Instructor: Jessica Craig, Ph.D.  
Term: Spring 2021  
Class meeting: TR 9:30 AM - 10:50 AM (See Calendar)  
Classroom: Online Only

INSTRUCTOR’S CONTACT INFORMATION
Office location: Chilton 273L  
E-mail (preferred): Jessica.Craig@unt.edu  
Phone: 940-565-3464  
Office hours: By appointment

GRADUATE STUDENT ASSISTANT’S CONTACT INFORMATION
Name: Abigail Huls  
E-mail: AbigailHuls@my.unt.edu  
Office hours: By appointment

Email expectations: When sending an email, please put the COURSE NUMBER (CJUS 4901) in the subject line of the mail. I can only discuss grades over email if it was sent through your Eagle Connect email account (username@unt.edu). You can expect to receive a response within 24 hours during the week and 48 hours on the weekend. If you have not received a response within that time, please email me back as it may have gotten lost.

Course Description
The examination of the problems and issues involved in forming and implementing criminal justice policy in the United States. This course represents the final capstone experience for the student and should generally be taken in the semester the student will graduate. Prerequisite(s): senior standing and at least 33 hours of criminal justice, with 18 hours from the criminal justice core.

Course Objectives
By the end of this course, students will be able to:

1. Discuss the importance of studying the effectiveness of criminal justice policy from an evidence-based perspective and identifying and incorporating appropriate scholarly sources
2. Distinguish between the reality of crime and criminal justice policy from myths
3. Describe the various models and types of public policy
4. Summarize essential literature related to criminal justice policy
5. Critique and evaluate diverse forms and sources of information
6. Argue diverse perspectives, ideas, cultures, and viewpoints of criminal justice policy issues

Materials
The assigned text listed below is required for all students enrolled in this course. Reading assignments are noted in the Course Calendar.

**Additional materials in the form of articles and/or book chapters will supplement this course. NOTE: If a student chooses to purchase anything other than the current edition of the assigned course text, it is their responsibility to ensure access to and familiarity with the most up-to-date course materials.**

**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, changes, announcements, class cancellations (if applicable), and generally, so I can reach you if necessary.

**Before you email Dr. Craig or the GSA with a question, make sure to review this syllabus. Most questions are answered in this document.**

The announcement board in Canvas, and email, will be used for primary communication to the class as a whole. I advise you check the announcements section frequently. **Important:** It is your responsibility to utilize a computer system that works and is compatible with the UNT online system/Canvas.

**Course Requirements**

Your final grade will be determined based on your performance on quizzes, several written assignments, and a final paper. There are a total of 500 points that can be earned in this class.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Points Possible</th>
<th>% of Final Grade</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chapter Quizzes- 5 @ 20 points each</td>
<td>100 points</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class Reflections- 5 @ 20 points each</td>
<td>100 points</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discussion Boards- 6 @ 25 points each</td>
<td>150 points</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Podcasts in the Courtroom Assignment</td>
<td>50 points</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Paper</td>
<td>100 points</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Points Possible</strong></td>
<td><strong>500 points</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Grading Scale:**  
450 – 500 = A  
400 - 449 = B  
350 - 399 = C  
300 -349 = D  
299 or fewer points = F

**Chapter Quizzes:** Students will complete a total of 6 quizzes throughout the semester with the lowest grade being dropped at the end of the semester. Each quiz will be worth 20 points for a total of 100 points. Students will have 30 minutes to take each quiz and they must be completed in one sitting (one attempt) – so make sure you have a reliable internet connection and are ready to complete the entire quiz when you open it. Quiz questions may consist of multiple choice, true/false, matching, and/or short answer questions. While course materials may be referenced during the quizzes, students should treat these quizzes as they would an in-class exam and prepare accordingly.

**Class Reflections:** Students will complete a total of 6 class reflections throughout the semester. After each virtual meeting, students will complete a brief reflection exercise on Canvas. Students will be asked 1-2 questions regarding the topics we covered and will write a brief short answer response. To allow for
‘sick’ days when students are unable to attend class, the lowest reflection grade will be dropped at the end of the semester. Each reflection is worth 20 points for a total of 100 points.

**Discussion Boards:** When we do not meet or have a quiz, students will engage in online discussions to emulate a face-to-face classroom environment. There will be 7 discussion questions worth 25 points each. To receive full points for each discussion, students must provide a thoughtful, evidence-based answer, 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. The grading rubric for each discussion board can be reviewed on Canvas. The lowest discussion board grade will be dropped.

**Podcasts in the Courtroom Assignment:** Students will complete a podcast evaluation assignment during the first module of the course. This brief writing assignment will be worth 50 points. Further details on this assignment are available on Canvas.

**Final Paper:** Students will complete a final paper worth 100 points. The final paper is an opportunity for students to present a detailed evaluation of a specific crime policy. Specific details and requirements for this assignment will be posted and available on Canvas mid-semester.

**Extra Credit:** If an opportunity for extra credit presents itself, it will be discussed on Canvas and available to the entire class at the discretion of the instructor. There will be no individual opportunities for extra credit.

**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 April 2, 2021.**

**COVID-19 impact on attendance:** While attendance is expected as outlined above, it is important for all of us to be mindful of the health and safety of everyone in our community, especially given concerns about COVID-19. Please contact me if you are unable to attend class because you are ill, or unable to attend class due to a related issue regarding COVID-19. It is important that you communicate with me prior to being absent as to what may be preventing you from coming to class so I may make a decision about accommodating your request to be excused from class.

If you are experiencing any symptoms of COVID-19 please seek medical attention from the Student Health and Wellness Center (940-565-2333 or askSHWC@unt.edu) or your health care provider PRIOR to coming to campus. UNT also requires you to contact the UNT COVID Hotline at 844-366-5892 or COVID@unt.edu for guidance on actions to take due to symptoms, pending or positive test results, or potential exposure. While attendance is an important part of succeeding in this class, your own health, and those of others in the community, is more important.

