Law and Social Problems (CJUS 4250.001) Syllabus
Fall Semester 2019, T/R 2:00pm – 3:20pm, ENV 115

**Instructor:** Dr. Mark Saber

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**Email:** Mark.Saber@unt.edu (preferred)

**Office:** Chilton Hall 263G

**Office Hours:** T 9:30am – 10:30am, by appointment

Email expectations: When sending an email, please put the COURSE NUMBER (CJUS 4250) in the subject line of the mail. Only emails sent through your Eagle Connect email account (username@unt.edu) will receive a response. You can expect to receive a response within 48 hours during the week and 72 hours on the weekend. If you have not received a response within that time, please email me back as it may have gotten lost.

*Email me directly do not use Canvas Inbox.*

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.

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**Course Description:**
The course will examine selected contemporary issues facing the criminal justice system. Special attention will be given to the selected issues, the role of the law in defining and creating these issues and the influence each has on the others.

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**Student Learning Objectives/ Outcomes:**
Upon successful completion of the course, students will become

- Understand the origin and continuing influence each of the selected issues has on the criminal justice system.
- Understand the role of the law and related factors in creating/resolving the selected issues.
- Be able to separate fact from rhetoric in examining issues affecting the criminal justice system.
- Have gained a practical understanding of the way in which issues affecting the criminal justice system are intertwined and the manner in which efforts to address these issues create new ones.

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**Required Materials:**

**Textbook:**

Additional readings will be discussed/assigned during the class and may require a visit to the university library.
Method of Evaluation

Exams: There will be 3 exams worth in total 400 points (Exam 1 = 134 points; Exam 2 and 3 = 133 points each). Exams may consist of multiple choice, true/false, matching, short answer questions, and/or essay. All exams are taken in-class during the assigned time (see Course Calendar). Student need to make sure and arrive on time to class on exam days, as once the first exam is turned in no other exams will be handed out.

In-class Activities: There will be 4 unannounced in-class activities worth a total of 100 points (25 points each). Students must be present to obtain credit for these activities. In-class activities will build upon course readings and lectures. There is no make-up for in-class activities.

Course total based on assignments

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignments</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3 Exams (E1: 134 points; E2 &amp; 3: 133 points each)</td>
<td>400 Points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 In-class Activities (25 points each)</td>
<td>100 Points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>500 Points</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Course grades will be calculated using the following scale: Grades are based on a points total and not a percentage.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Points Range</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>450-500 Points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>400-449 Points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>350-399 Points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>300-349 Points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>299 Points or Below</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Grade related questions or concerns must be addressed within 1 week of the grade being posted to Canvas.**

Late Work

Late work is not accepted. All late assignments will receive a zero. All due dates are listed in the syllabus and ample time is provided to complete the assignments.

Makeup Policy

Make-ups are only considered with a documented University excused absence, if the student contacts the instructor one week prior to the due date of the assignment.

In-class activities cannot be made up as students must be present.

Attendance Policy

Students must be present in order to complete unannounced in-class activities.

Students should attend class every day having completed and being prepared to discuss the readings for that week. If a student must miss a class, they should discuss the missed materials with a classmate, as the instructor will not repeat information covered in class due to absence.

Students that have fallen behind, are failing and/or choose to not complete the coursework for the semester are responsible for officially withdrawing themselves from the course; failure to do so will result in a performance grade of "F".
Acceptable Student Behavior in the Classroom

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 Dean of Students 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.deanofstudents.unt.edu

The use of cell phones during class, whether texting or otherwise, is distracting to both me as an instructor and the other members of the class. If I see one in use and we are not engaged in an activity where the use of such a device is necessary, I will assume it is being used to fact check something we are discussing and I will most certainly involve the user in the discussion. If you are contacted regarding an emergency during class, quietly excuse yourself and attend to the call then. Please be respectful of others and refrain from cell phone use during class.

Additional Classroom Policies

Recording devices are not allowed in the classroom unless specifically approved by the instructor. Tobacco products of any kind (including e-cigs) are not allowed in the classroom.

Cell phones, pagers, or any other electronic device that makes noise should be turned off before class. Due to liability concerns and the content of course discussions, children are not permitted in the classroom at any time. Laptops and similar devices can be used during class as long as they are used for taking notes and/or other related classroom functions. If used for surfing the web, instant messaging, sending emails or otherwise, they will not be allowed in the classroom.

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.

Academic Integrity

Standards of academic integrity are expected with regard to any course related work or submission. Students should consult the UNT website for questions, guidelines, appeals, and other information related to these policies: http://policy.unt.edu/sites/default/files/untpolicy/pdf/7-Student_Affairs-Academic_Integrity.pdf

Academic violation of UNT policy consists of the following:

A. Cheating. The use of unauthorized assistance in an academic exercise, including but not limited to:
   1. use of any unauthorized assistance to take exams, tests, quizzes or other assessments;
   2. dependence upon the aid of sources beyond those authorized by the instructor in writing papers, preparing reports, solving problems or carrying out other assignments;
   3. acquisition, without permission, of tests, notes or other academic materials belonging to a faculty or staff member of the University;
   4. dual submission of a paper or project, or re-submission of a paper or project to a different class without express permission from the instructor;
   5. any other act designed to give a student an unfair advantage on an academic assignment.

