Criminology (CJUS 3600.900/950) Syllabus
Fall 2018

Instructor: Dr. Mark Saber
Office: Chilton Hall 273G
Phone: (940)565-4593
Email: Mark.Saber@unt.edu (preferred)

Office Hours: T 1:00pm – 1:45pm by appointment

Email expectations: When sending an email, please put the COURSE NUMBER (CJUS 3600) in the subject line of the mail. Only emails sent through your Eagle Connect email account (username@unt.edu) will receive a response. You can expect to receive a response within 48 hours during the week and 72 hours on the weekend. If you have not received a response within that time, please email me back as it may have gotten lost.

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.

Course Description:
Crime is a complex problem. There are so many seemingly distinct types of crime, and crimes occur for different reasons and under different circumstances. In fact, the complexity of crime is increasing. For example, the globalization of communications (e.g., the internet) and conflict (e.g., terrorism) had substantial impacts on the nature of crime. Despite this complexity, it is imperative that we gain as great an understanding of crime as possible through criminology. Criminology can be defined as the study of the nature of crime, its causes, and the systemic practices that (re)produce patterns of harm. At its core, criminology attempts to understand what crime is and why it occurs. We will study the major theoretical traditions that have emerged over the past several centuries to offer insight into the crime problem. We will also evaluate each theory using extant research and identify policy implications.

Student Learning Objectives/Outcomes:
Students who successfully complete this course will be able to:
1. Articulate the shortcomings of various definitions of crime and explain the social construction of crime and criminals.
2. Identify and explain all the major schools of criminology.
3. Evaluate criminological theories using empirical evidence.
4. Apply theory and research and formulate criminal justice policy.

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, class cancellations (if applicable), and generally, so I can reach you if necessary. The announcement board in Blackboard will be used for primary communication to the class as a whole. I advise you check the announcements section frequently. Do not email me through Blackboard.

Please see Blackboard Learn: Getting Started under the “Start Here” link for further information on system requirements. Utilizing a compatible computer system 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.
For connection/browser issues or questions regarding how to work Blackboard, please contact the UNT Helpdesk at 940-565-2324 or http://www.unt.edu/helpdesk/.

**Required Materials:**
The assigned texts listed below are required for all students enrolled in this class. 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 issues in class as well as examination material.

**Purchase:**

Available Free Online / Posted in Blackboard:

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

**Method of Evaluation**

**Exams:** Each student will be required to take three exams in this course for a total of 300 points (each worth 100 points). Each test will consist of multiple choice and true/false questions. Each test will cover all module note material, assigned material in the classroom text, and other assigned reading material.

Exams will open on Monday 12:01am and close on Sunday at 11:59pm. While exams are open for an entire week, once you start to take the exam you will only have 100 minutes to complete the exam.

**Discussions:** During the dates specified in the course outline, students will participate in a Blackboard discussion 4 times during the semester. Discussions are worth a combined total of 100 points or 25 points each. Each student will then respond appropriately to the question or instruction statement provided, creating his/her own “original thread” (at least 500 words and not more than 1,000 words). After creating an original thread, students are required to respond to at least 1 of their fellow classmates’ original threads. To earn points, discussion and participation comments must be more than trivial and, in fact, substantial and substantive (think of these as the discussion you would engage in if we had an on campus class). Reply need to be at least 500 words and not more than 1,000 words (each). You will be required to comment and support your views from the research that is provided to you as well as appropriate outside academic references. Grammatical errors as well as weak and unsupported comments will be deducted in points. In text citations and a list of references should be included with each post, discussion and participation, in APA format. Students must respond to the discussion question in order to unlock that week’s discussion and enable the ability to respond to others’ posts. Discussion posts will be typed and submitted directly in the text box in Blackboard. Discussions submitted as attachments will not be accepted and will receive a score of 0. Discussions will be available for a minimum of one week, generally longer. Discussions will open consecutively. For example, discussion 1 will open with the course and close on the due date. The next day, discussion 2 will open and close on the due date.

**Written Assignments:** Students will complete three written assignments worth 300 points (each worth 100 points). These assignments will focus on applying a theory to a real world crime (material on the crime will be provided). Your submission must be at least one-page long and not more than two pages long. Also, you must include a reference list and in-text citations IAW APA. These assignments will also conform to the following standards: double spaced, 12pt font and saved as a Microsoft word document, pdf or posted directly into the box provided in the assignment. Submission in any other form will receive a zero. Written Assignments will be turned in via the link in Blackboard.
Exams (3 @ 100 points each) 300 pts
Discussions (4 @ 25 points each) 100 pts
Written Assignments (3 @ 100 points each) 300 pts
Total 700 pts

Course grades will be calculated using the following scale:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>630 – 700 pts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>560 – 629 pts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>490 – 559 pts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>420 – 489 pts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>419 pts or below</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*There are no extra credit opportunities for this course*

**Grade related questions or concerns must be addressed within 1 week of the grade being posted to Blackboard.**

*** Grades are only rounded to the nearest whole number, no additional rounding will occur.***

**Late Work**

Late work is not accepted. All late assignments will receive a zero. All due dates are listed in the syllabus and ample time is provided to complete the assignments.