**Course Policies**

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 may be referred 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. The Code of Student Conduct can be found at this [link](#).

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.

Syllabus Change Policy
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.

UNT Policies

Academic Integrity Policy
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.

ADA Policy
UNT makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide a student with an accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding one’s specific course needs. Students may request accommodations at any time, however, ODA notices of 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 accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. For additional information see the ODA website (https://disability.unt.edu/).

Emergency Notification & Procedures
UNT uses a system called Eagle Alert to quickly notify students 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). In the event of a university closure, please refer to Blackboard 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 Blackboard online system, including grading information and comments, is also stored in a safe electronic environment for one year. Students have the right to view their individual record; however, information about student’s records will not be divulged to other individuals without proper written consent. Students are encouraged to review the Public Information Policy and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) laws and the University’s policy. See UNT Policy 10.10, Records Management and Retention for additional information.

Acceptable Student Behavior
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 Dean of Students 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. Visit UNT’s Code of Student Conduct (https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct) to learn more.
Sexual Assault Prevention
UNT is committed to providing a safe learning environment free of all forms of sexual misconduct, including sexual harassment, sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. Federal laws (Title IX and the Violence Against Women Act) and UNT policies prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex, and therefore prohibit 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. UNT’s Survivor Advocates can assist a student who has been impacted by violence by filing protective orders, completing crime victim’s compensation applications, contacting professors for absences related to an assault, working with housing to facilitate a room change where appropriate, and connecting students to other resources available both on and off campus. The Survivor Advocates can be reached at SurvivorAdvocate@unt.edu or by calling the Dean of Students Office at 940-565-2648. Additionally, alleged sexual misconduct can be non-confidentially reported to the Title IX Coordinator at oeo@unt.edu or at (940) 565 2759.

Course Evaluation
Student Perceptions of Teaching (SPOT) is the student evaluation system for UNT and allows students the ability to confidentially provide constructive feedback to their instructor and department to improve the quality of student experiences in the course. 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.

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. A variety of resources services are available to students in the Academic Support tab in Canvas.
# Academic Calendar

[NOTE: Read the assigned reading for each day prior to coming to class; additional readings may be added and these will be announced in class and on Canvas]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module</th>
<th>Week Of</th>
<th>READING ASSIGNMENTS AND DUE DATES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 1      | 1/10         | Readings: Syllabus, Course Overview  
Class Meeting 1/12 9:30-10:50 AM  
Discussion 1: Careers in Criminal Justice due 1/15 at 11:59 PM |
| 1      | 1/17         | Readings: Chapter 1 Crime & Policy: A Complex Problem  
Ch. 1 Quiz due 1/19 at 11:59 PM  
Class Meeting 1/21 9:30-10:50 AM  
Ch. 1 Reflection due 1/21 at 11:59 PM |
| 1      | 1/24-1/31    | Readings: Chapter 2 Models of Criminal Justice & Chapter 3 The Going Rate  
Podcasts in the Courtroom assignment due 1/29 at 11:59 PM  
Discussion 2: Death by Fire due 2/5 at 11:59 PM |
| 2      | 2/7          | Readings: Chapter 4 The Prediction Problem  
Ch. 4 Quiz due 2/9 at 11:59 PM  
Class Meeting 2/11 9:30-10:50 AM  
Ch. 4 Reflection due 2/11 at 11:59 PM |
| 2      | 2/14         | Readings: Chapter 5 Unleash the Cops!  
Class Meeting 2/16 9:30-10:50 AM  
Ch. 5 Reflection 1 due 2/16 at 11:59 PM  
Class Meeting 2/18 9:30-10:50 AM  
Ch. 5 Reflection 2 due 2/18 at 11:59 PM |
| 2      | 2/21         | Readings: Chapter 6 Deter the Criminals  
Discussion 3: Deterrence & Sentencing due 2/26 at 11:59 PM |
| 2      | 2/28         | Readings: Chapter 7 Lock ‘Em Up!  
Discussion 4: Solutions to Mass Incarceration due 3/5 at 11:59 PM |
| 3      | 3/7          | Readings: Chapter 8 Close the Loopholes  
Ch. 8 Quiz due 3/9 at 11:59 PM  
Class Meeting 3/11 9:30-10:50 AM  
Ch. 8 Reflection due 3/11 at 11:59 PM |
| 3      | 3/14         | Readings: Chapter 9 Protect Crime Victims  
Discussion 5: COVID-19 & Domestic Violence due 3/19 at 11:59 PM |
| 3      | 3/21         | Readings: Chapter 10 Control Gun Crimes  
Ch. 10 Quiz due 3/26 at 11:59 PM |
| 4      | 3/28         | Readings: Chapter 11 Treat ‘Em!  
Discussion 6: Evidence-Based Rehabilitation due 4/2 at 11:59 PM |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Readings: Chapter 12 Gain Compliance with the Law</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4/4</td>
<td>Ch. 12 Quiz due 4/6 at 11:59 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Class Meeting 4/8 9:30-10:50 AM</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Ch. 12 Reflection due 4/8 at 11:59 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>4/11</td>
<td>Readings: Chapter 13 Sense and Nonsense about Drugs &amp; Crime</td>
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<td>Discussion 7: Marijuana Legalization due 4/16 at 11:59 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>4/18</td>
<td>Readings: Chapter 14 Crime &amp; Community: Putting it All Together</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Ch. 14 Quiz due 4/20 at 11:59 PM</td>
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<td>Final Paper due 4/22 at 11:59 PM</td>
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