

**Criminal Law**  
**CJUS 3201.900/.950**  
**Fall 2019**

**INSTRUCTOR CONTACT INFORMATION**

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**For questions, please first email the Graduate Student Assistant, Ms. Madison Green at [MadisonGreen@my.unt.edu](mailto: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 3201) 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.

**ONLINE CLASS CONSIDERATIONS**

This class is completely online. For those of you who have not taken an online class before, these classes require your personal discipline and motivation to keep up with the pace of the class materials. For example, chapter materials will usually be released each week on Mondays at 8:00 am. Most of the chapters will have either an assignment or a discussion board that are due by the end of the week on Sundays at 11:59 pm, with the exception of Weeks 12/13, 15, and 16 that have due dates of Wednesday and Thursday, respectively, due to the UNT calendar. Students will have 5 days in the course schedule (from Monday at 8:00 am until Friday at 11:59 pm) to identify up to 1 hour to take the first and second exams and 4 days in the course schedule (from Monday at 8:00 am until Thursday at 11:59 pm) to take the third exam.

Because students have an extended period of time to complete exams, assignments, and discussion boards, there will generally be no make-up exams and late assignments and discussion boards will generally not be accepted. *A zero will be awarded 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 *and* that impact the timeliness of their work (for example, by covering the entire time period during which an assignment or exam 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 an assignment 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 or the submission of a late assignment. To avoid such issues, I encourage you to complete your assignments in a UNT computer lab and/or *not to wait* until the final available hours or minutes to complete assigned work. The university also recommends 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.

Because the class is online, you will, of course, need to use a personal computer that is compatible with the UNT online course system or use one of the computers available in the campus computer labs. This is important for submitting your assignments and discussion boards in a timely manner and is especially important for your exams. Because your exams are timed, you want to avoid any computer glitches that may impact your work.

Because most of the communication in this course will occur online, you will need to make sure that you keep up with the class communications. I will use the *Announcements* page to communicate with the class as a whole. You should check this page frequently. These announcements *can* also be sent to your *UNT email address*. It is your responsibility to set up the course announcements to also be emailed to your UNT email account, this will not occur unless you set it up in your personal Canvas settings. If you do not routinely check this email address, make sure to forward your UNT email to your preferred email address so that you can stay up-to-date with class announcements.

Finally, online classes also require some basic technological skills to access course materials and complete assignments. UNT has a variety of resources to assist you with the technological aspects of navigating this and other online classes. One of the most important of these resources is the help desk. It can be reached by email at [helpdesk@unt.edu](mailto:helpdesk@unt.edu) and via phone at 940-565-2324. Personnel at the help desk can assist you with issues concerning access to online system and other technological issues. Additional technological resources are described in Appendix 1 to this syllabus.

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

As the course title indicates, this course concerns criminal law. This is the area of law that defines crimes and provides for their punishment. This is a subject that is essential for all students of Criminal Justice to understand.

The course materials will first address general concepts of crime, such as the elements of crime and the parties that can be held responsible for crime. Next, we will address the basic categories of crime, such as murder, robbery, and theft. Finally, we will cover the defenses to criminal responsibility. With regard to these topics, we will cover both traditional and contemporary concepts of these subjects.

The course material will be divided into chapters and modules. The order in which we will cover the text materials will differ somewhat from the order presented in the text, as reflected in the order of coverage described in the preceding paragraph. *Online materials that accompany each chapter will highlight and supplement the assigned text readings.* Most chapters will have an accompanying assignment or discussion board.

### **CLASS MATERIALS**

Each week you will have modules to read through in addition to your assigned textbook reading. The assignments and discussion boards that accompany most chapters are designed to extend your knowledge and understanding of the class materials and provide a vehicle to apply such knowledge and understanding.

## **COURSE OBJECTIVES**

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

- Demonstrate an understanding of the constitutional limitations on criminal law and how they shape the definitions of crimes.
- Identify and explain the essential elements of the basic crimes and defenses, using both traditional definitions (such as those of the common law) and contemporary definitions (such as those of the Model Penal Code).
- Apply contemporary criminal law definitions (such as those of Texas) to fact patterns.
- Analyze court decisions that apply criminal laws to individual cases.
- Engage in thoughtful discussions with fellow students about aspects of judicial decision making in criminal law cases and topics of current interest in criminal law.

## **REQUIRED TEXT**

Moore, Jennifer L., and John L. Worrall. *Criminal Law*, 2d ed. New York: Pearson, 2018.

This text is required for all students enrolled in the class and is the only required text for the course. Reading assignments are noted in the Course Schedule. Throughout the course, students will be directed to other supplementary materials that will either be provided to them via the course site or that can be accessed via the internet.

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

There are a total of 450 points that students can earn in this class: 3 exams (100 points each, for a total of 300 points); 5 assignments (20 points each, for a total of 100 points); and 5 discussion boards (10 points each, for a total of 50 points). The grading scale and descriptions of the assessment measures are described below.

