Seminar on Violence
CJUS 4350.900/950
Fall 2019

INSTRUCTOR CONTACT INFORMATION

Jordan Russell, M.S.
Email contact: jordan.russell@unt.edu

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

**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 GSA.

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. Prerequisite CJUS 2100 or equivalent.

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
- Communicate explanations for violent crimes
- Understand the major explanations for sexually motivated crimes
- Explain the differences between mass murder and serial murder
- Critically assess and develop creative solutions to violent crime problems

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

The announcements (and weekly modules) in Canvas will be used for primary communication to the class as a whole. I advise you check the announcements frequently.
It is your responsibility to utilize a computer system that works and is compatible with the UNT online system/Canvas.

Utilizing a compatible computer system 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.

For connection/browser issues or questions regarding how to work Canvas, please contact the UNT Helpdesk at 940-565-2324 or http://www.unt.edu/helpdesk/.

COMMUNICATIONS

For questions regarding this course, please contact the Graduate Student Assistant as they will handle all routine matters regarding this course. If Madison 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 at (940) 565-2324, helpdesk@unt.edu, or in person in Sage Hall, Room 330.

This course will take place completely online and will use Canvas.

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

TEXTBOOKS

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.


COURSE INFORMATION

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 REQUIREMENTS**

1. The student will access and follow all course instructions found in the weekly/unit content area of the Canvas course.
2. The student will access the assigned ‘online’ exams/quizzes by clicking the appropriate tab in the Canvas course: the “quiz” tab for weekly quizzes and the “exam” tab for the mid-term and final examinations.
3. The student will post responses to assigned online course discussion questions using the Canvas discussion tool.
4. The student will complete and submit all assignments electronically.

**ASSESSMENTS AND GRADING**

**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.

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 30 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 the Ford Pinto case. You are expected to look up this case and be sufficiently familiar with the material to answer questions about the case and the outcome.

**Discussions:**

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 8 discussion sessions for a maximum of 160 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 under the “Modules” tab. Please make sure to proof read your work before submitting.

You are required to answer all posted discussion questions. You are also required to 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. A simple statement of agreement or disagreement with the initial posting is insufficient. Furnish a thoughtful response and support it. Your original post to the discussion question must **be at least 250 words** in length. Content, structure, grammar, spelling and punctuation will be taken into consideration when awarding the grade for your discussion entries.

*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 receive a zero.***
Grade Breakdown

Grades are based on your earned point totals for the semester.

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<tr>
<td>Mid-Term</td>
<td>50 points</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final</td>
<td>50 points</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quizzes</td>
<td>80 points (8 @ 10 pts each)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Discussions</td>
<td>160 points (8 @ 20 pts each)</td>
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**Total Points** 340 points

**Grades:**
- A. 306 - 340 points
- B. 272 - 305 points
- C. 238 - 271 points
- D. 204 - 237 points
- E. 203 and below

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.

Fall 2019: Course Calendar

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>Topics to be Covered</th>
<th>Corresponding Readings</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>August 26—September 8</td>
<td>Unit 1: Defining violence and criminal violence. Course notes and chapter 1 of textbook.</td>
<td>Chapter 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sep. 9—Sep 22</td>
<td>Unit 2: Measuring violence. Course notes and chapter 2 of textbook.</td>
<td>Chapter 2</td>
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<td>Sep 23—Sep 29</td>
<td>Unit 3: Violence in other times and places. Course notes and chapter 3 course textbook.</td>
<td>Chapter 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sep 30—October 13</td>
<td>Unit 4: Theories of violence. Course notes and Chapter 5 pages 92-102, Chapter 6 pages 111-114, Chapter 7 pages 134-136 course textbook.</td>
<td>Chapters 5, 6, and 7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 14—Oct. 20</td>
<td>Unit 5</td>
<td>Chapter 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Types of criminal violence: Murder and aggravated assault and Chapter 4 course textbook</td>
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<tr>
<th>Oct. 21—Oct. 27</th>
<th>Midterm Exam</th>
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<tr>
<th>Oct. 28—November 10</th>
<th>Unit 6</th>
<th>Chapter 6</th>
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<tr>
<td>Types of criminal violence: Sexual violence and Chapter 6 course textbook</td>
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<tr>
<th>Nov. 11—Nov. 24</th>
<th>Unit 7</th>
<th>Chapter 14</th>
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<tr>
<td>Types of violence: Terrorism as violent crime and Chapter 14 course textbook</td>
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<tr>
<th>Nov. 25—December 5</th>
<th>Unit 8</th>
<th>Course Notes</th>
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<tr>
<td>Types of violence: Mass killing</td>
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<th>December 8—December 12</th>
<th>Final Exam</th>
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*Please refer to the Course Calendar for specific dates concerning the coverage of course units, assignment deadlines and the dates of quizzes/exams.

**Makeup Policy**

There are no make-up tests/quizzes/assignments in this class 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.

IMPORTANT: Make-up exams will absolutely NOT be considered unless there is documented proof of a hospitalization or emergency and I am contacted BEFORE THE EXAM BY EMAIL. Your doctor saying you are sick or you feeling sick is NOT A VALID EXCUSE FOR A MAKEUP EXAM. PLEASE DO NOT TRY TO MAKE UP AN EXCUSE IF YOU MISS THE EXAM!
PARTICIPATION, PREPARATION AND 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 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.

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.

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 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.

ACADEMIC HONESTY

It is expected that each student will do his/her own work. Cheating, including plagiarism, on any assignment may result in a zero for the semester. This is criminal justice, how could anyone even contemplate cheating when you are studying to work in a system based on trust and honor? With that said, I reserve the right to pursue the formal channels for plagiarism/cheating set down in the UNT Policy Manual.

All students are urged to read the UNT Code of Student Conduct and Discipline located in the UNT Policy Manual (Section 5.2). Academic dishonesty will be handled on a case by case basis with the final disposition being at the discretion of the professor.
**ODA 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 Accommodation (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 with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. Students are strongly encouraged to deliver letters of 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.

For additional information see the Office of Disability Accommodation website at https://disability.unt.edu/ You may also contact them by phone at 940.565.4323.

I will make every attempt possible to accommodate anyone with a documented disability. Please let me know in advance of exams or other class requirements so I have enough time to send exams or other materials to ODA. You must provide me with the appropriate exam request forms from ODA prior to the exam in order to take the exam at ODA.

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


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.