Judicial and Legal Systems  
CJUS 3210.900  
Summer 2024

Instructor: Jordan Russell, M.S.  
Term: Summer 2024, 5 week 2  
Class meeting: This is an online class. Course expectations and classroom policies are outlined in the syllabus below. While students are expected to participate in online discussions and online quizzes, there are no formal on campus meetings for this course which would require a student to come to campus.

Instructor’s Contact Information

Email  
Jordan.Russell@unt.edu

Office Location  
Chilton 273F

Office Hours  
By appointment

Teaching Assistant’s Contact Information

Teaching Assistant  
Shelby Ruckel

Email  
Shelby.Ruckel@unt.edu

Scheduling meetings during office hours: If you need to schedule a face-to-face meeting, I am available by appointment. The primary method to contact me is through email (which is also the method used to schedule meetings).

**Note: Emails sent after 5p or on the weekends (holidays) will be answered the following business day.

Email expectations: When sending an email, please put the COURSE NUMBER (CJUS 3210) in the subject line of the email. Only emails sent from your UNT email account (username@my.unt.edu) will receive a response. Please allow 48 hours of turnaround time (weekdays) for your email inquiries when contacting either the instructor or the TA. Also, to ensure that you receive timely course related correspondence, make sure your official email address at UNT is forwarded to your preferred email address.

Course Description

The course will examine the courts, legal and judicial processes and judicial behavior. The history, philosophy and traditions underlying the American justice system as played out in the criminal courts will also be examined. Special attention will be given to the interaction of judges, prosecutors, defense attorneys and jurors. The impact of significant court decisions on the operation of the justice system will also be addressed.

Course Objectives

After completing the course students will:

- Recognize the functions and responsibilities of the participants in the criminal justice process
- Identify the structure of the criminal justice system, including the various levels of the judiciary and the respective role of each
• Describe the ways in which the judicial process influences, and is influenced by, various components of the larger society
• Explain the basic day-to-day functionality of the criminal justice system

Students will successfully demonstrate the attainment of these objectives through quizzes and written assignments.

**Required Text**


**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 emailing Ms. Ruckel or myself with a question, make sure to review this syllabus, schedule and welcome statement. Most questions are answered in these documents. 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. This is especially critical during quiz 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 your exam in case problems arise. **Do not take your quizzes on mobile devices such as smartphones or tablets.**

**Course Requirements**

Weekly Quizzes: 5 @ 30 points each
Canvas Discussions: 3 @ 50 points each

**Grading Scale**

A= 270 - 300 points
B= 240 - 269 points
C= 210 - 239 points
D= 180 - 209 points
F= Less than 180 points

Please note that grades will be calculated based on points earned in the course, not a percentage. I reserve the right to resolve borderline grades, but only if students have completed all the assignments in the course.
**Weekly Quizzes:** Each chapter quiz contains 30 multiple choice questions to be completed in 60 minutes. Dates for when each is available can be found on the course schedule in Canvas.

**Discussion Posts (150 points total)**
Each student will be required to respond to 3 Canvas discussion assignments throughout the course of the semester. Each Canvas discussion is worth 50 points, for a total of 150 points towards your final grade. For each discussion, students will be required to both respond to the discussion question as well as make **two** substantive posts to classmates’ posts to receive full credit. Discussion question responses should be at least 250 words of original content (references etc. do not count towards the word count requirement). Responses to a classmate’s posts must reflect critical thought and reflect substantive contribution to the class discussion (a minimum of 100 words per response). Consider: what makes sense about your classmate’s post? What flaws can you see in the post? A simple statement of agreement or disagreement with the initial posting is insufficient. Furnish a thoughtful response and support it. These posts account for a substantive portion of the overall course grade and will not be treated as completion grades. Students should take their time in responding and crafting a carefully thought-out response. Students will be graded on grammar, so proofread submissions prior to posting.

Responses should be typed in a word document before cutting and pasting them into the text submission box to ensure you have a backup copy in the event of a technical issue. Students are strongly encouraged to complete their work as early as possible during the discussion week to avoid these types of issues.

The best discussion/participation posts will incorporate scholarly references with appropriate in text citations as well as a complete reference page in APA format for all information obtained from academic references. A detailed rubric for the discussions is provided below.

Students are only permitted one attempt on discussion assignments. Students are required to submit their discussion response prior to viewing the responses or replies of other students. This standard method is to ensure all students are practicing academic honesty, and not drawing their discussion response information from the work of other students. For this reason, we only grade the first discussion response submitted by students, and students cannot delete a submission from our view. If the first discussion response is blank or incomplete, it will still be graded as the attempt. If you have any issues with your discussion submission, please email the TA or me ASAP.