## **GRADING SCALE**

405 – 450 points = A

360 – 404 points = B

315 – 359 points = C

270 – 314 points = D

Below 270 points = F

## **EXAMS (300 POINTS TOTAL)**

There will be 3 online exams for this class, located in the *Modules* tab of the course site when they are released. A review for each exam will be available 1 week before the exam is released. The exams are designed to assess the knowledge that each of you has individually learned regarding the course materials. Therefore, I expect your exam responses to reflect your own individual and independent knowledge and work, *without assistance from* any other person. The exams themselves should not be copied or duplicated by you or anyone else for any purpose whatsoever. The university rules concerning academic dishonesty will be strictly enforced.

Each exam will consist of 50 multiple choice questions. Each question is worth 2 points. Thus, each exam is worth 100 points. Each exam will cover the assigned text material *and* any supplemental material provided in the online course materials. Each exam will cover a portion (approximately 1/3) of the class materials; the third exam is not comprehensive.

For the first and second exams, you will have from Monday at 8:00 am until Friday at 11:59 pm to set aside up to 1 hour to take the exam. For the third exam (administered during exam week), you will have from Monday at 8:00 am until Thursday at 11:59 pm to set aside up to 1 hour to take the exam. These exams will be timed. From the time that you log in to take the exam, you will have up to 1 hour to complete the exam. The questions will be displayed 1 question at a time. Once you answer a question and move on to the next question or move on to the next question without answering the question, you will not be able to return to the question to enter or revise your response.

You are allowed only 1 attempt to take each exam. Once you start the exam, you cannot exit (and return to) the exam or pause the exam time. Make sure that you log in to take the exam with at least 1 hour left in the allotted time period. When the allotted time period for the exam expires, the online system will log you out of the exam and will mark all uncompleted answers as incorrect.

Students who do not complete any exam during the scheduled time period will receive a zero for the exam. There will generally be no make-up exams. *Exam grades will be available when the applicable exam period closes.*

### **Assignments (100 points total)**

Some chapters will have an accompanying assignment due by the end of time allotted for the chapter, as reflected in the Course Schedule. These assignments will be posted under the Modules tab. They will also appear in the *Assignments* tab during their corresponding week and should be submitted there. There will be a total of 5 of these assignments. Each will be worth a maximum of 20 points.

Students who do not complete any assignment within the scheduled time period will receive a zero for the assignment. Late assignments will generally not be accepted.

### **Discussion Boards (50 points total)**

Some chapters will have an accompanying discussion board due by the end of time allotted for the chapter, as reflected in the Course Schedule. These discussion board assignments will be included under the Modules tab. They will also appear in the *Discussions* tab on the course page during their corresponding week and should be submitted there. There will be an introductory discussion board the first week of class and the rest of the discussion boards will be related to class materials.

Each discussion submission should be thorough and well-written and at least 300 words long. Most of the discussion boards will ask you to provide your own posting and respond to the posting of at least 1 other student. Responses to other students should be at least 100 words long. There will be a total of 5 discussion board assignments. Each will be worth a maximum of 10 points – up to 7 points for your posting and up to 3 points for your response to another student's posting. The discussions boards will close at the time indicated on the Course Schedule.

Students who do not complete any discussion board assignment within the scheduled time period will receive a zero for the discussion board. Late discussion postings will generally not be accepted.

## General Class Policies

Communication: We will *not* use the course site message function for communication purposes. Email communication with me should be done via my unt.edu email address: jordan.russell@unt.edu. *You should use your UNT email account for all email communications with me.* Emails sent after 5pm **or** on the weekends will generally be answered the following business day. 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 or 940-565-2324. The technicians there have the expertise to help you resolve your issues. Please also let me know about these issues and provide the “ticket number” reflecting your conversation with the help desk.

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.

Late Policy: Because students have an extended period of time to complete exams, assignments, and discussion boards, there will generally be no make-up exams and late assignments and discussion boards will generally not be accepted. *A zero will be awarded 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 *and* that impact the timeliness of their work (for example, by covering the entire time period during which an assignment or exam 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 an assignment 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 or the submission of a late assignment. To avoid such issues, I encourage you to complete your assignments in a UNT computer lab and/or *not to wait* until the final available hours or minutes to complete assigned work. The university also recommends 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.

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.

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: Every effort will be made to ensure grades for discussion boards, assignments, and exams are posted in the course site grade book *within 7 days after the final due date* for each assessment. Thus, if the final due date for a discussion board is September 2 at 11:59 pm, the grade for the discussion board should be posted in the grade book by 11:59 pm on September 9. Students can access their grades via the *Grades* tab on the course page.

Academic Dishonesty: The University rules concerning cheating and plagiarism will be strictly enforced. Your work on assignments, discussion boards, and exams should be your own individual and independent work. These are *not* group projects. You should *not* consult your text or other materials or other persons when taking and completing your exams.

