 4*
Week 5	September 15 September 17	Catch-up & Exam Prep Exam 1 (September 17)	Chapters 1-4
Week 6	September 22 September 24	The Nature of Juvenile Delinquency	Chapter 5*
Week 7	September 29 October 1	Causes of Delinquency	Chapter 6*
Week 8	October 6 October 8	Policing Juveniles	Chapter 7*
Week 9	October 13 October 15	The Front End: Preadjudication Detention & Intake	Chapter 8
Week 10	October 20 October 22	Transfer to Adult Court	Chapter 8*
Week 11	October 27 October 29	Catch-up & Exam Prep Exam 2 (October 29)	Chapters 5-8
Week 12	November 3 November 5	Formal Processing: Petition, Adjudication, & Disposition	Chapter 9*
Week 13	November 10 November 12	Juvenile Probation	Chapter 10*
Week 14	November 17 November 19	No Class—ASC Conference	Chapter 11*
Week 15	November 24 November 26	No Class—Thanksgiving Break	None
Week 16	December 1 December 3	Residential Placement & Aftercare Services	Chapter 12
Week 17	UNT Final Exam Week	Exam 3 December 10 (10:30am-12:30pm)	Chapters 9-12