*All discussion and participation posts must be completed by the due date and time. No late discussion posts or participation posts will be accepted for any reason. If you have technical difficulties in submitting your post, you must email the instructor a copy of your post prior to the discussion due date for your circumstances to be evaluated. The instructor retains discretion to accept or evaluate any submission not turned in through the Discussion forum in Canvas by the due date and time. Discussion posts/participation posts will be graded and returned within one week of the assignment due date. Discussion posts submitted as an attachment will not be graded and will be assigned a score of a 0.*
Discussion questions are designed to assess your comprehension and understanding of course materials, not a description of your personal opinion regarding drugs, crime and society. As such, discussions will be evaluated using the following criteria:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Content</th>
<th>Participation</th>
<th>Length</th>
<th>Editing (spelling and grammar)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Excellent 22-25 points</strong></td>
<td>Excellent 13-15 points</td>
<td>Excellent 5 points</td>
<td>Excellent 5 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All of the required components of the response were adequately addressed with full explanations</td>
<td>Student submitted 2+ substantive participation posts with full and supported explanations.</td>
<td>Discussion response exceeded required length, 2 participation responses were posted that also exceeded required length</td>
<td>If there were any spelling or grammar errors they were insignificant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Good 18-21 points</strong></td>
<td>Good 11-12 points</td>
<td>Good 4 points</td>
<td>Good 4 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A minor required component was missing, or there was not good explanation for at least one of the required major components</td>
<td>Student submitted 1-2 substantive participation posts with supported explanations.</td>
<td>Discussion response met required length, 2 participation responses were posted - one response met the 100 word count requirement, one did not</td>
<td>There were a few spelling or grammar errors that were noticeable but did not detract from the paper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fair 15-17 points</strong></td>
<td>Fair 9-10 points</td>
<td>Fair 3 points</td>
<td>Fair 3 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Important required components of the response were missing or there were a few components not fully explained</td>
<td>Student submitted 1-2 substantive participation posts. Additional explanation or support was needed.</td>
<td>Discussion response was at or right below required length, 2 responses were posted, but neither met the 100 word count requirement or 1 response was posted that met the 100 word count requirement</td>
<td>There were a few spelling or grammar errors that were noticeable and detracted somewhat from the paper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Poor 12-14 points</strong></td>
<td>Poor 7-8 points</td>
<td>Poor 1-2 points</td>
<td>Poor 1-2 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not all of the required components of the response were addressed, nor were they fully explained</td>
<td>Students submitted 0-1 substantive participation responses.</td>
<td>Discussion response was at or below required length, 2 responses were posted 1 substantive response was posted that did not meet the 100 word count requirement</td>
<td>There were a number of spelling and grammar mistakes that detracted from the paper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Failing 0-11 points</strong></td>
<td>Failing 0-6 points</td>
<td>Failing 0 points</td>
<td>Failing 0 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The content of the response was inadequate with limited coverage of required elements and very little if any explanation of required components</td>
<td>There were no substantive participation posts submitted.</td>
<td>Discussion response was at or below the required length and there were no substantive participation posts</td>
<td>There were a great number of spelling and grammar mistakes that detracted greatly from the reading of the paper, such that it was difficult to read</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Last minute technical issues will not warrant a reset after the assignment (quizzes or discussions) due date. For example, if a student chooses to wait until the weekend, or evening, the quiz is due and there is a technical issue (such as my internet stopped working, Canvas kicked me out, etc.), the submission will retain the score at the time the assignment is due - which may be a 0. There will be no quiz resets following the due date.*
Does Spelling Count?

Yes it does. An individual’s ability to effectively communicate in writing is a reflection on their competence and credibility. Persons entering the field of criminal justice should strive to be seen as both competent and credible. Attention to detail is necessary to achieve that goal. As professionals in the field your work will be judged not only by what you say, but perhaps to a greater degree, by how you say it. Please review all written assignments prior to submission for proper grammar and spelling.

Make-Up Policy

There will be no opportunities to make up any missed coursework with the exception of authorized absences according to University 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, 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.

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.

Academic Dishonesty/Integrity

All students are required to conduct themselves with utmost honesty and integrity in all aspects related to this course. Any act of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated and may result in failing the course. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating on a test, plagiarism, and collusion – the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing work offered for course credit.

