

Seminar on Violence CJUS 4350.900  
Spring 2023

Instructor Contact

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Communication Expectations:

**For questions, please first email the Teaching Assistant, Ms. Tyra Gardiner at [Tyra.Gardiner@unt.edu](mailto:Tyra.Gardiner@unt.edu).**

The Teaching Assistant (TA) for this course is Tyra Gardiner. Ms. Gardiner will be assisting with maintaining course documentation and grading and will serve as your first point of contact. If you have any questions, comments, concerns, etc. then please direct them to Ms. Gardiner first. If Ms. Gardiner feels that I (Professor Russell) need to weigh in on the matter then she will forward your email on to me.

**\*\*Note:** Emails sent after 5pm *or* on the weekends will generally be answered the following business day.

*Email expectations:* When sending an email, please put the COURSE NUMBER (CJUS 4350) 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.

Welcome to UNT!

As members of the UNT community, we have all made a commitment to be part of an institution that respects and values the identities of the students and employees with whom we interact. UNT does not tolerate identity-based discrimination, harassment, and retaliation. UNT's full Non-Discrimination Policy can be found in the UNT Policies section of the syllabus.

Course Description

An analysis of the incidence, patterns and causes of criminal violence; the characteristics of particular crimes (e.g. murder, robbery, rape, domestic abuse, terrorism), and societal reaction to such violence. Prerequisites: none (3 hours).

## Course Structure

### How the Course is Organized:

The course is divided into learning units; for example, Unit 1, Defining Violence, comprises of material that takes about 2 weeks to cover. As the Unit progresses you will be expected to join a discussion forum to share your thoughts about the issues raised. At the conclusion of each Unit you will have the opportunity to take a quiz related to the specific material covered in that unit.

### *What Students Should Do First:*

To access the course, login to Canvas on the UNT portal

Select the appropriate course. The homepage for the class will include links to the assignments, course information, reading materials, and course announcements. All information of concern to the class as a whole will be posted as an “Announcement” on the course page, therefore it is your responsibility to check Announcements regularly.

You will be responsible for completing the assignments listed in the syllabus by the due dates. **No late assignments will be accepted**\_(Please read below for more information on assignments, tests, and due dates). **All late submissions are subject to receive a zero.**

### *How Students Should Proceed Each Week for Class Activities:*

Students should follow the syllabus and Course Calendar. As the course develops, new Units will become available to you. You may not work ahead on Units that have not opened yet. Please refer closely to the Course Calendar (found under the “Modules” tab) for the dates of each Unit, as well as the dates for all assignments. On your homepage you will have a tab marked “Modules”. Click on this tab. Click on the appropriate Unit to find the required readings and assignments. Further instructions for the assignments will be found within the reading.

## Course Prerequisites or Other Restrictions

Prerequisites: none

## Course Objectives

Upon successful completion of this course students will be able to:

- Demonstrate an understanding of the major ethological, biological and sociological theories of violence
- Discuss explanations for violent crimes
- Identify the major explanations for sexually motivated crimes
- Explain the differences between mass murder and serial murder
- Analyze and develop creative solutions to violent crime problems

## Materials

The assigned text listed below is required for all students enrolled in this class. Reading assignments are noted in the course calendar. All students are expected to read the assigned chapters prior to the date specified in the course calendar. The assigned readings will serve as a foundation for the discussion of issues in class as well as examination material.

Riedel, M., and Welsh, W. (2015). *Criminal Violence: Patterns, Causes and Prevention (4<sup>th</sup> edition)*. Oxford, Oxford University Press. ISBN 978-0-19-938613-0.

## Course Technology & Skills

### *Minimum Technology Requirements:*

This is not a computer skills course and as such, students are expected to have a minimum skill set in order to access course materials and complete course assignments. Specifically, students should know how to access a Web site when given an address, use the features of their Web browser, download files, attach files to emails, use word processing software, copy and paste ...etc.

