**The University of North Texas**

**Department of Criminal Justice**

**CJUS 3201.001: Criminal Law**

**Fall 2014**

**Instructor:** Andrekus Dixon, M.S. Criminal Justice

**Time:** MWF 9:00am – 9:50am

**Room:** BLB 155

**Office Hours:** Chilton Room 273 C

Tuesday: 10:00am – 12:00pm; Thursday: 2:00pm – 4:00pmor by appointment

**Phone:** 940-565-4475 (office)

**e-mail:** Andrekus.Dixon@unt.edu

**Course Description:**

Introduces the fundamental principles of substantive criminal law: the history and philosophy of modern criminal law, the basic dimension of criminality, the elements of major crimes, criminal defenses and the nature of criminal sanctions.

**Goals and Objectives:**

At the conclusion of this course, students must be able to:

1. Recognize the primary sources of American criminal law, including common law and the

Model Penal Code;

2. Appreciate the doctrinal limitations on criminal law, including the concept of the rule of law and the limits imposed by state and federal constitutions;

3. Understand the general principles and characteristics of common law and MPC criminal law, including the role of punishment, the various ways of classifying crimes, the parties to crime, the elements of defenses to crime and inchoate crimes, the elements of crimes generally, the elements of specific major crimes.

4. Be able to recognize and apply the elements of crimes and defenses in the context of specific factual situations.

**Textbook:**

The assigned text listed below is required for all students enrolled in this course. 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 the issues in class as well as test material.

Samaha, J. Criminal Law (11th Ed.) Belmont, CA: Wadsworth Group, 2014. ISBN: 978-1-285-

06191-7

**Grade Breakdown**

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

Exams 500 points (5 @ 100 pts each)

Final Exam 200 points

**Total Points 700 points**

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| **Final Grade Scale**  630-700 = A  560-629 = B  490-559 = C  420-489 = D  419 and below = F |

**Extra Credit:**

There may be extra credit given but this will be at the discretion of the professor. If this opportunity presents itself, this will be for the entire class and not one individual person.

**Attendance Policy:**

I expect every student to attend class regularly and promptly. Attendance will be taken at some point throughout each class meeting. Students are allowed a maximum of **three** absences during the semester. **There are no excused /unexcused (with the exception of exams): you are allowed three, use them for whatever you deem necessary. Remember, however, if you are absent on the day an assignment or extra credit is given, you forfeit those points as they cannot be made up.**

If you have more than three absences, the professor reserves the right to reduce your final grade by ten points for every absence after the three allowed. A student who is absent from a class session is responsible for the subject matter discussed during that particular session. **I do not give out my lecture notes.** Notes missed (from lecture, guest speaker, presentations, etc.) will need to be obtained from a fellow classmate. It will be extremely difficult for you to obtain an acceptable grade in this course if you miss class consistently. Excused make-up exams will be taken the next class day and unexcused will be taken with a 20 point deduction, to be fair to all students.

**ADA Statement**

The University of North Texas complies with Section 504 of the 1973 Rehabilitation Act and with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. The University of North Texas provides academic adjustments and auxiliary aids to individuals with disabilities, as defined under the law. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring accommodation, please see the instructor and/or contact the Office of Disability Accommodation at 940-565-4323 during the first week of class.

**Academic Honesty**

I regret that I should even have to mention the issue of cheating, but here it is: If I catch you, the very least you can expect is an F. Honor and integrity is the very core of Criminal Justice and I value my profession and its reputation very highly. Academic integrity is a hallmark of higher education.  You are expected to abide by the University’s code of conduct and Academic Dishonesty policy.  Any person suspected of academic dishonesty (i.e., cheating or plagiarism) will be handled in accordance with the University’s policies and procedures.  Refer to the Student Code of Conduct at <http://www.unt.edu/csrr/student_conduct/index.html> for complete provisions of this code.

**Course Evaluations:**

Instead of in-class evaluations of the course, students are now asked to complete the Student Evaluation of Teaching Effectiveness (SETE) which will be made available on-line. Towards the end of the semester, I will make an announcement as to when the SETE will be available to access. I would like to encourage you to complete these evaluations as they often provide useful feedback.

**Classroom Policy:**

It is very important that students show respect and remain orderly while in class. Incivility is prohibited. Conduct that is considered disorderly is: **talking while someone else is talking, profanity, sleeping, and any other type of disruptive noise. Cell phones must be away during class time. NO TEXTING DURING CLASS TIME.**  If a student is found guilty of any of the following misconducts, he/she will be asked to leave the class and will be considered absent for that particular day. If the conduct is persistent, students will be reported to the Dean of Student Services to receive appropriate disciplinary action.

All **cell phones and any other electronic device** must be turned off or on a silent mode prior to entering the classroom. You may use your laptop for note taking. However if, you are caught doing anything that is not related to the course or the lecture notes you will not be allowed to use your computer for the duration of the semester.

