Instructor Information

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Email expectations: When sending an email, please put the COURSE NUMBER (CJUS 3600) 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.

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

Required Text


Course Description

The course examines the major theories of crime causation, including the social, political and intellectual contexts in which they were developed. The relative strengths and weaknesses of the respective theories, their application in explaining specific types of offending and their use in informing policy for the criminal justice system will also be explored.

Course Objectives

After completing the course students will be able to:

- Explain the various criminological theories and their application to the field of criminal justice.
- Differentiate between competing explanations for criminal behavior
- Identify the strengths and weaknesses of the various theories of crime.
- Apply theories of crime causation to specific types of criminal conduct.
- Describe how criminological theory has informed policy making in addressing criminal conduct.

Students will successfully demonstrate the attainment of these objectives through exams, quizzes and participation in online discussions.

Course Overview

The course will consist of assigned readings, followed by quizzes and exams to demonstrate understanding of the course material. Each course module will be supplemented by news articles,
scholarly readings and videos relevant to the course and the topic of that module. Students will also participate in a limited number of on-line discussions, each addressing a topic relevant to the course.

**Course Notes and Recommendations**

Please make sure to have your official UNT email forwarded to your preferred email address (if different) to receive important updates, changes, announcements, class cancellations (if applicable), and generally, so I can reach you if necessary.

**Before emailing 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**

Exams: 3 @ 100 points each  
Chapter Quizzes: 14 @ 10 points each  
Discussions: 3 @ 20 points each

**Grading Scale**

A= 450 - 500 points  
B= 400 - 449 points  
C= 350 - 399 points  
D= 300 - 349 points  
F= Less than 300 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.

**Students are to work independently on all assignments. Any collaboration on assignments, unless specifically authorized, will be treated as an instance of academic dishonesty.**

**Exams:** Three exams, consisting of 100 points each, will be given during the course. The final exam will not be cumulative. Each exam will consist of forty objective questions and will cover one of the three “parts” of the course as depicted in our text’s table of contents. I am not an advocate of trick questions or testing for trivial detail. Every effort will be made to ensure exam questions are fair and that the correct answer to each is clear to an adequately prepared student. Each exam will be given online through Canvas. Students will have one hour (60 minutes) to complete each exam.
**Weekly Quizzes:** Each chapter quiz contains 10 multiple choice questions to be completed in 20 minutes online through Canvas. The expectation is that students will have read the chapter prior to attempting the quiz. Dates for when each is available 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. All posts should consist of an “informed discussion”, and not merely a statement of opinion or agreement. They will be evaluated using the following criteria: depth of explanation/critical thought, incorporation of material from the course and other sources to support the posting, and quality of writing (spelling, grammar and punctuation). The use of outside sources is permitted, but they must be cited using APA format. Please remember that anything that is not an original thought of yours must be cited, even if it is not a direct quote. **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.”**

**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.

**APA Citations:** Discussion posts and responses will require students to cite the sources used. Even if the source used is the course textbook, it must be cited. Some course discussion assignments will ask students to do their own outside research, for which a citation is required. Posts/responses without citations may be considered an act of academic dishonesty and can result in the failure of the course.

APA citation guide: [https://guides.library.unt.edu/citations-style-guides/apa](https://guides.library.unt.edu/citations-style-guides/apa)

**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.

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 so I may make a decision about accommodating your request to be excused from class.

If you are experiencing any symptoms of COVID-19 (https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html) 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.

Statement on Face Covering

Face coverings are required in all UNT facilities. If you are unable to wear a face covering due to a disability, please contact the Office of Disability Access to request an accommodation. UNT face covering requirements are subject to change due to community health guidelines. Any changes will be communicated via the instructor.

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. 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.
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)
Email: 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