INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

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For questions, please first email the Graduate Student Assistant, Ms. Madison Green at Madison.Green@unt.edu.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course examines the societal responses to people and organizations that violate criminal codes; discusses the history, development, organization and philosophy of the justice process; and analyzes the complex inter-relationships between the major components of the criminal justice system (i.e., police, courts, and corrections).

COURSE GOALS

Students who successfully complete this course will be able:

1) To identify the major foundations of crime and justice including the nature of law, behavioral aspects of crime, and measurement of crime;
2) To identify the major components of the criminal justice system including the police, courts, and corrections;
3) To use and critique alternative explanatory systems or theories;
4) To develop and communicate alternative explanations or solutions for crime;
5) To examine criminal justice institutions and processes across a range of historical periods, social structures and cultures;
6) To analyze the effects of historical, social, political, economic, cultural and global forces on criminal justice.
7) To identify and understand differences and commonalities within diverse cultures.
8) To employ the appropriate methods, technologies, and data that social scientists use to investigate criminals and the criminal justice system.

READING 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 Ms. Green 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 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 your exam in case problems arise. Do not take your exams on mobile devices such as smartphones or tablets.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

Your final grade will be determined based on your performance on 14 Chapter quizzes, 3 Exams, and 3 discussion assignments. There are a total of 350 points that can be earned in this class. The dates for each exam and quiz are listed in the course schedule on canvas.

Exams: 3 @ 50 points each
Chapter Quizzes: 14 @ 10 points each
Discussions: 3 @ 20 points each

Grading Scale:
315 – 350 = A
280 – 314 = B
245 – 279 = C
210 – 244 = D
0 – 209 = F

Chapter Quizzes: Each chapter quiz contains 10 multiple choice questions. Dates for when each is available can be found on the course schedule in Canvas.

Exams: Each exam contains 50 multiple choice questions. Dates for each Exam can be found on the course schedule in Canvas.

Discussions: Each student will be required to participate in 3 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 should be 2-3 paragraphs long (a paragraph is at least four complete sentences) and will be worth 10 points. This portion of the assignment is referred to as “Post.”

Each student must then appropriately and professionally respond to at least one other student’s post. These responses should constructively critique the post. Consider: what makes sense about your classmate’s post? What flaws can you see in the post? These
responses should also be 2-3 paragraphs long and will be worth 10 points. **This portion of the assignment is referred to as “Response.”**

**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

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.

**Office of Disability Accommodation**

The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking reasonable accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide you with a reasonable accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course. You may request reasonable accommodations at any time, however, ODA notices of reasonable accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of reasonable accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. Students are strongly encouraged to deliver letters of reasonable accommodation during faculty office hours or by appointment. Faculty members have the authority to ask students to discuss such letters during their designated office hours to protect the privacy of the student.

Students can access resources and information regarding disability accommodations in the Academic Support tab in Blackboard Learn. For additional information see the Office of Disability Accommodation website at [http://www.unt.edu/oda](http://www.unt.edu/oda). You may also contact them by phone at 940.565.4323.

**UNT Compliance with F-1 Visa Students Taking Online Courses**

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.

**TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE**

Note: All assignments (quizzes and exams) open at 8:00 a.m. on the first day (Monday) of each week and close at 11:59 the following Sunday. The final exam has a different schedule. Please see the end of this document for the open and close dates for the final exam.

**Week One: 1/13 – 1/19**
- Topic: Foundations: Crime and Justice in the U.S.
- Reading: Chapter 1
- Assignments: Complete the quiz for Chapter 1; Discussion 1 will open and the post and response will be due by 2/16

**Week Two: 1/20 – 1/26**
- Topic: Foundations: Crime and Its Consequences
- Reading: Chapter 2
- Assignments: Complete the quiz for Chapter 2

**Week Three: 1/27 – 2/2**
- Topic: Foundations: Explaining Crime
- Reading: Chapter 3
- Assignments: Complete the quiz for Chapter 3

**Week Four: 2/3 – 2/9**
- Topic: Foundations: The Rule of Law
- Reading: Chapter 4
- Assignments: Complete the quiz for Chapter 4

**Week Five: 2/10 – 2/16**
- No readings for this week. Please spend the week preparing for and completing Exam 1
- Assignments: Complete Exam 1; complete Discussion 1 post and response

**Week Six: 2/17 – 2/23**
- Topic: Law Enforcement: History and Structure of American Law Enforcement
- Reading: Chapter 5
- Assignments: Complete the quiz for Chapter 5; Discussion 2 will open and the post and response will be due by 3/29
Week Seven: 2/24 – 3/1
  Topic: Law Enforcement: Policing Roles Styles, and Functions
  Reading: Chapter 6
  Assignments: Complete the quiz for Chapter 6

Week Eight: 3/2 – 3/8
  Topic: Law Enforcement: Policing America, Issues and Ethics
  Reading: Chapter 7
  Assignments: Complete the quiz for Chapter 7

Week Nine: 3/9 – 3/15
  Spring break, no class

Week Ten: 3/16 – 3/22
  Topic: The Courts: Administration of Justice and Sentencing, Appeals and the Death Penalty
  Reading: Chapter 8 and 9
  Assignments: Complete the quizzes for Chapter 8 and 9

Week Eleven: 3/23 – 3/29
  No readings for this week. Please spend the week preparing for and completing Exam 2
  Assignments: Complete Exam 2; complete Discussion 2 post and response

Week Twelve: 3/30 – 4/5
  Topic: Corrections: Institutional Corrections
  Readings: Chapter 10
  Assignments: Complete the quiz for Chapter 10; Discussion 3 will open and the post and response will be due by 5/5

Week Thirteen: 4/6 – 4/12
  Readings: Chapter 11
  Assignments: Complete the quiz for Chapter 11

Week Fourteen: 4/13 – 4/19
  Topic: Corrections: Community Corrections
  Readings: Chapter 12
  Assignments: Complete the quiz for Chapter 12

Week Fifteen: 4/20 – 4/26
  Topic: Additional Issues: Juvenile Justice and the Future of Criminal Justice in the U.S.
  Readings: Chapter 13 and 14
  Assignments: Complete the quizzes for Chapters 13 and 14
Week Sixteen: 4/27 – 5/5

Topic: Open
Please spend this time preparing for your final exam.
Assignments: Complete Discussion 3 post and response

* The final exam will be made available on **Tuesday, May 5th** at 8:00 a.m. and will be due no later than 11:59 pm on **Thursday, May 7th**. Please note that May 7th is a Thursday.