- Computer
- Reliable internet access
- Speakers
- Microphone
- Plug-ins
- Microsoft Office Suite
- [Canvas Technical Requirements](https://clear.unt.edu/supported-technologies/canvas/requirements) (<https://clear.unt.edu/supported-technologies/canvas/requirements>)

## Computer Skills & Digital Literacy

Below is a list of course-specific technical skills learners must have to succeed in the course, such as:

- Using Canvas
- Using email with attachments
- Downloading and installing software

## Technical Assistance

Part of working in the online environment involves dealing with the inconveniences and frustration that can arise when technology breaks down or does not perform as expected. Here at UNT we have a Student Help Desk that you can contact for help with Canvas or other technology issues.

**UIT Help Desk:** [UIT Student Help Desk site \(http://www.unt.edu/helpdesk/index.htm\)](http://www.unt.edu/helpdesk/index.htm)

**Email:** [helpdesk@unt.edu](mailto:helpdesk@unt.edu)

**Phone:** 940-565-2324

**In Person:** Sage Hall, Room 130

**Walk-In Availability:** 8am-9pm

**Telephone Availability:**

- Sunday: noon-midnight
- Monday-Thursday: 8am-midnight
- Friday: 8am-8pm
- Saturday: 9am-5pm

**Laptop Checkout:** 8am-7pm

For additional support, visit [Canvas Technical Help](https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10554-4212710328)  
(<https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10554-4212710328>)

## Rules of Engagement

Rules of engagement refer to the way students are expected to interact with each other and with their instructors. Here are some general guidelines:

- While the freedom to express yourself is a fundamental human right, any communication that utilizes cruel and derogatory language on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, or any other characteristic protected under applicable federal or state law will not be tolerated.
- Treat your instructor and classmates with respect in any communication online or face-to-face, even when their opinion differs from your own.
- Ask for and use the correct name and pronouns for your instructor and classmates.
- Speak from personal experiences. Use “I” statements to share thoughts and feelings. Try not to speak on behalf of groups or other individual’s experiences.
- Use your critical thinking skills to challenge other people’s ideas, instead of attacking individuals.
- Avoid using all caps while communicating digitally. This may be interpreted as “YELLING!”
- Be cautious when using humor or sarcasm in emails or discussion posts as tone can be difficult to interpret digitally.
- Avoid using “text-talk” unless explicitly permitted by your instructor.
- Proofread and fact-check your sources.
- Keep in mind that online posts can be permanent, so think first before you type.

See these [Engagement Guidelines](https://clear.unt.edu/online-communication-tips) (<https://clear.unt.edu/online-communication-tips>) for more information.

## Course Requirements

Your final grade will be determined based on your performance on 8 Unit quizzes, 2 Exams (midterm and final), and 9 discussion assignments. There are a total of 360 points that can be earned in this class. The dates for each quiz, discussion assignment, and exam are listed in the course schedule below.

Exams: 2 @ 50 points each

Chapter Quizzes: 8 @ 10 points each

Discussions: 9 @ 20 points each

Grading Scale:        324 – 360 = A

                              288 – 323 = B

                              252 – 287 = C

                              216 – 251 = D

                              0 – 209 = F

**IF YOU PLAGIARIZE ONE DISCUSSION BOARD RESPONSE YOU WILL RECEIVE A ZERO FOR THAT ENTRY. IF YOU PLAGIARIZE A SECOND TIME YOU WILL RECEIVE AN F FOR THE CLASS.**

Spring 2023 : Course Schedule

Course Introduction: 1/17 – 1/22

Topic: Course Introduction

Readings: Course Syllabus

Unit 1: 1/23 – 1/29

Topic: Defining Violence and Criminal Violence

Reading: Course notes and chapter 1 of textbook

Assignments: Complete the discussion assignment and quiz for Unit 1.

Unit 2: 1/30 – 2/5

Topic: Measuring Violence

Reading: Course notes and chapter 2 of textbook

Assignments: Complete the discussion assignment and quiz for Unit 2.

