The University of North Texas
Department of Criminal Justice

CJUS 4901-001 SR. Seminar: Criminal Justice and Public Policy
Fall 2018

Instructor: Andrekus Dixon, M.S. Criminal Justice

Time: Wednesday 2:00PM – 4:50PM

Room: Phys 104

Office Hours: Chilton Room 273 C
Monday: 12:30pm- 2:30pm or by appointment

Phone: 940-565-4475 (office)
e-mail: Andrekus.Dixon@unt.edu

Email expectations: When sending an email, please put the COURSE NUMBER (CJUS 4901) in the subject line of the email. Only emails sent from your UNT email account (username@my.unt.edu) will receive a response. 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.

GA: Courtney Crissup
Email: CourtneyCrissup@my.unt.edu

Course Description:
4901. Senior Seminar: Criminal Justice and Public Policy. 3 hours. The examination of the problems and issues involved in forming and implementing criminal justice policy in the United States. This course represents the final capstone experience for the student and should generally be taken in the semester the student will graduate. Prerequisite(s): senior standing and at least 33 hours of criminal justice, with 18 hours from the criminal justice core.

Goals and Objectives:
1. be able to examine in detail the assumptions that underlie various criminal justice policies.
2. be able to critically evaluate the effectiveness of various criminal justice policies.
3. be able to examine the costs, benefits, and problems that plague American Crime and criminal justice policy.
4. be able to develop critical thinking skills through the assessment and evaluation of course readings.
5. be able to improve communication skills through written assignments and participation in class discussions.
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.


Recommended reading:


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>Exams</td>
<td>200 points (2 @ 100 pts each)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blackboard Discussions</td>
<td>500 points (5 @ 100 points each)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group Presentations</td>
<td>100 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peer Evaluations</td>
<td>100 points</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Points 900 points

Final Grade Scale

810-900 = A
720-809 = B
630-719 = C
540-629 = D
539 and below = F
Exam:

There will be 2 exams given worth 100 points each. **Excused/Unexcused make-up exams will be taken before the next class day and if you are taking an unexcused exam there will be a 20 point deduction, to be fair to all students.** Any makeup exam must be taken within 24 hours of the scheduled exam. See attendance policy regarding what an “excused absence” consist of. Your note for missing MUST come from a physician, coach or employer, anything else will not be accepted.

Group Presentations:

At the beginning of the semester, you will be placed into groups. You will also be given your topic for your group’s presentation. The requirement for this assignment will be given during class. Each group will conduct an in class presentation worth 100 points. You will also be graded by your peers, which will be worth 100 points as well. Everyone in the group is expected to participate in generating ideas, collecting articles/supporting materials and participating in class discussions. As part of these discussions, students will evaluate each group member on their participation in the preparation and presentation process. Additionally, students must be present for all in class presentations to verbally participate in class discussions. Participation will be considered as part of the assignment grade for all presentations. Students must be present for the presentation in order to receive credit. **Each group will have a maximum of 20 and a minimum of 10 minutes to complete their presentation. Further instructions will be given out in class.**

Blackboard Discussion Assignments:

Online discussion/participation posts: Students will complete 5 online discussion boards worth 100 points each during the semester. These discussions will consist of an initial discussion response as well as responses to at least 2 classmates’ posts for each discussion board. The initial discussion post will comprise an argument of a single side of the assigned criminal justice issue for the week. **Initial discussion posts** should range from (700 – 900) words and include a minimum of 3 academic references with appropriate in text citations in APA format for any information obtained from an outside source, including the course textbook. Additional details will be provided on Blackboard and discussed during class.

Participation expectations: In addition to the initial discussion response, students must also post a **minimum of 2 substantive participation posts** in response to another classmates’ discussion post each discussion week. Participation posts must reflect critical thought and reflect substantive contribution to the class discussion (**a minimum of 250 words for each**).
response). Rather, simply posting that you agree or disagree with another student's post or restating their post does not constitute a substantive response. Participation posts should include at least 1 academic reference with appropriate in-text citations in APA format for any information obtained from an outside source, including the course textbook.

