**Diversity Issues in Criminal Justice**

**CJUS 2600.900/950**

**Summer 2015**

**Instructor Information**

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**For questions, please first email the Graduate Student Assistant, Ms. Rebecca Dickerson at** **RebeccaDickerson@my.unt.edu**

You will normally receive an email response within 48 hours. However, responses may be delayed during busy times of the semester.

**Course Description**

This course will explore the relationships, and lack thereof, between various demographic characteristics and crime. We will address these relationships from both theoretical and empirical perspectives. A primary component of this course will be dispelling popular myths and replacing them with evidence-based information. For instance, popular culture would have us believe that there is a significant relationship between class and crime (e.g., poorer populations commit a disproportionate amount of crime), which is not entirely true. In fact, class often determines what *type* of crime people commit, not *whether* they will commit crime(s). We will also explore the relationship(s) between race, class, gender and crime. Most importantly, though, we will study the concept of intersectionality, which teaches us that we cannot study race, class, and gender as if they were independent constructs. Instead, these demographics intersect and affect the lives of people in important ways.

**Course Goals**

Students who successfully complete this course will be able to:

1. Explain how class, race, and gender intersect and effect the public’s lived experiences with crime and justice.
2. Understand the importance of diversity in the ownership and operation of criminal justice systems.
3. Identify and explain how disadvantage influences patterns of crime and victimization.
4. Understand how discrimination develops and effects the administration of justice in our society.

**Reading Materials**

Barak, G., Leighton, P., & Cotton, A. (2015). *Class, race, gender, & crime: The social*

*realities of justice in America* (4th ed). Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield.

**Course Notes and Recommendations**

Please make sure to have your official UNT email forwarded to your preferred email address (if different) to receive important updates, changes, announcements, class cancellations (if applicable), and generally, so I can reach you if necessary.

**Before you email Ms. Dickerson or Dr. Trahan with a question, make sure to review this syllabus and the FAQ document posted on Blackboard. Most questions are answered in these documents.**

The announcement board in Blackboard, and email, will be used for primary communication to the class as a whole. I advise you check the announcements section frequently.

**Important:** It is your responsibility to utilize a computer system that works and is compatible with the UNT online system/Blackboard Learn. This is especially critical during examination times. I would recommend that you take your exams on the UNT campus if possible. If that is not possible, I would recommend you avoid waiting until the last minute to take your exam in case problems arise. **Do not take your exams on mobile devices such as smartphones or tablets.**

**TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS / ASSISTANCE**

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

 IUT Help Desk: <http://www.unt.edu/helpdesk/index.htm>

 Hardware and software necessary to use Bb Learn: <http://www.unt.edu/helpdesk/bblearn/>

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>

Headset/Microphone (if required for synchronous chats)

Word Processor

*[Other related hardware or software necessary for the course]*

**Minimum Technical Skills Needed:**

 **Examples include:**

Using the learning management system

 Using email with attachments

Creating and submitting files in commonly used word processing program formats

Copying and pasting

Downloading and installing software

Using spreadsheet programs

**Course Requirements and Grading**

Your semester grade will be based on the following four criteria:

 3 Exams (60%)

 10 Web Modules: (40%)

\*The dates for each exam and web module are listed in the course schedule on blackboard.

Many of the assignments (exams and web modules) will be graded automatically in blackboard. Other assignments will generally be graded within 48 hours. However, grading may be delayed during busy times of the semester.

**Exams:** There will be 3 exams administered throughout the semester. Each exam will consist of 50 multiple choice questions that will count for 1 point each. No exam will be comprehensive and will include only material assigned up until the time of the test.

Please note that the exams will be administered in blackboard and will have certain restrictions such as time limits, the inability to go back and re-answer questions, and the inability to move forward, among others.

**Web Modules:** There are 10 web modules that will be assigned throughout the semester. These modules will be posted on blackboard. Each will consist of 10 questions that will count for one point each. You must complete each module before you will be able to access the next. These modules are designed to ensure that you fully understand the key concepts in each unit.

