

CJUS 3600.900,950 Criminology

Instructor: Jessica Craig, Ph.D.
Class meeting: Online

Term: Fall 2025

INSTRUCTOR'S CONTACT INFORMATION

Office location: Chilton 273A
Phone: 940-565-3464

E-mail (preferred): Jessica.Craig@unt.edu
Office hours: Wednesdays 2-3 PM (via Zoom) & by appointment

Connect with me through email and/or by attending office hours. During busy times, my inbox becomes rather full, so if you contact me and do not receive a response within two business days, please send a follow-up email. A gentle nudge is always appreciated. Finally, please know I can only discuss grades over email if it was sent through your Eagle Connect email account (username@unt.edu).

TEACHING ASSISTANT'S CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Tori Fuller
Office location: Chilton 273

E-mail: ToriFuller@my.unt.edu
Office hours: By appointment

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) 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 Structure

This course will take place completely online through Canvas. The course is composed of 14 modules. Each module contains the relevant chapter outlines as well as other supplementary material as needed. Note not all modules will contain supplementary materials or require extra reading beyond the textbook. The students will also participate in five (5) discussions through Canvas during the course. The students will also take six (6) quizzes and complete one (1) movie and theory paper.

Weekly Assignment Rhythm:

- Discussion Initial Posts: Thursdays at 8:00 PM
- Discussion Responses: Sundays at 8:00 PM
- Quizzes: Thursdays at 8:00 PM
- Movie and Theory Paper: Thursday, Nov 6 at 8:00 PM

All assignments are due by 8:00 PM to help you get your work done earlier in the evening and avoid last-minute stress. This also gives you extra time to fix any technical glitches before the deadline and helps keep a good balance between school and personal time.

CJUS 3600.900,950 Criminology

Course Prerequisites or Other Restrictions

There are no prerequisites for this course.

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 there are several different theories that offer us a wide variety of perspectives for why people offend.
4. Describe and compare criminological theories.
5. Determine theories' policy implications and explain why some are more realistic than others.

Materials

- Siegel, Larry J. (2018). Criminology: The Core (7thth edition). Cengage.
 - ISBN-13: 978-1337557719
 - Available at the UNT Bookstore. Please Note: Cengage Unlimited or eBook is acceptable.

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

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 readings, discussions, case studies, and quizzes. Students can expect their grades and feedback to be released to them within 4 business days. There is a total of **650** points that can be earned in this class.

<i>Assignment</i>	<i>Points Possible</i>	<i>% of Final Grade</i>
<i>Reading Quizzes- 5 @ 50 points each</i>	<i>250 points</i>	<i>38%</i>
<i>Discussion Posts- 5 @ 50 points each</i>	<i>250 points</i>	<i>38%</i>
<i>Movie and Theory Paper</i>	<i>150 points</i>	<i>23%</i>
<i>Total Points Possible</i>	<i>650 points</i>	<i>100%</i>

Grading Scale: 585 - 650 = A
520 - 584 = B
455 - 519 = C
390 - 454 = D
389 or fewer points = F

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). *Therefore, your lowest quiz score will be dropped.* Each quiz will consist of 25 multiple choice and true/false questions. Each quiz will cover all module note material, videos, assigned material in the classroom text, and other assigned reading

CJUS 3600.900,950 Criminology

material. Once you start the quiz you will have only 40 minutes to take it. ***Quiz due dates are listed in the course calendar below.***

Discussion Posts (250 points total)

Each student will be required to respond to 5 Canvas discussions throughout the course of the semester. Each Canvas discussion is worth 50 points, for a total of 250 points towards your final grade. Discussion posts should include your response to the post, and a response to a classmate's post. Initial responses of the Canvas discussions should be a minimum of 250 words. ***Students must reply to at least one other student's posts for full point potential*** (responding appropriately, of course). ***Discussion due dates are listed in the course calendar below.***

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, grammar and spelling, and adhering to the assignment. ***Be sure to review the detailed rubric provided on Canvas.***

To locate the discussion boards, click the Discussions tab to the left of the main screen. Select the appropriate Canvas Discussion assignment. Next click on the appropriate forum. To post a comment select "Create Thread." In order to receive full credit, you must post an original response and respond to at least one other students' post. ***Note that you will NOT be able to see any other students' posts until you have first posted a thread yourself.***

Movie and 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.

CLASS POLICIES

Make-Up, Late Work & Authorized Absence Policy

Make-up exams, 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 university functions (including university-sponsored activities), required military service, student pregnancy/parenting (Title IX), university closure, and other documented extenuating circumstances approved by the Dean of Students. If you anticipate an authorized absence, you must notify me as soon as possible—preferably 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 7, 2025.

CJUS 3600.900,950 Criminology

Student Behavior and University Policy:

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 inclusion. 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.

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 discussion 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. Below are general guidelines for how to communicate well 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." Do not use "Mrs." to address female instructors unless told otherwise by said instructor.
- 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, class, and/or culture.
- Respect the privacy of yourself, your 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.
- Use 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."](#)

CJUS 3600.900,950 Criminology

Discussion Board Communication

- Treat your posts 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 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(s); 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.

AI Tools & Academic Integrity

This course takes a transparent and ethical approach to the use of generative AI tools (e.g., ChatGPT, Grammarly, Gemini, Claude, Copilot, etc.). You may **not** use generative AI to complete assignments intended to assess your individual understanding, such as quizzes, tests, or discussion posts. Submitting AI-generated work for these assignments violates academic integrity and may result in referral to the Office of Student Conduct.

