CJUS 4350-900/950: Seminar on Violence
Fall 2015

Instructor: Andrekus Dixon, M.S. Criminal Justice

Course Information:
3 Credit Hours/ Online
Office Hours: Chilton Room 273 C
By appointment
Phone: 940-565-4475 (office)
e-mail: Andrekus.Dixon@unt.edu

Teaching Assistant Information:
Derrick Titus
Office: Chilton Hall #265
Email: DerrickTitus@my.unt.edu
Office Hours: By appointment

Your instructors for this course are Professor Andrekus Dixon and graduate assistant Mr. Derrick Titus. We are both here to help you, but Mr. Titus will handle the majority of correspondence. Please contact him first with any questions regarding the course.

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:

Understand the major causes of violent crime

- 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

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.


ACCESS & NAVIGATION

Access and Log in Information

This course was developed and will be facilitated utilizing the University of North Texas’ Learning Management System, Blackboard Learn. To get started with the course, please go to: https://learn.unt.edu

You will need your EUID and password to log in to the course. If you do not know your EUID or have forgotten your password, please go to: http://ams.unt.edu.

Student Resources

As a student, you will have access to:

- Student Orientation via Blackboard Learn. It is recommended that you become familiar with the tools and tutorials within the Orientation to better equip you in navigating the course.
- Blackboard’s On Demand Learning Center for Students and Blackboard Help for Students. It is recommended that you become familiar with the tools and tutorials to better equip you to navigate the course.

TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS / ASSISTANCE

The following information has been provided to assist you in preparation for the technological aspect of the course.

Hardware and software necessary to use Blackboard Learn: http://www.unt.edu/helpdesk
Browser requirements: http://kb.blackboard.com/pages/viewpage.action?pageId=84639794
Computer and Internet Literacy: http://clt.odu.edu/oso/index.php?src=pe_comp_lit
Necessary plug-ins: http://www.unt.edu/helpdesk/bblearn/
Internet Access with compatible web browser
Word Processor
**Student Support**
The University of North Texas provides student technical support in the use of Blackboard and supported resources. The student help desk may be reached at:
Email: helpdesk@unt.edu
Phone: 940.565-2324
In Person: Sage Hall, Room 130

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: [http://my.unt.edu](http://my.unt.edu)
UNT Library Information for Off-Campus Users: [http://www.library.unt.edu/services/for-special-audiences/offcampus/information-for-off-campus-users](http://www.library.unt.edu/services/for-special-audiences/offcampus/information-for-off-campus-users)
UNT Computing and Information Technology Center: [http://citc.unt.edu/services-solutions/students](http://citc.unt.edu/services-solutions/students)
General access computer lab information (including locations and hours of operation) can be located at: [http://www.gacl.unt.edu/](http://www.gacl.unt.edu/)

**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 Should Students Do First?**
To access the course, login to Blackboard at learn.unt.edu. (Please read above at “Access and Navigation” for additional login instructions.)

Select appropriate course under “My Courses.” The homepage for the class will include links to the assignments, course information, reading materials, and the messaging system. All group emails from Mr. Titus or myself will be sent through the Blackboard messaging center; therefore it is your responsibility to check it regularly.
Correspondence for the course may also take place via UNT e-mail. Due to privacy regulations, we will no longer communicate with students using their personal email addresses. If you send an email to Mr. Titus or to me, you must do so from your UNT student email address. **It is your responsibility to check your UNT student email address regularly to ensure that you do not miss any course communications.**

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).

**How Students Should Proceed Each Week for Class Activities**

Students should follow the syllabus. 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 for the dates of each Unit, as well as the dates for all assignments. On your homepage you will have a folder marked “Units”. Click on this folder. 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 unit content area of the Blackboard course.

2. The student will complete the assigned ‘online’ exams/quizzes by accessing the ‘assessment’ tool in the Blackboard course: individually for unit quizzes and under the ‘exam’ section for mid-term and final examinations

3. The student will respond to posted online course discussion questions using the Blackboard discussion tool.

4. The student will complete and submit any assignments electronically using the Blackboard assignment drop box tool/tab.

**COMMUNICATIONS**

For questions regarding this course, please contact Derrick Titus at the email above. He will handle all routine matters regarding this course. If Mr. Titus believes that Professor Dixon needs to consider the matter, he will forward the message to him for consideration. If the issue is a technical one involving Blackboard, contact the Help Desk at (940) 565-2324.
This course will take place completely online and will use Blackboard Learn.

If you have questions about how to work Blackboard, contact the UNT helpdesk at (940) 565-2324. Any questions relating to the course itself or reading materials may be directed to Mr. Titus.

ASSSESSMENTS AND GRADING

Quizzes and Exams:

Exams: There will be a mid-term examination and a final examination, each worth 50 points total. Examinations will cover textbook readings and the material covered in class. There will also be Unit Quizzes and Unit Discussions. All quizzes and discussions are graded and will contribute to your final grade. There will be one multiple choice quiz for each unit. Each multiple choice quiz is worth 10 points. You will have 15 minutes for each quiz and 75 minutes for each exam. The correct answers will be shown to you after the due date has passed, to be fair to all students.