Unit 3: 2/6 – 2/19

Topic: Violence in Other Times and Places.

Reading: Course notes and chapter 3 of textbook

Assignments: Complete the discussion assignment and quiz for Unit 3.

Unit 4: 2/20 – 3/5

Topic: Theories of Violence

Reading: Course notes, chapter 5 pages 95-102, chapter 6 pages 115-119, and chapter 7 pages 141-144 of textbook

Assignments: Complete the discussion assignment and quiz for Unit 4.

Unit 5: 3/6 – 3/12

Topic: Types of criminal violence: Homicides and Assaults

Reading: Course notes and chapter 4 of textbook

Assignments: Complete the discussion assignment and quiz for Unit 4.

***\*Spring Break 3/13-3/17—University Closed—Enjoy!***

Midterm: 3/20 – 3/26

Topic: Midterm

Readings: Unit 1-5

Unit 6: 3/27 – 4/9

Topic: Types of Criminal Violence: Sexual Violence

Reading: Course notes and chapter 6 of textbook

Assignments: Complete the discussion assignment and quiz for Unit 6.

Unit 7: 4/10 – 4/23

Topic: Types of Violence: Terrorism as Violent Crime

Reading: Course notes and chapter 14 of textbook  
Assignments: Complete the discussion assignment and quiz for Unit 7.

Unit 8: 4/24 – 5/4 (THURSDAY)

Topic: Types of Violence: Mass Killing

Reading: Course notes

Assignments: Complete the discussion assignment and quiz for Unit 8.

Final Exam: 5/8 – 5/11 (THURSDAY)

Topic: Final Exam

Reading: Units 6-8

\* The final exam will be made available on **Monday, May 8<sup>th</sup>** at 8:00 a.m. and will be due no later than 11:59 pm on **Thursday, May 11<sup>th</sup>**. Please note that May 11<sup>th</sup> is a Thursday.

Exams/Quizzes/Discussions Policies

Exams:

There will be two exams given worth 50 points each. You will have 75 minutes to complete each exam. Make sure to give yourself enough time because the exam will shut-off at 11:59pm on the final day that the exam is available.

Note that any material covered in the textbook, discussions, or any supplemental material (such as extra assigned readings, movies, etc.) is “fair” game. It is essential that you read every designated chapter before attempting to take a unit quiz or exam. There will be NO STUDY GUIDE for the exams.

Check the course calendar for exam weeks.

Quizzes:

There will be one multiple choice quiz for each unit. Each multiple choice quiz is worth 10 points. You will use the course readings and notes to prepare for the quizzes.

You will have 15 minutes for each quiz. Make sure to give yourself enough time because the quiz will shut-off at 11:59pm.

\*\*Questions will be drawn from the course textbook and materials contained in the course notes. Exam and quiz questions will also be drawn from materials referred to in the course notes e.g. Look up and familiarize yourself with noted cases.

Discussion Assignments:

In addition to exams and quizzes, students will participate in assigned online discussions. Questions will be posted by your instructor and you are expected to contribute answers and discussion to the topic.

*Each discussion assignment will be eligible for a maximum of 20 points.*

There will be 1 Introduce yourself discussion and 8 Unit discussion forums for a maximum of 180 points available. You will be graded on your original content (level of critical thought/analysis, quality of factual support for your position) and quality of writing (spelling, punctuation, grammar). If any information that is not an original thought of yours is included in a discussion response, regardless of where it came from, that information needs to be cited using APA format. If you are unfamiliar with APA, please refer to the APA Writing Style Guide (located in the Modules section within the “Start Here” tab). Please make sure to proof read your work before submitting.

Each student will be required to participate in 8 discussions throughout the course. These discussions will first require you to **post** an answer to the questions posed by me. Be clear and detailed in answering the questions. These posts must be at least 250 words in length. **This portion of the assignment is referred to as “Post.”**

You are also required to *appropriately and professionally* **respond** to at least two other student’s postings for every discussion board (i.e. one post by you and two responses from you). Your response to another student’s post must: be at least 100 words in length, relate to the subject of the initial posting and demonstrate evidence of critical thought. 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. Content, structure, grammar, spelling and punctuation will be taken into consideration when awarding the grade for your discussion entries.

