CJUS 4660-001: Offender Behavior
Course Syllabus

Instructor: Dr. Mark Saber
Term: Spring 2017
Class meeting: T/R 2:00pm – 3:20pm
Classroom: TH 120

Instructor’s Contact Information

Email (preferred)  Mark.Saber@unt.edu
Office Phone       940-565-4593
Office Location    Chilton 273G
Office Hours       T 10:00am – 11:00am by appointment

Required readings


Additional readings may be discussed/assigned during class and may require a visit to the university library.

Course Description
Examines the variables that correlate with or lead to criminal behavior, such as the family, schools, personality, economic forces and cultural values. Psycho-social explanations illuminate the factors that cause crime and criminality and suggests solutions.

Prerequisites: CJUS 2100 (Crime and Justice in the United States) and CJUS 3600 (Criminology) or equivalents.

Goals and Objectives
After completion of this course, students will be able to:
  • Understand the major psychological explanations for an offender’s behavior;
  • Understand the major ethological and biological theories of criminal behavior;
  • Understand the major sociological theories of criminal behavior;
  • Examine how situational factors can effect behavior
  • Develop and Communicate an alternative explanations of solutions for violent and non-violent criminal behavior.
Method of Evaluation

Student Presentations – 70% of total course grade
Students will be placed in groups of 5 and complete 3 PowerPoint presentations, 100 points each, concerning an offender (alive or dead – guilty or not guilty). Also, the offender does not have to be an American. The group will provide an introduction of the offender (to include basic background and background of the crime(s)), theory or theories used to explain the offender’s behavior, and recommendation for policy changes (to deal with the criminal behavior) and possible outcomes of those changes. Each presentation should attempt to incorporate text material when appropriate. Each presentation will last 20 minutes and all group members must actively participate (all members must present material). Your group is not allowed to just read the PowerPoint slides. All material must be covered during the group presentation, meaning if a group member is missing you cannot just skip that section.

Group members will also be given a chance to offer peer feedback of other members of their group. This will be done on the day of the presentation. If you do not actively take part in your group, you can fail a presentation.

Only one group per topic and topics cannot be repeated.

Student not presenting are still expected to be in class. Your grade will be reduced, by one letter grade, for chronic absences (3) and you will receive a F in the course if you miss 4 or more class periods when presentations are given.

Exams – 30% of total course grade
There will be 2 exams (100 points each) worth, in total, 30% of your overall grade. All exams will be posted in Blackboard and are open book/notes and can cover any material in the book or discussed in class/posted in Blackboard. Exams will be available from 12:01am – 11:59pm the day listed in the syllabus, but you only have 1 hour and 20 minutes to complete the exam once started. While the exams are open book/notes, the expectation is that you treat them as an in-class exam. Students will not have enough time to look-up every answer.

**Note:** It is the student’s responsibility to ensure they have a reliable Internet connection. It is highly recommended students take the exam on campus (in the library or in a computer lab). You are only allowed one exam reset during the entire semester due to Internet connectivity issues.

Course grades will be calculated using the following scale:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>90-100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>80-89%</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>70-79%</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>60-69%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>59% or Below</td>
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</tbody>
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*The only extra credit opportunity is the Extra Credit Final. This will be a comprehensive exam via Blackboard. This exam is worth a maximum of 10% of extra credit. More information on this extra credit will be provided in class. No individual extra credit will be provided. There are no resets on the extra credit final.*
**Grade related questions or concerns must be addressed within 1 week of the grade being posted to Blackboard.**

**Grades are not automatically rounded; this is based on student performance throughout the semester. Rounding will not occur in all cases.**

**Makeup policy**
Make-ups are only considered with a documented University excused absence, if the student contacts the instructor one week prior to the due date of the assignment. Extra credit cannot be made-up. Missed presentations due to a non-excused absence cannot be made-up.

**Attendance Policy**
Students should attend class every day having completed and being prepared to discuss the readings for that week. If a student must miss a class, they should discuss the missed materials with a classmate, as the instructor will not repeat information covered in class due to absence.

Students that have fallen behind, are failing and/or choose to not complete the coursework for the semester are responsible for officially withdrawing themselves from the course; failure to do so will result in a performance grade of “F”. Last day to withdraw with a grade of “W” is April 21, 2017.

Attendance is mandatory during group presentations. If you miss 3 your grade will be reduced by one letter grade. Missing 4 or more will result in a F for the course.

**Acceptable Student Behavior in the Classroom**
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](http://www.deanofstudents.unt.edu)

The use of cell phones during class, whether texting or otherwise, is distracting to both me as an instructor and the other members of the class. If I see one in use and we are not engaged in an activity where the use of such a device is necessary, I will assume it is being used to fact check something we are discussing and I will most certainly involve the user in the discussion. If you are contacted regarding an emergency during class, quietly excuse yourself and attend to the call then. **Please be respectful of others and refrain from cell phone use during class.**

**Additional Classroom Policies:**
Recording devices are not allowed in the classroom unless specifically approved by the instructor. Tobacco products of any kind (including e-cigs) are not allowed in the classroom. Cell phones, pagers, or any other electronic device that makes noise should be turned off before class. Due to liability concerns and the content of course discussions, children are not permitted
in the classroom at any time. Laptops and similar devices can be used during class as long as they are used for taking notes and/or other related classroom functions. If used for surfing the web, instant messaging, sending emails or otherwise, they will not be allowed in the classroom.