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 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. For additional information, see the Office of Disability Accommodation 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.

Important Notice for F-1 Students taking Distance Education Courses: see Appendix 2.

### **Course Schedule**

**Note: Chapter materials will be released on Mondays on the course site at 8:00 am on the first date indicated for each unit in the Opening Date column. Students will generally have until the following Sunday night at 11:59 pm to complete any related assignment and discussion board, with the exception of Weeks 12/13, 15 and 16 that have due dates of Wednesday and Thursday, respectively, due to the UNT calendar. Students will have until Friday night at 11:59 pm to complete Exams 1 and 2 of the week they are scheduled. Please note that Exam 3 will be given during the university's exam week and that students will have until 11:59 pm of the Thursday of exam week to complete Exam 3.**

<b>Opening Date</b>	<b>Readings, Assignments, Discussions, Exams</b>	<b>Due Dates</b>
Week 1 Opens Monday, August 26 <sup>th</sup> at 8:00am	Ch. 1, The Basics of Criminal Law  Discussion #1	Discussion #1 due by Sunday, September 1 at 11:59pm
Week 2 Opens Monday, September 2 at 8:00 am	Ch. 2, Limitations on the Criminal Law  Assignment #1	Assignment #1 due by Sunday, September 8 at 11:59 pm
Week 3 Opens Monday, September 9 at 8:00 am	Ch. 3, The Elements of Criminal Liability  Discussion #2	Discussion #2 due by Sunday, September 15 at 11:59 pm
Week 4 Opens Monday, September 16 at 8:00 am	Chs. 6,7, Criminal Responsibility and Inchoate Crimes  No Assignment or Discussion Board	
<b>Week 5 Opens Monday, September 23 at 8:00 am</b>	<b>Exam 1 (covering chs. 1, 2, 3, 6, 7)</b>	<b>Exam 1 must be completed by Friday, September 27 at 11:59 pm</b>
Week 6 Opens Monday, September 30 at 8:00 am	Ch. 8, Homicide  Assignment # 2	Assignment #2 due by Sunday, October 6 at 11:59 pm
Week 7 Opens Monday, October 7 at 8:00 am	Ch. 9, Assaultive Offenses  Discussion Board #3	Discussion #3 due by Sunday, October 13 at 11:59 pm
Week 8 Opens Monday, October 14 at 8:00 am	Ch. 10, Property Damage and Invasion  Assignment #3	Assignment #3 due by Sunday, October 20 at 11:59 pm
Weeks 9, 10 Opens Monday, October 21 at 8:00 am	Ch.11, Theft and Related Crimes  Discussion Board #4	Discussion #4 due by Sunday, November 3 at 11:59 pm
<b>Week 11 Opens Monday, November 4 at 8:00 am</b>	<b>Exam 2 (covering chs. 8, 9, 10, 11)</b>	<b>Exam 2 must be completed by Friday, November 8 at 11:59 pm</b>
Weeks 12, 13 Opens Monday, November 11 at 8:00 am	Ch.12, Public Order, Morality, and Vice Crimes  Assignment #4	Assignment #4 due by Wednesday, November 20 at 11:59 pm

<p>Week 14 Opens Monday, November 25 at 8:00 am</p>	<p>Ch. 4, Justification Defenses</p> <p>Discussion Board #5</p>	<p>Discussion #5 due by Sunday, December 1 at 11:59 pm</p>
<p>Week 15 Opens Monday, December 2 at 8:00 am</p>	<p>Ch. 5, Excuse Defenses</p> <p>Assignment #5</p>	<p>Assignment #5 due by Thursday, December 5 at 11:59 pm</p>
<p><b>Week 16</b> <b>Opens Monday, December 9 at</b> <b>8:00 am</b></p>	<p><b>Exam 3 (covering chs. 4, 5, 12)</b></p>	<p><b>Exam 3 must be completed by</b> <b>Thursday, December 12 at</b> <b>11:59 pm</b></p>



## **Appendix 1**

### **Student Support**

The University of North Texas provides student technical support in the use of Canvas and supported resources. The student help desk may be reached at:

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

Phone: 940.565-2324

In Person: Sage Hall, Room 330

Regular hours are maintained to provide support to students.

Please refer to the website (<http://www.unt.edu/helpdesk/hours.htm> ) for updated hours.

### **Resources**

UNT Portal: <https://my.unt.edu>

UNT Canvas Student Resources: Technical Support: <http://www.unt.edu/helpdesk/>

UNT Library Information for Off-Campus Users:

<http://www.library.unt.edu/services/facilities-and-systems/campus-access>

UNT Academic Resources for Students: <http://www.unt.edu/academics.htm>

Computer Labs: General access computer lab information can be located at: <http://www.gacl.unt.edu/>

## **Appendix 2**

### **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 buried 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 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](mailto:internationaladvising@unt.edu)) to get clarification before the one-week deadline.