Use of generative AI tools may be permitted for *transformational* purposes on designated assignments—such as brainstorming, outlining, drafting, or editing—as a collaborative research and writing partner. However, AI tools can produce biased or inaccurate information and should never be relied on as sole sources for research or factual claims. Any use of AI must be transparent and properly cited, as required by assignment instructions. All AI use must be clearly disclosed and include an APA-formatted citation.

Transactional use—uploading a prompt or assignment and submitting the AI-generated result as your own work—is strictly prohibited and will be treated as academic misconduct in all cases.

Office of Disability Accommodation

The University of North Texas 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, the ODA will provide you with a reasonable accommodation letter to be

CJUS 3600.900,950 Criminology

delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course. You may request reasonable accommodations 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 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. For additional information, refer to the [Office of Disability Access website](#). You may also contact ODA by phone at (940) 565-4323.

Student 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.

Miscellaneous:

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. Class recordings are reserved for use only by students in this class for educational purposes. The recordings should not be shared outside the class in any form. Failing to follow this restriction is a violation of the UNT Code of Student Conduct and could lead to disciplinary action.

Emergency Notification & 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

CJUS 3600.900,950 Criminology

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. Visit [Title IX Student Information](#) (Links to an external site) 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. Full-time status for F1 Visa students is 12 hours for undergraduates and 9 hours for graduate students. Instructors teaching online courses should insert information into the syllabus to make F1 Visa students aware of this limitation and provide them with information about options to complete an on-campus experiential component in a course that is otherwise fully-online.

If a F-1 Visa holder intends to take more than 3 SCH of online courses in a term, they will need to document the on-campus experiential component of all courses that exceed the 3-hour limit. This on-campus experiential component can be satisfied in a number of ways including a face-to-face test, lab work, a required on-site lecture, mandatory library orientation, etc. Instructors should develop an option to assist students who request an on-campus experiential component to meet the federal regulation. Instructors should have students requesting this assistance to complete the [On-campus Component Reporting Form for Online Courses](#) which requires both the student and the instructor's signature. The instructor should make a copy for the student's departmental file and send a copy to the UNT International Student and Scholar Services (routing address on the form).

CJUS 3600.900,950 Criminology

ACADEMIC CALENDAR

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

DATE	TOPIC, READING ASSIGNMENTS, AND DUE DATES
Week 1 8/18-8/24	Topic: Crime and Criminology (Module 1) Reading: Chapter 1 Assignment: Introduction Post due Sunday, 8/24 by 8 PM
Week 2 8/25-8/31	Topic: The Nature and Extent of Crime (Module 2) Reading: Chapter 2 Assignment: <i>Discussion 1</i> Main Post due Thursday, 8/28 by 8 PM Responses due Sunday, 8/31 by 8 PM
Week 3 9/1-9/7	Topic: Victims and Victimization (Module 3) Reading: Chapter 3 Assignment: Quiz 1 (Chapters 1-3) due Thursday, 9/4 by 8 PM
Week 4 9/8-9/14	Topic: Rational Choice Theory (Module 4) Reading: Chapter 4 Assignment: None
Week 5 9/15-9/21	Topic: Trait Theory (Module 5) Reading: Chapter 5 Assignment: Quiz 2 (Chapters 4-5) due Thursday, 9/18 by 8 PM
Week 6 9/22-9/28	Topic: Social Structure Theory (Module 6) Reading: Chapter 6 Assignment: <i>Discussion 2</i> Main Post due Thursday, 9/25 by 8 PM Responses due Sunday, 9/28 by 8 PM
Week 7 9/29-10/5	Topic: Social Process Theory (Module 7) Reading: Chapter 7 Assignment: Quiz 3 (Chapters 6-7) due Thursday, 10/2 by 8 PM
Week 8 10/6-10/12	Topic: Social Conflict, Critical Criminology, and Restorative Justice (Module 8) Reading: Chapter 8 Assignment: <i>Discussion 3</i> Main Post due Thursday, 10/9 by 8 PM Responses due Sunday, 10/12 by 8 PM
Week 9 10/13-10/19	Topic: Developmental Theories (Module 9) Reading: Chapter 9 Assignment: Quiz 4 (Chapters 8-9) due Thursday, 10/16 by 8 PM
Week 10 10/20-10/26	Topic: Violent Crime (Module 10) Reading: Chapter 10 Assignment: None

CJUS 3600.900,950 Criminology

Week 11 10/27-11/2	Topic: Political Crime and Terrorism (Module 11) Reading: Chapter 11 Assignment: Quiz 5 (Chapters 10-11) due Thursday, 10/30 by 8 PM
Week 12 11/3-11/9	Topic: Economic Crimes (Module 12) Reading: Chapter 12 Assignment: Movie and Theory Paper due Thursday, 11/6 by 8 PM
Week 13 11/10-11/16	Topic: Public Order Crimes (Module 13) Reading: Chapter 13 Assignment: <i>Discussion 4</i> Main Post due Thursday, 11/13 by 8 PM Responses due Sunday, 11/16 by 8 PM
Week 14 11/17-11/23	Topic: Crimes of the New Millennium (Module 14) Reading: Chapter 14 Assignment: <i>Discussion 5</i> Main Post due Thursday, 11/20 by 8 PM Responses due Sunday, 11/23 by 8 PM
Week 15 11/24-11/30	Thanksgiving Break- UNT Closed
Week 16 12/1-12/7	Topic: Course Wrap-Up Reading: Review Chapters 12-14 Assignment: Quiz 6 (Chapters 12-14) due Thursday, 12/4 by 8 PM