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.

**Academic integrity**

Standards of academic integrity are expected with regard to any course related work or submission. Students should consult the UNT website for questions, guidelines, appeals, and other information related to these policies:

http://policy.unt.edu/sites/default/files/untpolicy/pdf/7-Student_Affairs-Academic_Integrity.pdf

Academic violation of UNT policy consists of the following:

A. Cheating. The use of unauthorized assistance in an academic exercise, including but not limited to:
   1. use of any unauthorized assistance to take exams, tests, quizzes or other assessments;
   2. dependence upon the aid of sources beyond those authorized by the instructor in writing papers, preparing reports, solving problems or carrying out other assignments;
   3. acquisition, without permission, of tests, notes or other academic materials belonging to a faculty or staff member of the University;
   4. dual submission of a paper or project, or re-submission of a paper or project to a different class without express permission from the instructor;
   5. any other act designed to give a student an unfair advantage on an academic assignment.

B. Plagiarism. Use of another’s thoughts or words without proper attribution in any academic exercise, regardless of the student’s intent, including but not limited to:
   1. the knowing or negligent use by paraphrase or direct quotation of the published or unpublished work of another person without full and clear acknowledgement or citation.
   2. the knowing or negligent unacknowledged use of materials prepared by another person or by an agency engaged in selling term papers or other academic materials.

C. Forgery. Altering a score, grade or official academic university record or forging the signature of an instructor or other student.

D. Fabrication. Falsifying or inventing any information, data or research as part of an academic exercise.

E. Facilitating Academic Dishonesty. Helping or assisting another in the commission of academic dishonesty.

F. Sabotage. Acting to prevent others from completing their work or willfully disrupting the academic work of others.
Any violation of academic integrity will be handled on a case-by-case basis. At a minimum, the student will receive a zero on the assignment in question, but more serious academic violations may be subject to the assignment of a failing grade for the course. Please do not hesitate to contact the instructor with questions related to citations or other academic integrity concerns.

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

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.

**ADA Statement and Disabled Student Policy**

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.

**Sexual Discrimination, Harassment, & 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_0. 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.

**Course Calendar and Topics**

Dates, topics, and exams are listed below. Students are responsible for keeping up with the schedule, any schedule changes as well as the assigned readings as we progress through the course. This is a tentative schedule and the instructor reserves the right to modify any part of the schedule at any time throughout the semester.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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| Week 1     | Jan 17 Introduction, syllabus, group sign-up, presentations  
Jan 19 Chapter 1: The importance of violent offenders to criminology |
| Week 2     | Jan 24 Chapter 3: Community-level correlates of crime  
Chapter 4: Where I’m from: Criminal predators and their environment  
Jan 26 Groups One, Two, and Three Presentations |
| Week 3     | Jan 31 Chapter 5: Cyber-related violence  
Chapter 7: The behavioral genetics of predatory criminal behavior  
Feb 2 Groups Four, Five, and Six Presentations |
| Week 4     | Feb 7 Chapter 9: Early risk factors for young homicide offenders and victims  
Chapter 11: Comparing women and men who kill  
Feb 9 Movie 1 (Prison Kids) |
| Week 5     | Feb 14 Groups Seven, Eight, and Nine Presentations  
Feb 16 Chapter 13: Gang involvement and predatory crime  
Group Ten Presentation |
| Week 6     | Feb 21 Chapter 15: Focused deterrence strategies and the reduction of gang and group-involved violence  
Feb 23 Groups One, Two, and Three Presentations |
| Week 7     | Feb 28 Chapter 16: Arrested today, out tomorrow: Patrol officers’ perceptions of a broken justice system  
Mar 2 Groups Four, Five, and Six Presentations |
| Week 8     | Mar 7 Exam 1 via Blackboard  
Mar 9 Chapter 17: Sex offenders on the internet: Cyber-struggles for the protection of children |
| Week 9     | Mar 14 Spring Break – No Class  
Mar 16 Spring Break – No Class |
| Week 10    | Mar 21 ACSJ – No Class  
Mar 23 ACJS – No Class |
| Week 10    | Mar 28 Groups Seven, Eight, and Nine Presentations  
Mar 30 Chapter 18: Prosecuting criminal predators  
Group Ten Presentation |
| Week 11    | Apr 4 Chapter 19: Alternative adjudication methods for offenders with mental health problems  
Apr 6 Groups One, Two, and Three Presentations |
| Week 12    | Apr 11 Chapter 23: Civil commitment laws for sexual predators  
Apr 13 Groups Four, Five, and Six Presentations |
| Week 13    | Apr 18 Chapter 24: Sex offender registries and criminal predators  
Apr 20 Groups Seven, Eight, and Nine Presentations |
| Week 14    | Apr 25 Chapter 25: Running to a stand still? Reentry and violent offenders  
Apr 28 Group Ten Presentation |
| Week 15    | May 2 Exam 2 via Blackboard  
May 4 Library Day |
| Week 16 | May 6 - 12 | Final Week | Extra Credit Final – via Blackboard |

**These descriptions and timelines are subject to change at the discretion of the Professor.**