

**SYLLABUS**  
CJUS 5000 (Online)  
Criminal Justice Policy  
Fall 2019

**Instructor:** Dr. Jessica Craig  
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**TEXTS/READINGS**

**Required Texts**

Eterno, J. and E. Silverman (2012). *The crime numbers game: Management by manipulation*. New York: CRC Press.

Page, J. (2011). *The toughest beat: Politics, punishment, and the prison officers union in California*. New York: Oxford University Press.

Pratt, T. (2009). *Addicted to incarceration*. Thousand Oaks, CA: SAGE.

Trulson, C.R., Haerle, D.R., Caudill, J.W., & DeLisi, M. (2016). *Lost causes: Blended sentencing, second chances, and the Texas Youth Commission*. Austin: University of Texas Press.

Worrall, J. (2019, 4<sup>th</sup> Edition). *Crime control in America: What works?* Boston: Pearson.

Zimring, F. (2007). *The great American crime decline*. New York: Oxford University Press.

\*\*Additional materials in the form of articles and/or book chapters will supplement this course.

**COURSE NOTES AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

Please make sure to have your official UNT email forwarded to your preferred email address (if different) to receive important updates, class changes, and generally, so I can reach you if necessary. Before emailing with questions, please review the syllabus carefully as most question can be answered by examining it and other materials in the course. In terms of response time to your email, I will generally get back to you within a couple of day, or earlier. If I do not, I most likely did not receive your email. Email me directly at [jessica.craig@unt.edu](mailto:jessica.craig@unt.edu).

I will use your official UNT email to contact you or the announcement board in Canvas. Failure to forward those messages to your preferred email, if different than the official UNT email address, will result in loss of important information.

**It is your responsibility to utilize a computer system that works and is compatible with Canvas. This is especially critical during examination times. I would recommend that you take your exams on the UNT campus if possible. If that is not possible, I would recommend you avoid waiting until the last minute to take/submit your exam in case problems arise.**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

In a broad sense, this course focuses on the policies/programs/practices that have shaped the landscape of the criminal justice system for more than 100 years. While the most consequential and significant criminal justice policies related to our everyday lives occur at the state and local levels, this course also includes a focus on significant federal criminal justice policy/initiatives/practices. This focus is justified, for often the basis of state and local criminal justice policy and practice emanates from federal policy. And, state and local crime policy mandates are often encouraged and funded by the federal government in some way. As such, it is impossible to divorce federal crime policy from more specific state and local crime policies and practices.

A primary focus of this course is centered on criminal justice policy approaches that have been the subject of research and debate on the effective ways to address the crime problem in America. This focus will examine crime policy coming from the traditional divisions in our criminal justice system—police, courts, and corrections—but will also venture beyond by examining juvenile justice policy, and crime policy involving communities, families, and schools. The bottom line goal of this examination is to come to an understanding of the impact, if any, that these various policies, programs, and practices have had on the crime problem and the criminal justice system.

The numerous and varied crime control policies found at the federal, state, and local levels presents a prime opportunity for the evaluation and discussion of these policies in this course. In addition to examining the impact that these more localized criminal justice policies have on crime and criminal justice, this course will examine the consequences of such policies, both anticipated and unanticipated, and positive and negative.

### **COURSE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

At the completion of this course:

- ✓ You should be able to describe the state of crime in America, and how it has changed over time.
- ✓ You should be able to analyze the supposed influences on the crime rate, over various time periods.
- ✓ You should be able to identify and critique the role of politics and other external forces in the formulation and implementation of criminal justice policy.
- ✓ You should be able to assess the intended and unintended consequences of criminal justice policy.
- ✓ You should be able to identify the goals of criminal justice policy.
- ✓ You should be able to summarize literature on the issue of whether criminal justice policies “work.”

### **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

There are a total of 210 points that can be *earned* in this class. The grading policy along with other class requirements is presented below.

#### **Grading Scale:**

189-210 points= A  
168-188 points= B  
147-167 points= C

126-146 points= D  
Below 126 points= F

### **Mid-Term (60 points) and Final Examination (60 points) (Total 120 points):**

Each student is required to take a mid-term and a comprehensive final examination in this course (60 points for each exam, for a total of 120 points towards the final grade). The examinations will consist of essay style questions for which students will be required to choose one or more questions to answer (I may also opt to choose the question for you to answer).

The mid-term will be comprised of all reading and lecture material up to the time of that exam. The final exam will be comprehensive and based on all reading (including handouts), lectures, and video material given during the entire class. Please be prepared for this final exam by reading all material given in class during the course of the entire semester. Last minute efforts to catch up will likely result in an undesirable grade.