**Class Policies**

**Make-Up Policy**

There will be no opportunities to make up any missed coursework 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. Students should notify me prior to missing an assignment, if possible. Those in athletics, those who are absent for religious holidays, and/or those involved in other school supported activities that require being absent from class will be allowed to make up assignments if proper procedures are followed in requesting an excused absence. I must have written documentation in advance that you will be away from class for the absence to be excused.

**Authorized Absences:** Absences are authorized only in cases of participation in school sponsored activities and/or religious holidays. For an excused absence due to a school sponsored activity, students must be approved in advance by the department chair and academic dean. Within three days after the absence, students must obtain authorized absence cards from the Dean of Students for presentation to instructor. Students who wish to request an excused absence for religious holidays can do so and will be excused from class as long as they make a request within the required time frame set by the University (see the most recent undergraduate catalog). Notification must be in writing so that I may have it for my records. You must arrange to make up any work missed during the excused religious absence or school sponsored activity.

**Academic Dishonesty/Integrity**

All students are required to conduct themselves with utmost honesty and integrity in all aspects related to this course. Any act of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated and may result in failing the course. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating on a test, plagiarism, and collusion – the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing work offered for course credit.

**Grade Appeals**

Please keep all your graded work. You cannot, under any circumstance, dispute a grade on an exam or assignment if you cannot provide the original copy. Should you have any discrepancy with a grade you receive, you must submit a written complaint and meet with me within one week of receiving the grade. Bring the original copy of the exam or assignment to this meeting. Written complaints must address specific comments and/or grading criteria. Filing an appeal does not guarantee that your grade will be changed. **Grades are not verbally negotiable.**

**ODA Statement**

The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking reasonable accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA with provide you with a reasonable accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course. You may request reasonable accommodations at any time, however, ODA notices of reasonable 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 if reasonable accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. *Students are strongly encouraged to deliver letters of reasonable accommodation during faculty office hours or by appointment. Faculty members have the authority to ask students to discuss such letters during their designated office hours to protect the privacy of the student.* For additional information see the Office of Disability Accommodation website at [*http://www,unt.edu/oda*](http://www,unt.edu/oda)*.* You may also contact them by phone at *940.565.4323.*

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

**Federal Regulation**

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.gpoaccesss.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=2TYPE=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 Internation Student and Scholar Services Office (telephone 940-565-2195 or email internationaladvising@unt.edu) to get clarification before the one-week deadline.

1/15/04

Rev. 4/24/2009

**SETE Participation (Student Evaluation of Teaching Effectiveness)**

The Student Evaluation of Teaching Effectiveness (SETE) is a requirement for all organized classes at UNT. This short survey will be made available to you at the end of the semester, providing you a chance to comment on how this class is taught.  I am very interested in the feedback I get from students, as I work to continually improve my teaching. I consider the SETE to be an important part of your participation in this class.

**Student Behavior and University Policy:**

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 Center for Student Rights and Responsibilities 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.unt.edu/csrr](http://www.unt.edu/csrr)

**Participation and Online 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 active participation, along with your willingness to engage in thoughtful discussions regarding criminological theory will be taken into account at all times during the semester.

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. **Please review the undergraduate catalog concerning conduct which adversely affects the university community.**

**Syllabus Changes**

I reserve the right and have the discretion to change this syllabus. While every effort will be made to follow this syllabus as closely as possible, it is sometimes the case that the syllabus must be modified. In the case that the syllabus needs to be adjusted, I will announce such adjustments to the class. I will make every effort to ensure that any changes to the syllabus benefit the class as a whole. It is the student’s responsibility to check announcements/email so that any and all syllabus changes are documented. Failure to obtain syllabus changes because of failure to check and read announcements does not constitute a defense against missed assignments, test dates, and other applicable changes.

**Miscellaneous:**

The material posted online is my personal intellectual property or that of the University of North Texas. You may not utilize the material for other than class purposes.

**\* A course schedule can be found in a separate file in Blackboard**