**Children in the Classroom:**

Due to the University policy, liability concerns, and the course material, children are not permitted in this class, no exceptions.

**Final Points**

Please do not hesitate to come to the professor with any questions, problems, or issues you may have. Do not wait to address these issues until it is too late for you to receive an acceptable grade. You will find the professor to be very approachable and eager to address any problems with you in a professional manner.

**Course Calendar and Topics**

Although we will attempt to adhere to the schedule of topics listed and described below, the course schedule should be viewed as highly flexible. Consequently, it is your responsibility to come to class, know where we are in the listing of assigned readings irrespective of this schedule, and know the material that we have covered prior to any reading assessment, examination, and/or presentation. Further, there may be additional items added to the calendar throughout the course of the semester.

**Course Calendar**

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| **DATE** | **Topics to be Covered** | **Corresponding Readings** |
| August 25 | Cover Syllabus  Course Overview |  |
| August 27 | Criminal Law and Criminal Punishment: An Overview | Chapter 1 |
| August 29 | Criminal Law and Criminal Punishment: An Overview | Chapter 1 |
| September 1 | **Labor Day (No Class)** | No Class |
| September 3 | Criminal Law and Criminal Punishment: An Overview | Chapter 1 |
| September 5 | Constitutional Limits on Criminal Law | Chapter 2 |
| September 8 | Constitutional Limits on Criminal Law | Chapter 2 |
| September 10 | Constitutional Limits on Criminal Law | Chapter 2 |
| September 12 | The Criminal Act: The First Principle of Criminal Liability | Chapter 3 |
| September 15 | The Criminal Act: The First Principle of Criminal Liability | Chapter 3 |
| September 17 | The Criminal Act: The First Principle of Criminal Liability | Chapter 3 |
| September 19 | **Exam #1 (Chapters 1-3)** | **Exam #1** |
| September 22 | The General Principles of Criminal Liability: Mens Rea, Concurrence, Causation, Ignorance, and Mistake | Chapter 4 |
| September 24 | The General Principles of Criminal Liability: Mens Rea, Concurrence, Causation, Ignorance, and Mistake | Chapter 4 |
| September 26 | The General Principles of Criminal Liability: Mens Rea, Concurrence, Causation, Ignorance, and Mistake | Chapter 4 |
| September 29 | Defenses to Criminal Liability: Justifications | Chapter 5 |
| October 1 | Defenses to Criminal Liability: Justifications | Chapter 5 |
| October 3 | Defenses to Criminal Liability: Justifications | Chapter 5 |
| October 6 | Defenses to Criminal Liability: Excuses | Chapter 6 |
| October 8 | Defenses to Criminal Liability: Excuses | Chapter 6 |
| October 10 | Defenses to Criminal Liability: Excuses | Chapter 6 |
| October 13 | **Exam #2 (Chapters 4-6)** | **Exam #2** |
| October 15 | Parties to Crime and Vicarious Liability | Chapter 7 |
| October 17 | Parties to Crime and Vicarious Liability | Chapter 7 |
| October 20 | Parties to Crime and Vicarious Liability | Chapter 7 |
| October 22 | Inchoate Crimes | Chapter 8 |
| October 24 | Inchoate Crimes | Chapter 8 |
| October 27 | Inchoate Crimes | Chapter 8 |
| October 29 | Crimes against Persons I: Murder and Manslaughter | Chapter 9 |
| October 31 | Crimes against Persons I: Murder and Manslaughter | Chapter 9 |
| November 3 | Crimes against Persons I: Murder and Manslaughter | Chapter 9 |
| November 5 | **Exam #3 (Chapters 7-9)** | **Exam #3** |
| November 7 | Crimes against Persons II: Sex Offenses, Bodily Injury, and Personal Restraint | Chapter 10 |
| November 10 | Crimes against Persons II: Sex Offenses, Bodily Injury, and Personal Restraint | Chapter 10 |
| November 12 | Crimes against Property | Chapter 11 |
| November 14 | Crimes against Property | Chapter 11 |
| November 17 | **Exam #4 (Chapters 10-11)** | **Exam #4** |
| November 19 | Crimes against Public Order and Morals | Chapter 12 |
| November 21 | Crimes against Public Order and Morals | Chapter 12 |
| November 24 | Crimes against the State | Chapter 13 |
| November 26 | Crimes against the State | Chapter 13 |
| November 28 | Thanksgiving Holiday (No Class) | No Class |
| December 1 | Crimes against the State | Chapter 13 |
| December 3 | **Exam #5** | **Exam #5** |
| December 5 | **Reading Day No Class** | **No Class** |
| December 10 | **Comprehensive Final Exam** | 8:00am – 10:00am |

**Last Day to drop the Course with a W is October 3, 2014**