Exams should be organized based upon the question, with clear headings and subheadings to organize your answer. Citations should be in APA format.

**Exam grades are based on:** Addressed all parts of the question (**20 points**); 2) Proper organization of answer (**5 points**); 3) Accurate and sufficient explanation/application of appropriate perspectives to question issue(s) (**30 points**) and, 4) Spelling and grammar (**5 points**).

Please check the course schedule for exam due dates. **IMPORTANT:** Completed exams should be submitted through Canvas. Late exams will not be accepted. Do NOT try to wait until the last minute to do the exam. Something may happen that prevents you from submitting it on time.

### **Canvas Discussions (70 points total)**

Each student will be required to complete 7 Canvas discussions throughout the semester (10 points each). Combined, these discussions are worth a total of 70 points towards your final grade. These discussions are utilized in this class to provide students an extended opportunity to consider, comment, and discuss the material presented and/or otherwise utilized in this course.

To receive full points for each discussion, students must provide a minimum 500 word thoughtful response, and reply to at least 1 student with a thoughtful response. A thoughtful response is one that includes but is not limited to using examples from reading material to support your point and/or providing citation to other relevant outside sources. Length should be roughly 500 words, but this is a minimum.

### **Reflection Blog Posts (20 points total)**

Each student will be required to share 2 blog posts throughout the semester (10 points each). Combined, each of these posts are worth a total of 20 points towards your final grade. These blog posts are utilized to provide students with an opportunity to reflect on the material presented in this course and share how it is perhaps personally relevant to them. In other words, there will be no specific prompt given for these posts. Instead, the students are free to choose whatever policy-related topic they would like and discuss it. The first blog post will be due before the mid-term exam and the second post will be due before the final exam. However, students are free to submit their posts earlier than the due date. You will post your blog post under “Blog Post 1” and “Blog Post 2” found in the “Discussions” area.

To receive full points for each post, students must provide a minimum 150 word thoughtful post. A thoughtful post is one that demonstrates the student deeply considered the material and/or provided a real-life illustration of the concepts discussed. While it is not required, you are strongly encouraged to read and comment on one another's blog posts so you can learn what your fellow classmates find interesting.

### **MAKE UP POLICY**

Make-up exams/assignments are allowed in this class as long as you have an authorized absence according to university policies. 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 make up 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. Make-up assignments as a result of authorized absences must be turned in within 3 days of returning from the authorized absence. If you were critically ill in such a way that you could not complete any required assignment or exam, you must submit a doctor's note to me within 3 days.

To be excused, any authorized absence must take place over the entire submission window. That is, if a student has an authorized absence for 1 day of a 3-day submission window for an exam or any other assignment, then they will not be excused and will not be able to take a make-up. In the event that circumstances require a make-up test, and provided students follow the appropriate procedures for requesting an excused absence that falls on a test or assignment due date, any authorized make-up test will be conducted during finals week immediately after the final test in this course or at a time arranged with the professor.

**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. Students must arrange to make up any work missed during the excused religious absence or school sponsored activity.

Students that have fallen behind, are failing and/or choose to not complete the coursework for the semester are responsible for officially withdrawing themselves from the course; failure to do so will result in a performance grade of "F." *Last day to withdraw with a grade of "W" is November 22, 2019.*

### **ACADEMIC DISHONESTY/MISCONDUCT**

Please see the most recent undergraduate and graduate catalogues in regards to academic misconduct, including cheating and plagiarism, and policies pertaining to these matters. The policies of the University of North Texas will be strictly enforced in regards to these matters.

### **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.

**ADA STATEMENT AND DISABLED STUDENT POLICY**

Students with a certified disability may contact me at any time regarding accommodations. The Department of Criminal Justice complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) in making reasonable accommodations for qualified students. Students who have established a file containing documentation of a disability must present a written accommodation request from the Office of Disability Accommodations to the instructor. Any accommodations supported by the Office of Disability Accommodations will be complied with immediately.

**PARTICIPATION, PREPARATION AND BEHAVIOR**

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. **Please review the most recent graduate/undergraduate catalog concerning conduct which adversely affects the university community.**

**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. It is the student’s responsibility to monitor class emails and announcements so that any and all syllabus changes are noted. Failure to obtain syllabus changes or other changes to the class due to lack of diligence on the part of the student does not constitute a defense against missing deadlines and other applicable changes.