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

See next page for the discussion assignments rubric.

*\*All citations, references and sources are to be made in APA format.*

*\*\*You must cite any sources you use when constructing your discussion board responses, whether it is the course textbook, a scholarly journal, a website, a television show, etc.*

*\*\*\*If you do not meet the word minimum for either the initial/or peer reply (response), you are subject to lose significant points.*



Rubric for Discussions

<b>Content</b>	<b>Participation</b>	<b>Length</b>	<b>Editing (spelling and grammar)</b>
<p><b>Excellent 5 points</b> All of the required components of the post were adequately addressed with full explanations</p>	<p><b>Excellent 5 points</b> Student submitted 2+ substantive participation responses with full and supported explanations</p>	<p><b>Excellent 5 points</b> Discussion post exceeded required length, 2 participation responses were posted that also exceeded required length</p>	<p><b>Excellent 5 points</b> If there were any spelling or grammar errors they were insignificant</p>
<p><b>Good 4 points</b> A minor required component of the post was missing, or there was not good explanation for at least one of the required major components</p>	<p><b>Good 4 points</b> Student submitted 1-2 substantive participation responses with supported explanations</p>	<p><b>Good 4 points</b> Discussion post met required length, 2 participation responses were submitted - one response met the 100 word count requirement, one did not</p>	<p><b>Good 4 points</b> There were a few spelling or grammar errors that were noticeable but did not detract from the discussion post/response</p>
<p><b>Fair 3 points</b> Important required components of the post were missing or there were a few components not fully explained</p>	<p><b>Fair 3 points</b> Student submitted 1-2 substantive participation responses. Additional explanation or support was needed</p>	<p><b>Fair 3 points</b> Discussion post was at or right below required length, 2 responses were submitted, but neither met the 100 word count requirement or 1 response was submitted that met the 100 word count requirement</p>	<p><b>Fair 3 points</b> There were a few spelling or grammar errors that were noticeable and detracted somewhat from the discussion post/response</p>
<p><b>Poor 1-2 points</b> Not all of the required components of the post were addressed, nor were they fully explained</p>	<p><b>Poor 1-2 points</b> Students submitted 0-1 substantive participation responses</p>	<p><b>Poor 1-2 points</b> Discussion Post was at or below required length, 2 responses were submitted; 1 substantive response was posted that did not meet the 100 word count requirement</p>	<p><b>Poor 1-2 points</b> There were a number of spelling and grammar mistakes that detracted from the discussion post/response</p>
<p><b>Failing 0 points</b> The content of the response was inadequate with limited coverage of required elements and very little if any explanation of required components</p>	<p><b>Failing 0 points</b> There were no substantive participation posts submitted.</p>	<p><b>Failing 0 points</b> Discussion response was at or below the required length and there were no substantive participation posts</p>	<p><b>Failing 0 points</b> 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</p>

For questions regarding this course, please contact the Teaching Assistant as she will handle all routine matters regarding this course. If Ms. Gardiner believes I need to consider the matter, she will forward the message to me for consideration. If the issue is a technical one involving Canvas, contact the [Help Desk](#) or contact them by phone at (940) 565-2324, or in person in Sage Hall, Room 330.

If you have questions about how to work Canvas contact Canvas Support, or you can contact the UNT helpdesk at (940) 565-2324.

### 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.

### Course Policies

#### Class Participation

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 attendance and active participation, along with your willingness to engage in thoughtful discussions 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 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 unique 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.