***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 you are 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.

Grade Breakdown

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mid-Term</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blackboard Discussions</td>
<td>160</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Points 340 points

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Final Grade Scale</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>306-340 = A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>272-305 = B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>238-271 = C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>204-237 = D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>203 and Below = F</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Exam:

There will be 2 exams given worth 50 points each. 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.

- Mid-Term: Opens October 5, 2015 @ 8:00am; Due by October 18, 2015 @ 11:00pm
- Final Exam: Opens December 5, 2015 @ 8:00am; Due by December 8, 2015 @ 11:00pm

Blackboard Discussion Assignments/Activities:

Each student will be responsible for completing 8 Blackboard Discussion Assignments throughout the course, with each discussion assignment being worth 20 points (for a total of 100 points). Your initial discussion post must be a minimum of 200-250 words. Moreover, for each discussion, students must reply to at least one student for full points. Participation post responding to your classmates should be a minimum of 100 words. All responses should contain 100% original content for this course and should contain appropriate citations when necessary. Responses are not based on your personal opinion, but should reflect careful considerations of the course materials and required readings. Failure to be responsive to the particular discussion assignment will result in loss of points. To earn points such comments must be more than trivial and in fact be substantial and substantive (think of these as the discussion you would have if we were having class on campus). Submit your discussion in Blackboard only—do not email your discussion response to me directly. Each discussion board will remain open from Monday morning at 8:00 a.m. until Sunday night at 11:00 p.m. (for the given unit time frame) (with the exception of Discussion Board #8 which will close at 11:00pm on Thursday December 3 @ 11:00pm)

One assignment found to be plagiarized will be given score of 0 (zero) and that zero will be carried towards your final course grade. Any instances of plagiarism make the student eligible to receive an F for the entire course. As the professor of this course, I reserve the right to refer any occurrences of plagiarism to the Office of the Dean of Students for further action, which could include sanctions up to and including expulsion from the university.

Lackadaisical discussions will result in a loss of points for Blackboard discussions.

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.

Make-up Policy:
There are no make-up tests/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 that you are sick or feeling sick is NOT A VALID EXCUSE FOR A MAKE-UP 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 entirety of the course.

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.

Copyright Notice

Some or all of the materials on this course Web site may be protected by copyright. Federal copyright law prohibits the reproduction, distribution, public performance, or public display of copyrighted materials without the express and written permission of the copyright owner, unless fair use or another exemption under copyright law applies. Additional copyright information may be located at: http://copyright.unt.edu/content/unt-copyright-policies.

Information about the University of Texas’ Attendance Policy may be found at: http://policy.unt.edu/policy/15-2-5

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://www.unt.edu/oda. You may also contact them by phone at 940.565.4323.
**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](http://www.unt.edu/csrr/student_conduct/index.html) for complete provisions of this code.

**Add/Drop Policy**

Please refer to the UNT Faculty Handbook or your department regarding the Add/Drop Policy.

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

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](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](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) to get clarification before the one-week deadline.

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.

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.

Summer 2015: Course Calendar

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>Topics to be Covered</th>
<th>Corresponding Readings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>August 24 – September 6</td>
<td>Unit 1 Defining violence and criminal violence. Course notes and chapter 1 of textbook</td>
<td>Chapter 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 7 – September 20</td>
<td>Unit 2 Measuring violence. Course notes and chapter 2 of textbook</td>
<td>Chapter 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date Range</td>
<td>Unit</td>
<td>Topic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------------------------</td>
<td>---------</td>
<td>----------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 21 – September 27</td>
<td>Unit 3</td>
<td>Violence in other times and places. Course notes and chapter 3 course textbook</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 28 – October 4</td>
<td>Unit 4</td>
<td>Theories of violence. Course notes and Chapter 5 pages 92-102, Chapter 6 pages 111-114, Chapter 7 pages 134-136 course textbook</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 5 – October 18</td>
<td>Unit 5</td>
<td>Types of criminal violence: Murder and aggravated assault and Chapter 4 course textbook /Midterm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 19 – November 1</td>
<td>Unit 6</td>
<td>Types of criminal violence: Sexual violence and Chapter 6 course textbook</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 2 – November 15</td>
<td>Unit 7</td>
<td>Types of violence: Terrorism as violent crime and Chapter 14 course textbook</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 16 – December 3</td>
<td>Unit 8</td>
<td>Types of violence: Mass killing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 5 – December 8</td>
<td></td>
<td>Final Exam</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Note:** The syllabus is a tentative calendar and I reserve the right to make any changes throughout the semester. I will try my best to ensure that the schedule remains intact however if changes are made, they will be announced in class and it is the responsibility of the student to make sure they make the appropriate changes. Failure to obtain syllabus changes because of missing class does not constitute a defense against missed assignments and other applicable changes.