Grade Appeals

Please keep all your graded work. You cannot, under any circumstance, dispute a grade on an exam or assignment if you cannot provide the original copy. Should you have any discrepancy with a grade you receive, you must submit a written complaint and meet with me within one week of receiving the grade. Bring the original copy of the exam or assignment to this meeting. Written complaints must address specific comments and/or grading criteria. Filing an appeal does not guarantee that your grade will be changed. Grades are not verbally negotiable.

Disabled Student Policy

Any student in this class may request learning assistance by submitting a written statement that describes the nature of your impairment and any specific accommodations you may need. Should you need assistance please contact the Dean of Students’ Office at http://www.dos.unt.edu/index.html or by calling (940) 565-2648.
**SPOT Participation**

The SPOT evaluation is a requirement for all organized classes at UNT. This short survey will be made available to you at the end of the semester, providing you a chance to comment on how this class is taught. I am very interested in the feedback I get from students, as I work to continually improve my teaching. I consider the SPOT to be an important part of your participation in this class.

**Student Behavior and 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. The Code of Student Conduct can be found at [www.unt.edu/csrr](http://www.unt.edu/csrr)

**Participation and Online Behavior**

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 online discussions. Your active participation, along with your willingness to engage in thoughtful discussions regarding crime and justice in the United States will be taken into account at all times during the semester.

An online classroom, at least during times of online discussion, is a place to express varying ideas, opinions, and engage in thoughtful discussions. Students will respect the views and opinions of others at all times or their status in the course will be examined. In sum, simply be appropriate during online interactions. Each student brings diverse insight and perspectives, and that can make for a very interesting and lively discussion forum, but just please be appropriate and respectful of others. Please review the 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. 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.

**Artificial Intelligence Adopted Policy**

I expect you to generate your own work in this class. When you submit any kind of work (including projects, exams, quizzes, or discussions), you are asserting that you have generated and written the text unless you indicate otherwise by the use of quotation marks and proper attribution for the source. Submitting content that has been generated by someone other than you or was created or assisted by a computer application or tool, including artificial intelligence (AI) tools such as ChatGPT is cheating and
constitutes an academic integrity violation. You may use simple word processing tools to update spelling and grammar in your assignments, but you may not use AI tools to draft your work, even if you edit, revise, or paraphrase it. There may be opportunities for you to use AI tools in this class. Where they exist, I will clearly specify when and in what capacity it is permissible for you to use these tools.

Things you CAN use AI for: Use it to chat about a topic you’re interested in. However, it’s probably no more than 65% accurate. You will need to use academic sources to verify what AI told you. It can be a useful tool for identifying starting points on a topic but should not be utilized as an alternative to scholarly research. It cannot provide reliable resources or data.

Things you CANNOT use AI for: Do not use AI to draft any written scholarly work. Do not use citations provided by AI. Not only is it unreliable, but you risk an academic integrity violation. You are here to analyze and develop your critical thinking skills. If you need to use it as a starting point, that’s fine. However, when it’s time to draft a written assignment, close AI generated content before you begin and utilize the reliable scholarly sources you have found.

The UNT library system is a valuable resource!

**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/).

**Important Notice for F-1 Students taking Distance Education Courses**

*Federal Regulation*

To read detailed Immigration and Customs Enforcement regulations for F-1 students taking online courses, please go to the Electronic Code of Federal Regulations website at http://ecfr.gpoaccess.gov. The specific portion concerning distance education courses is located at "Title 8 CFR 214.2 Paragraph (f)(6)(i)(G)" and can be found buried within this document: http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/get-cfr.cgi?TITLE=8&amp;PART=214&amp;SECTION=2&amp;TYPE=TEXT

The paragraph reads:

(G) For F–1 students enrolled in classes for credit or classroom hours, no more than the equivalent of one class or three credits per session, term, semester, trimester, or quarter may be counted toward the full course of study requirement if the class is taken on-line or through distance education and does not require the student’s physical attendance for classes, examination or other purposes integral to completion of the class. An on-line or distance education course is a course that is offered principally through the use of television, audio, or computer transmission including open broadcast, closed circuit, cable, microwave, or satellite, audio conferencing, or computer conferencing. If the F–1 student’s course of study is in a language study program, no on-line or distance education classes may be considered to count toward a student’s full course of study requirement.
University of North Texas Compliance

To comply with immigration regulations, an F-1 visa holder within the United States may need to engage in an on-campus experiential component for this course. This component (which must be approved in advance by the instructor) can include activities such as taking an on-campus exam, participating in an on-campus lecture or lab activity, or other on-campus experience integral to the completion of this course.