#### Make-Up Policy

Because students have an extended period of time to complete exams, quizzes, and discussion boards, there will generally be no make-up exams or quizzes and late discussion boards will generally not be accepted. A zero will be assigned for any work that is submitted late or not turned in at all during the scheduled time period. Students with absences that are authorized pursuant to university policy 06.039 Student Attendance and Authorized Absences and that impact the timeliness of their work (for example, by covering the entire time period during which a discussion or exam/quiz could be done), should contact me and provide documentation prior to any due date in order for such absence to receive any consideration.

Individual technical or technological difficulties in completing a discussion or exam/quiz in a timely manner (e.g., computer crashes or viruses or interrupted internet connections) do not constitute a basis to request a make-up exam/quiz or the submission of a late discussion. To avoid such issues, I

encourage you to not wait until the final available hours or minutes to complete assigned coursework and/or complete your discussions, quizzes, and exams in a UNT computer lab. It is also recommended that you submit assigned work through a supported web browser on a computer or laptop rather than an iPad or other electronic device and that you avoid using wireless internet connections.

#### *Communication:*

Any email communication with me outside the course site should be done via my unt.edu email address: [Jordan.Russell@unt.edu](mailto:Jordan.Russell@unt.edu). You should use your UNT email account for all email communications with me. I will return emails within 48 hours during Monday-Friday. If you do not receive a response from me during that period, assume that I did not receive your communication and contact me again. If you are having technical or technological issues regarding the course, your first communication should be with the help desk at [helpdesk@unt.edu](mailto:helpdesk@unt.edu) or 940-565-2324. The technicians there have the expertise to help you resolve your issues.

#### *Syllabus Change:*

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 it must be modified. In the case that it 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/notifications/emails so that any and all changes are documented. Failure to obtain syllabus changes because of failure to check and read announcements/notifications/emails does not constitute a basis for a missed applicable change.

#### *Release of Chapter Materials:*

The Chapter Materials for each chapter and related modules will be released on the course site according to the schedule on the Course Schedule. Once released, they will remain available on the course site.

#### *Online Etiquette:*

This online format provides the opportunity to thoughtfully discuss issues and exchange ideas. Your communication with me and your fellow students in this online format should be appropriate to the course and respectful of the opinions of others. Engaging in disruptive or disrespectful behavior in this online forum may result in your dismissal from this class, as provided in university policy.

#### *Posting of Grades:*

Students can access their grades via the *Grades* tab on the course page in Canvas.

#### *Academic Dishonesty:*

The university rules (UNT Policy 06.003) concerning cheating and plagiarism will be strictly enforced. *Your work on discussion boards, quizzes, and exams should be your own individual and independent work. These are not group projects. You should not consult other persons when completing exams or quizzes.*

*Policy on Server Unavailability or Other Technical Difficulties:*

The University is committed to providing a reliable online course system to all users. However, in the event of any unexpected server or any unusual technical difficulty which prevents students from completing a time sensitive outage assessment activity, the instructor will extend the time windows and provide an appropriate accommodation based on the situation.

*SPOT (Student Perceptions of Teaching):*

You will have the opportunity to complete the SPOT survey at the end of the semester and share your thoughts about the course. I value the feedback that I receive from the SPOT survey and strongly encourage you to participate by completing the survey in this class and all of your classes.

*ADA Statement:*

The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking 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 an accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course. You 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 (i.e., electronically, phone, or in person) with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. For additional information, see the Office of Disability Access website at <http://disability.unt.edu/>. You may also contact them by phone at 940.565.4323.

*Intellectual Property Statement:*

The material posted online for this course is my personal intellectual property or that of the university. You may not use this material for anything other than class purposes.

*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 Canvas for contingency plans for covering course materials.

## **Important Notice for F-1 Students taking Distance Education Courses: Federal Regulation**

### **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 within this document: <http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/get-cfr.cgi?TITLE=8&PART=214&SECTION=2&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 their need to participate in an on-campus experiential component for this course, they should contact the UNT International Student and Scholar Services Office (telephone 940-565-2195 or email [internationaladvising@unt.edu](mailto:internationaladvising@unt.edu)) to get clarification before the one-week deadline.