**COURSE SCHEDULE**

DATE	TOPIC AND DUE DATES	READING (to be done)
<b>Course Opens</b>	<b>Course Opens August 26</b>	
<b>Module 1</b>	Identifying and Evaluating Crime Control and Crime Control Perspectives	Chapters 1 and 2 (Worrall)
<b>Module 2</b>	Traditional Policing and Proactive, Directed, and Creative Policing	Chapters 3 and 4 (Worrall)
<b>Canvas Discussion</b>	Complete the Discussion Assignment on “Policing and Crime Control”  <b>Discussion Assignment 1 opens September 5</b>  <b>Original Posts due by September 10 at 11:59 PM</b> <b>Responses due by September 12 at 11:59 PM</b>	<i>Don’t Forget About Your Blog Post</i>
Book	<b>The Great American Crime Decline</b>  <b>Have Read by September 13</b>	<b>The Great American Crime Decline (Zimring)</b>

<b>Canvas Discussion</b>	<p>Complete the Discussion Assignment on "Great American Crime Decline"</p> <p><b>Discussion Assignment 2 opens September 12</b></p> <p><b>Original Posts due by September 17 at 11:59 PM</b></p> <p><b>Responses due by September 19 at 11:59 PM</b></p>	<i>Don't Forget About Your Blog Post</i>
<b>Module 3</b>	Community Involvement in Policing and Prosecutors and Crime Control	Chapters 5 and 6 (Worrall)
Book	<p><b>The Crime Numbers Game</b></p> <p><b>Have Read by September 19</b></p>	<b>The Crime Numbers Game (Eterno and Silverman)</b>
<b>Canvas Discussion</b>	<p>Complete the Discussion Assignment on "The Impact of Policing on Crime"</p> <p><b>Discussion Assignment 3 opens September 26</b></p> <p><b>Original Posts due by October 1 at 11:59 PM</b></p> <p><b>Responses due by October 3 at 11:59 PM</b></p>	<i>Don't Forget About Your Blog Post</i>
<b>Blog Post</b>	<b>First Blog Post due October 3</b>	
<b>Mid-Term Exam</b>	<p><b>Mid-Term Exam</b></p> <p><b>Mid-Term examination opens October 3</b></p> <p><b>Last day to submit October 10 at 11:59 PM</b></p>	
<b>Module 4</b>	Crime Control Through Legislation and Crime Control in the Courts and Beyond	Chapters 7 and 8 (Worrall)
Book	<p><b>The Toughest Beat</b></p> <p><b>Have Read by October 24</b></p>	<b>The Toughest Beat (Page)</b>
<b>Canvas Discussion</b>	<p>Complete the Discussion Assignment on "The Politics of Criminal Justice Policy"</p> <p><b>Discussion Assignment 4 opens October 24</b></p> <p><b>Original Posts due by October 29 at 11:59 PM</b></p> <p><b>Responses due by October 31 at 11:59 PM</b></p>	<i>Don't Forget About Your Blog Post</i>
<b>Module 5</b>	Sentencing and Probation, Parole, and Intermediate Sanctions	Chapters 9 and 10 (Worrall)
Book	<b>Addicted to Incarceration</b>	<b>Addicted to Incarceration (Pratt)</b>

	<b>Have Read by November 7</b>	
<b>Canvas Discussion</b>	<p>Complete the Discussion Assignment on "Correctional Policy"</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Discussion Assignment 5 opens November 7</b></p> <p><b>Original Posts due by November 12 at 11:59 PM</b> <b>Responses due by November 14 at 11:59 PM</b></p>	<i>Don't Forget About Your Blog Post</i>
<b>Module 6</b>	Juvenile Crime Control	
Book	<b>Lost Causes</b>	<b>Lost Causes (Trulson et al.)</b>
	<b>Have Read by November 14</b>	
<b>Canvas Discussion</b>	<p>Complete the Discussion Assignment on "Lost Causes"</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Discussion Assignment 6 opens November 14</b></p> <p><b>Original Posts due by November 19 at 11:59 PM</b> <b>Responses due by November 21 at 11:59 PM</b></p>	<i>Don't Forget About Your Blog Post</i>
<b>Module 7</b>	Putting it all Together and Explaining Crime Trends	Chapter 15 (Worrall)
<b>Canvas Discussion</b>	<p>Complete the Discussion Assignment on "Summing it All Up"</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Discussion Assignment 7 opens November 26</b></p> <p><b>Original Posts due by December 3 at 11:59 PM</b> <b>Responses due by December 5 at 11:59 PM</b></p>	<i>Don't Forget About Your Blog Post</i>
<b>Blog Post</b>	<b>Second Blog Post due November 26</b>	
<b>Final Exam</b>	<b>Final Exam opens November 26</b>	<b>Final Exam</b>
	<b>Last day to submit December 5 at 11:59 PM</b>	