If such an on-campus activity is required, it is the student’s responsibility to do the following:

1. Submit a written request to the instructor for an on-campus experiential component within one week of the start of the course.
2. Ensure that the activity on campus takes place and the instructor documents it in writing with a notice sent to the International Student and Scholar Services Office. ISSS has a form available that you may use for this purpose.

Because the decision may have serious immigration consequences, if an F-1 student is unsure about his or her need to participate in an on-campus experiential component for this course, s/he should contact the UNT International Student and Scholar Services Office (telephone 940-565-2195 or email internationaladvising@unt.edu) to get clarification before the one-week deadline.

Copyright Notice

Some or all of the materials on this course Web site may be protected by copyright. Federal copyright law prohibits the reproduction, distribution, public performance, or public display of copyrighted materials without the express and written permission of the copyright owner, unless fair use or another exemption under copyright law applies.

Additional copyright information may be located at: http://copyright.unt.edu/content/unt-copyright-policies.

Academic Support & Student Services

Student Support Services

Mental Health

UNT provides mental health resources to students to help ensure there are numerous outlets to turn to that wholeheartedly care for and are there for students in need, regardless of the nature of an issue or its severity. Listed below are several resources on campus that can support your academic success and mental well-being:

- Student Health and Wellness Center (https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-health-and-wellness-center)
- Counseling and Testing Services (https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services)
- UNT Care Team (https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/care)
- Individual Counseling (https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services/services/individual-counseling)

Chosen Names

A chosen name is a name that a person goes by that may or may not match their legal name. If you have a chosen name that is different from your legal name and would like that to be used in class, please let the instructor know. Below is a list of resources for updating your chosen name at UNT.

- UNT Records
• UNT ID Card
• UNT Email Address
• Legal Name

*UNT euIDs cannot be changed at this time. The collaborating offices are working on a process to make this option accessible to UNT community members.

Pronouns
Pronouns (she/her, they/them, he/him, etc.) are a public way for people to address you, much like your name, and can be shared with a name when making an introduction, both virtually and in-person. Just as we ask and don’t assume someone’s name, we should also ask and not assume someone’s pronouns.

You can add your pronouns to your Canvas account so that they follow your name when posting to discussion boards, submitting assignments, etc.

Below is a list of additional resources regarding pronouns and their usage:

- What are pronouns and why are they important?
- How do I use pronouns?
- How do I share my pronouns?
- How do I ask for another person’s pronouns?
- How do I correct myself or others when the wrong pronoun is used?

Additional Student Support Services
- Registrar (https://registrar.unt.edu/registration)
- Financial Aid (https://financialaid.unt.edu/)
- Student Legal Services (https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-legal-services)
- Career Center (https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/career-center)
- Multicultural Center (https://edo.unt.edu/multicultural-center)
- Counseling and Testing Services (https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services)
- Pride Alliance (https://edo.unt.edu/pridealliance)
- UNT Food Pantry (https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/resources/food-pantry)

Academic Support Services
- Academic Resource Center (https://clear.unt.edu/canvas/student-resources)
- Academic Success Center (https://success.unt.edu/asc)
- UNT Libraries (https://library.unt.edu/)
- Writing Lab (http://writingcenter.unt.edu/)
COURSE SCHEDULE
Note: Most assignments (quizzes and discussions) open at 8:00 a.m. on the first day (Monday) of each week and close at 11:59 the following Sunday. Week 5 the same day as week 4, but closed on Thursday, July 25.

Week One: 6/24 – 6/30
Topic: Structure: Law, Crime, Courts, and Controversy; Federal Courts; State Courts
Reading: Chapter 1, Chapter 2, Chapter 3
Assignments: Complete the quiz for week 1 and discussion 1

Week Two: 7/1 – 7/7
Topic: Juvenile Courts; The Dynamics of Courthouse Justice; Prosecutors
Reading: Chapter 4, Chapter 5, Chapter 6
Assignments: Complete the quiz for week 2

Week Three: 7/8 – 7/14
Topic: Defense Attorneys; Judges; Defendants, Victims, and Witnesses
Reading: Chapter 7, Chapter 8, Chapter 9
Assignments: Complete the quiz for week 3 and discussion 2

Week Four: 7/15 – 7/21
Topic: From Arrest and Bail Through Arraignment; Disclosing and Suppressing Evidence; Negotiated Justice and the Plea of Guilty
Reading: Chapter 10, Chapter 11, Chapter 12
Assignments: Complete the quiz for week 4

Week Five: 7/15 – 7/25
Topic: Trials and Juries; Sentencing; Appellate and Habeas Corpus Review
Reading: Chapter 13, Chapter 14, Chapter 15
Assignments: Complete the quiz for week 4 and discussion 3