**Makeup Policy**

There are no make-up tests/quizzes/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. 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 make up 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 (e.g., traveling for a basketball game).

There is absolutely no make-up for assignments turned in late unless authorized as a result of university-related absence or through prior consultation and approval of myself. Assignments as a result of authorized absences must be turned in within 3 days of returning from the authorized absence.

**Attendance Policy**

As this is an online graduate course, students are expected to be checking Blackboard at least once a day. There are no excuses for missing assignment deadlines, if you have an issue you must bring it to my attention prior to the assignment due date.

**Readings:**

Students should follow the schedule of reading assignments found on the course calendar. The reading assignments need to be read before participating in discussions. This will not only facilitate peer discussion, but
will also allow you time to formulate questions you may have regarding the material. In addition to the required texts, the course will utilize video presentations, additional handouts, etc. that concern issues pertinent to the study of ethical problems. Information from all sources (textbook, online discussions, video presentations, handouts) may be included on course examinations.

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 October 5, 2018.

**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)

**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](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. the 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 Instructor (SPOT)**

Student feedback is important and an essential part of participation in this course. The student evaluation of instruction (SPOT) is a requirement for all organized classes at UNT. This short survey will be made available to you at the end of the semester to provide you with an opportunity to evaluate how this course is taught. Student feedback is very important to UNT, please complete your SPOT (Student Perceptions of Teaching) survey during the open evaluation time.

**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.

**Assignments & Academic Calendar:** The descriptions and timelines contained in this syllabus are subject to change at the discretion of the instructor

**Week 1 (8/27 – 9/2)**

**Topic:** Administrative Tasks, Introduction, Overview, and Review of Materials
Reading: Begin week 2 readings and explore topics we’ll review throughout the semester
Assignments due: Zip Code Survey 9/2 11:59p
Note: To receive a grade in this class you must complete the Zip Code Survey.

Week 2 (9/3 – 9/9)
9/3: Labor Day – University Closed
Topic: Theory, Crime, and Policy
Reading: Chapters 1 and 2
Assignments due: None

Week 3 (9/10 – 9/16)
Topic: Classical Paradigm
Reading: Chapter 3 and Beccaria
Assignments due: Discussion 1 due 9/16 11:59p

Week 4 (9/17 – 9/23)
Topic: Biosocial and Psychological Paradigms
Reading: Chapters 4 and 5
Assignments due: Exam 1 due 9/23 11:59p

Week 5 (9/24 – 9/30)
Topic: Anomie and Modernization
Reading: Chapter 6
Assignments due: Written Assignment 1 due 9/30 11:59p

Week 6 (10/1 – 10/7)
Topic: Neighborhoods and Crime
Reading: Chapter 7
Assignments due: None

Week 7 (10/8 – 10/14)
Topic: Strain and Learning Theories
Reading: Chapters 8 and 9
Assignments due: Discussion 2 due 10/14 11:59p

Week 8 (10/15 – 10/21)
Topic: Control Theories
Reading: Chapter 10
Assignments due: None

Week 9 (10/22 – 10/28)
Topic: Labeling and Conflict
Reading: Chapter 11
Assignments due: Exam 2 due 10/28 11:59p

Week 10 (10/29 – 11/4)
Topic: Marxist and Postmodern Theories
Reading: Chapter 12
Assignments due: Written Assignment 2 due 11/4 11:59p

Week 11 (11/5 – 11/11)
Topic: Gender and Crime
Reading: Chapters 13
Assignments due: Discussion 3 due 11/11 11:59p

Week 12 (11/12 – 11/18)
Topic: Developmental Theories
Reading: Chapter 14
Assignments due: None
Week 13 (11/19 – 11/25)
Topic: Thanksgiving – spend this week organizing your Literature Review and making sure you have collected all of your literature if you have not already done so
Reading: Week 14 assignments and readings are open and available so feel free to work ahead
Assignments due: No assignments are due this week – work on Discussion 4 and Written Assignment 3

Week 14 (11/26 – 12/2)
Topic: Integrated Theories
Reading: Chapter 15 and Hirschi (1979)
Assignments due: Discussion 4 and Written Assignment 3 due 12/2 11:59p

Week 15 (12/3 – 12/9)
Topic: Assessing Criminology Theories
Reading: Chapter 16
Assignments due: Exam 3 due 12/9 11:59p