B. Plagiarism. Use of another’s thoughts or words without proper attribution in any academic exercise, regardless of the student’s intent, including but not limited to:
1. the knowing or negligent use by paraphrase or direct quotation of the published or unpublished work of another person without full and clear acknowledgement or citation.

2. the knowing or negligent unacknowledged use of materials prepared by another person or by an agency engaged in selling term papers or other academic materials.

C. Forgery. Altering a score, grade or official academic university record or forging the signature of an instructor or other student.

D. Fabrication. Falsifying or inventing any information, data or research as part of an academic exercise.

E. Facilitating Academic Dishonesty. Helping or assisting another in the commission of academic dishonesty.

F. Sabotage. Acting to prevent others from completing their work or willfully disrupting the academic work of others.

Any violation of academic integrity will be handled on a case-by-case basis. At a minimum, the student will receive a zero on the assignment in question, but more serious academic violations may be subject to the assignment of a failing grade for the course. Please do not hesitate to the contact the instructor with questions related to citations or other academic integrity concerns.

Student Evaluation of Instructor (SPOT)

Student feedback is important and an essential part of participation in this course. The student evaluation of instruction (SPOT) is a requirement for all organized classes at UNT. This short survey will be made available to you at the end of the semester to provide you with an opportunity to evaluate how this course is taught. Student feedback is very important to UNT, please complete your SPOT (Student Perceptions of Teaching) survey during the open evaluation time.

ADA Statement and Disabled Student Policy

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://www.unt.edu/oda. You may also contact them by phone at 940.565.4323.

Sexual Discrimination, Harassment, & Assault

UNT is committed to providing an environment free of all forms of discrimination and sexual harassment, including sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. If you (or someone you know) has experienced or experiences any of these acts of aggression, please know that you are not alone. The federal Title IX law makes it clear that violence and harassment based on sex and gender are Civil Rights offenses. UNT has staff members trained to support you in navigating campus life, accessing health and counseling services, providing academic and housing accommodations, helping with legal protective orders, and more.

UNT’s Dean of Students’ website offers a range of on-campus and off-campus resources to help support survivors, depending on their unique needs: http://deanofstudents.unt.edu/resources_0. Renee LeClaire
McNamara is UNT’s Student Advocate and she can be reached through e-mail at SurvivorAdvocate@unt.edu or by calling the Dean of Students’ office at 940-565-2648. You are not alone. We are here to help.

Course Calendar and Topics

Dates, topics, and exams are listed below. Students are responsible for keeping up with the schedule, any schedule changes as well as the assigned readings as we progress through the course. This is a tentative schedule and the instructor reserves the right to modify any part of the schedule at any time throughout the semester.

Assignments & Academic Calendar:

Week 1 (8/27 – 8/29)
Introduction, Syllabus, Exam, In-Class Activities, and Quizzes
Chapter 9: Crime and Criminal Justice

Week 2 (9/3 – 9/5)
Chapter 9: Crime and Criminal Justice
Chapter 14: Problems in the Media

Week 3 (9/10 – 9/12)
Chapter 14: Problems in the Media
Chapter 3: Racial and Ethnic Inequality

Week 4 (9/17 – 9/19)
Chapter 3: Racial and Ethnic Inequality
Prison Kids: Juvenile Justice in America

Week 5 (9/24 – 9/26)
9/24: Exam 1 (Chapters 3, 9, & 14 and any other material covered in class)
9/26: Exam 1 returned
Exam Corrections Instructions

Week 6 (10/1 – 10/3)
10/1: Exam Corrections Due (beginning of class)
Chapter 2: Wealth and Poverty: U.S. and Global Economic Inequalities
Chapter 8: Alcohol and Other Drugs

Week 7 (10/8 – 10/10)
Chapter 16: Urban Problems
Skid Row: Downtown Los Angeles

Week 8 (10/15 – 10/17)
Chapter 6: Inequality Based on Sexual Orientation

Week 9 (10/22 – 10/24)
10/22: Exam 2: (Chapters 2, 6, 8, & 16 and any other material covered in class)
10/24: Exam 2 returned
Exam Corrections Instructions

Week 10 (10/29 – 10/31)
10/29: Exam Corrections Due (beginning of class)
Chapter 7: Prostitution, Pornography, and Sex Trafficking
Hookers at the Point: HBO Documentary

Week 11 (11/5 – 11/7)
Chapter 11: The Changing Family

Week 12 (11/12 – 11/14)
Chapter 17: Global Social Problems: War on Terrorism
**Week 13 (11/19 – 11/21)**
11/19: Exam 3 (Chapters 7, 11, –& 17 and any other course material)
11/21: Exam returned
   Exam Corrections Instructions

**Week 14 (11/25 – 11/28)**
Thanksgiving – No Class – University Closed

**Week 15 (12/3 – 12/5)**
12/3: Exam Corrections Due (beginning of class)
   Course Conclusions: Can Social Problems Be Solved

**Week 16 (12/10 – 1/12)**
Finals Week

*The descriptions and timelines contained in this syllabus are subject to change at the discretion of the instructor*