*Students must respond to the discussion question in order to unlock that week’s discussion and enable the ability to respond to others’ posts. All discussion and participation posts must be completed by the due date and time. **No late discussion posts or participation posts will be accepted for any reason.** It may be a good idea for you to write your post in a word document and then copy and paste it in Blackboard. You will be graded on grammar, so this gives you a chance to spell check and also keep a copy for yourself in the event you have some technical issues. Your rubric will be provided on Blackboard. If you run into technical problems, you can receive partial credit by emailing me your responses before the deadline, no LATE work will be graded NO EXCEPTIONS!

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 above. Discussion posts/ participation posts will be graded and returned within one week of the assignment due date. **Your discussion post will open at 5:00 pm on Wednesday of the day of the assignment and close at 11:59 pm on the following Tuesday.**

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.

**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 two unexcused absences during the semester. You are allowed two, 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 two absences, the professor reserves the right to reduce your final grade by ten points for every absence after the two 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.

I reserve the right to request that a student be dropped from the course with a grade of “WF” upon the accumulation of a stated number of unexcused absences. An absence may be excused for the following reasons: a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose; active military service, including travel for that purpose; participation in an official university function; illness or other extenuating circumstances; pregnancy and parenting under Title IX; and when the University is officially closed by the President. The student is responsible for requesting an excused absence in writing as early in the semester as possible, and personally delivering to me satisfactory evidence to substantiate the excused absence.

ADA Statement

UNT 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 a student with an accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding one’s specific course needs. Students 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 ODA website at disability.unt.edu

Academic Honesty

According to UNT Policy 06.003, Student Academic Integrity, academic dishonesty occurs when students engage in behaviors including, but not limited to cheating, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, forgery, plagiarism, and sabotage. A finding of academic dishonesty may result in a range of academic penalties or sanctions ranging from admonition to expulsion from the University. [Insert specific sanction or academic penalty for specific academic integrity violation]. 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
STUDENT PERCEPTIONS OF TEACHING EFFECTIVENESS (SPOT)

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 and 14 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.

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 OR ANY SOCIAL MEDIA ACTIVITY 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. No recording devices will be used unless given authorization for the device from the University.

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 www.deanofstudents.unt.edu

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 your Eagle Connect account. For
more information, please visit the website that explains Eagle Connect and how to forward e-mail: eagleconnect.unt.edu/

**SEXUAL DISCRIMINATION, HARRASSMENT, & 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](http://deanofstudents.unt.edu/resources). 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.

**Children in the Classroom:**

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

**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 students’ 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.
**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**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>Topics to be Covered</th>
<th>Corresponding Readings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>August 29</td>
<td>Cover Syllabus/ Course Overview</td>
<td>Chapter 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Crime and Policy: A Complex Problem</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 5</td>
<td>Crime and Policy: A Complex Problem; Models of Criminal Justice</td>
<td>Chapter 1 and Chapter 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 12</td>
<td>The Going Rate and 1st Blackboard Discussion</td>
<td>Chapter 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 19</td>
<td>The Prediction Problem</td>
<td>Chapter 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 26</td>
<td>Unleash the Cops and 2nd Blackboard Discussion</td>
<td>Chapter 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 3</td>
<td>Deter the Criminals</td>
<td>Chapter 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 10</td>
<td>Lock’em Up</td>
<td>Chapter 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 17</td>
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<td>Exam #1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 24</td>
<td>Close the Loop Holes and Protect Crime Victims / 3rd Blackboard Discussion</td>
<td>Chapter 8 and Chapter 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 31</td>
<td>Control Gun Crimes</td>
<td>Chapter 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 7</td>
<td>Treat’Em and 4th Blackboard Discussion</td>
<td>Chapter 11</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 14</td>
<td>Gain Compliance with the Law</td>
<td>Chapter 12</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 21</td>
<td>Sense and Non-sense about Drugs and Crime and 5th Blackboard Discussion</td>
<td>Chapter 13</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 28</td>
<td>Crime and Community: Putting It All Together</td>
<td>Chapter 14</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 5</td>
<td>Group Presentations</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 12</td>
<td>Exam #2 (Chapters 8-14)</td>
<td>1:30pm – 3:30pm</td>
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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.