

CJUS 3600.900,950 Criminology

Instructor: Jessica Craig, Ph.D.

Term: Summer 2026

Class meeting: Online

INSTRUCTOR'S CONTACT INFORMATION

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GRADUATE STUDENT ASSISTANT'S CONTACT INFORMATION

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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).

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 four (4) discussions through Canvas during the course. The 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 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* (8th edition). Cengage.
 - ISBN-13: 9780357624746
 - 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 **600** 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>42%</i>
<i>Discussion Posts- 4 @ 50 points each</i>	<i>200 points</i>	<i>33%</i>
<i>Movie and Theory Paper</i>	<i>150 points</i>	<i>25%</i>
<i>Total Points Possible</i>	<i>600 points</i>	<i>100%</i>

Grading Scale: 540 - 600 = A
 480 - 539 = B
 420 - 479 = C
 360 - 419 = D
 359 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 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 (200 points total)

Each student will be required to respond to 4 Canvas discussions throughout the course of the semester. Each Canvas discussion is worth 50 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 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 Policy

Make-up exams/assignments are allowed in this class as long as you have an authorized absence according to university policies. I reserve the right to consider extreme circumstances and modify this rule. Students should notify me prior to missing an assignment, if possible. 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 away from class for the absence to be excused. While my goal is for every student to succeed, in certain circumstances it may be best for the student to withdraw and take the course at a point when they can give it more time and attention. Students should note that the *last day to withdraw with a grade of "W" is June 11, 2026.*

Authorized Absences: Absences are authorized only in cases of participation in school sponsored activities and/or religious holidays. For an excused absence due to a school-sponsored activity, students must be approved in advance by the department chair and academic dean. Within three days after the absence, students must obtain authorized absence cards from the Dean of Students for presentation to instructor. Students who wish to request an excused absence for religious holidays can do so and will be excused from class as long as they make a request within the required time frame set by the University (see the most recent undergraduate catalog). Notification must be in writing so that I may have it for my records. You must arrange to make up any work missed during the excused religious absence or school sponsored activity.

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."](#)

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 is about your ability to understand, apply, and critique criminological theories; that intellectual work must come from you, not from AI tools. Generative AI (e.g., ChatGPT, Claude, Gemini, Copilot, Grammarly) may be used only as a support tool for mechanics and limited research help, never as a substitute for your own analysis.

Allowed (support only – “green zone”): You may use AI to proofread for grammar and clarity after you have written your own work, to assist with APA formatting, and to help locate or preliminarily summarize sources that you then independently verify and read.

Use with caution (“yellow zone”): AI use for brainstorming case ideas or explaining theories as a study aid is generally discouraged because it can short-circuit your own critical thinking; if you choose to do this, you must still do the reading yourself and must not use AI-generated phrasing or reasoning in submitted work.

Prohibited (“red zone”): You may not use AI on quizzes, tests, or discussion posts, and you may not fabricate or “hallucinate” sources, data, or citations with AI. Submitting AI-generated reasoning or text as your own work is considered academic misconduct and may be referred to the Office of Student Conduct.

Transparency: Any AI use beyond basic spell-check must be clearly disclosed and cited in APA format, following assignment instructions (for example, in the required AI Reflection Statement for the final project). When in doubt about whether a use of AI is appropriate, you are responsible for asking me before using it.

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 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 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).

ACADEMIC CALENDAR

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

DATE	TOPIC, READING ASSIGNMENTS, AND DUE DATES
<p>Week 1 5/18-5/24</p>	<p>Topics: Introduction, Measuring Crime, & Victimology (Module 1) Readings: Chapters 1-3 Assignments: Introduction Discussion Board due 5/21 @ 11:59 PM Quiz 1 due 5/24 @ 11:59 PM <i>Discussion 1</i> Main Post due 5/22 @ 11:59 PM Responses due 5/24 @ 11:59 PM</p>
<p>Week 2 5/25-5/31</p>	<p>Topics: Theoretical Overview (Module 2) Readings: Chapters 4-7 Assignments: Quizzes 2 & 3 due 5/31 @ 11:59 PM <i>Discussion 2</i> Main Post due 5/29 @ 11:59 PM Responses due 5/31 @ 11:59 PM</p>
<p>Week 3 6/1-6/7</p>	<p>Topics: Critical and Developmental Theories (Module 3) Readings: Chapters 8-11 Assignments: Quiz 4 & 5 due 6/7 @ 11:59 PM <i>Discussion 3</i> Main Post due 6/5 @ 11:59 PM Responses due 6/7 @ 11:59 PM</p>
<p>Week 4 6/8-6/14</p>	<p>Topics: Crime Typologies Part 1 (Module 4) Readings: Chapters 12-14 Assignments: Quiz 6 due 6/14 @ 11:59 PM <i>Discussion 4</i> Main Post due 6/12 @ 11:59 PM Responses due 6/14 @ 11:59 PM</p>
<p>Week 5 6/15-6/18</p>	<p>Topics: Course Wrap-Up Assignments: Movie & Theory Paper due 6/18 @ 11:59 PM</p>