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

Graduate Assistant Information:
Name: Courtney Crissup
Email: CourtneyCrissup@my.unt.edu

Email Instructions:

Your instructors for this course are Professor Andrekus Dixon and graduate assistant Courtney Crissup. We are both here to help you, but Mrs. Crissup will handle the majority of correspondence. Please contact her first with any questions regarding the course. If she deems the situation necessary, she will forward the email to me for further consideration.

Email expectations:

Include the COURSE NUMBER (CJUS 4350) in the subject line of all email correspondence. Only emails sent through your UNT email account (username@my.unt.edu) will receive a response. Allow 24 hours on weekdays for a response; emails sent over the weekend or on holidays will generally be answered on the next business day.

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.

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](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](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](https://blackboard.unt.edu/on-demand-learning-center) and [Blackboard Help for Students](https://blackboard.unt.edu/help). 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
UNT Blackboard Learn Student Resources: Technical Support: http://www.unt.edu/helpdesk/
UNT Library 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

General access computer lab information (including locations and hours of operation) can be located at: 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 other necessary links. There may be announcements sent periodically, so make sure to check into blackboard 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 Mrs. Crissup 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. If the due date has passed and you “forgot” to complete your assignments, you will receive a Zero for that assignment(s). 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 Courtney Crissup at the email above. She will handle all routine matters regarding this course. If Mrs. Crissup believes that Professor Dixon needs to consider the matter, she will forward the email 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 Mrs. Crissup.

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 (8@ 10 pts each)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blackboard Discussions</td>
<td>160 (8@ 20 pts each)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Points</strong></td>
<td><strong>340</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Final Grade Scale

- 306-340 = A
- 272-305 = B
- 238-271 = C
- 204-237 = D
- 203 and Below = F

Exam (Assessments Section):

There will be 2 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.** NOTICE THE DATES FOR THESE EXAMS.

- **Mid-Term: Opens October 15, 2018 @ 8:00am; Due by October 28, 2018 @ 11:59pm**
• Final Exam: Opens December 8, 2018 @ 8:00am; Due by December 12, 2018 @ 11:59pm

Quizzes (Assessment Sections):

There will be one multiple choice quiz for each unit. Each multiple choice quiz is worth 10 points. You will have 30 minutes for each quiz. Make sure to give yourself enough time because the quiz will shut-off at 11:59pm. The correct answers will be shown to you after the due date has passed, to be fair to all students. You will use you course readings and notes to prepare for your quizzes.

***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.

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 160 points). Your initial discussion post must be a minimum of 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. If necessary, make sure that you cite any source that you use to answer the initial discussion post. APA citation style should be used when citing your sources. If you are not familiar with how to cite in APA citation style, use “google” or visit https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/apa_style/apa_style_introduction.html.

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. If for some reason you have technical difficulties and are not able to submit your response, you may email me your response and receive partial credit, as long as the time stamp on the email is in accordance with the time frame listed below. Each discussion board will remain open from Monday morning at 8:00 a.m. until Sunday night at 11:59 p.m. (for the given unit time frames) (with the exception of Discussion Board #8 which will close on Thursday, December 6 @ 11:59pm)
One assignment found to be plagiarized will be given a score of (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.

When engaging in an online discussion I ask that you remain civil with each other and operate the same way you would if the person was in the same room as you. Use discussions to develop your skills in intellectual conversations about the various topics that we will cover. In the event that there is any foul language or disrespect in the online environment, these issues will be dealt with by the Professor and if the situation merits meeting with the Department Chair or Dean, action will be taken.

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 disability.unt.edu. 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 for complete provisions of this code.

Add/Drop Policy

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

Emergency Notification & Procedures: UNT uses a system called Eagle Alert to quickly notify students with critical information in the event of an emergency (i.e., severe weather, campus closing, and health and public safety emergencies like chemical spills, fires, or violence). In the event of a university closure, please refer to Blackboard for contingency plans for covering course materials.

Retention of Student Records: Student records pertaining to this course are maintained in a secure location by the instructor of record. All records such as exams, answer sheets (with keys), and written papers submitted during the duration of the course are kept for at least one calendar year after course
completion. Course work completed via the Blackboard online system, including grading information and comments, is also stored in a safe electronic environment for one year. Students have the right to view their individual record; however, information about student’s records will not be divulged to other individuals without proper written consent. Students are encouraged to review the Public Information Policy and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) laws and the University’s policy. See UNT Policy 10.10, Records Management and Retention for additional information.

**Acceptable Student Behavior:** 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 deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct.

**Access to Information – Eagle Connect:** Students’ access point for business and academic services at UNT is located at: my.unt.edu. All official communication from the University will be delivered to a student’s Eagle Connect account. For more information, please visit the website that explains Eagle Connect and how to forward e-mail: eagleconnect.unt.edu/

**Student Evaluation Administration Dates:** Student feedback is important and an essential part of participation in this course. The student evaluation of instruction is a requirement for all organized classes at UNT. The survey will be made available during weeks 13, 14 and 15 [insert administration dates] of the long semesters to provide students with an opportunity to evaluate how this course is taught. Students will receive an email from "UNT SPOT Course Evaluations via IASystem Notification" (no-reply@iasystem.org) with the survey link. Students should look for the email in their UNT email inbox. Simply click on the link and complete the survey. Once students complete the survey they will receive a confirmation email that the survey has been submitted. For additional information, please visit the SPOT website at www.spot.unt.edu or email spot@unt.edu.

**Sexual Assault Prevention:** UNT is committed to providing a safe learning environment free of all forms of sexual misconduct. Federal laws and UNT policies prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex as well as sexual misconduct. If you or someone you know is experiencing sexual harassment, relationship violence, stalking and/or sexual assault, there are campus resources available to provide support and assistance. The Survivor Advocates can be reached at SurvivorAdvocate@unt.edu or by calling the Dean of Students Office at 940-565-2648.

**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) 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.

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.

**ZIP CODE SURVEY:** This is considered a part of your attendance so make sure to complete the survey before the end of the first week: September 2\textsuperscript{nd} @11:59pm.

### Fall 2018: Course Calendar

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>Topics to be Covered</th>
<th>Corresponding Readings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| August 27 – September 9 | **Complete (Mandatory) Zip Code Survey!!!** *(must be completed by September 2\textsuperscript{nd})*  
Unit 1 Defining violence and criminal violence. Course notes and chapter 1 of textbook | Chapter 1                     |
| September 10 – September 23 | Unit 2 Measuring violence. Course notes and chapter 2 of textbook                  | Chapter 2                     |
| September 24 – September 30 | Unit 3 Violence in other times and places. Course notes and chapter 3 course textbook | Chapter 3                     |
| October 1 – October 14 | 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 | Chapters 5, 6, and 7          |
| October 15 – October 28 | Unit 5 Types of criminal violence: Murder and aggravated assault and Chapter 4 course textbook | Chapter 4                     |
| October 29 – November 11 | Unit 6 Types of criminal violence: Sexual violence and Chapter 6 course textbook   | Chapter 6                     |
| November 12 – November 25 | Unit 7 Types of violence: Terrorism as violent crime and Chapter 14 course textbook | Chapter 14                     |
The drop period for the Course is from September 11th – November 5th, 2018.

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.