Seminar on Juvenile Delinquency (CJUS 5470.900/950) Syllabus
Spring Semester 2018

Instructor: Dr. Mark Saber

Office: Chilton Hall 273G

Phone: (940)565-4593

Email: Mark.Saber@unt.edu (preferred)

Office Hours: W 2:30pm – 3:30pm, by appointment

Email expectations: When sending an email, please put the COURSE NUMBER (CJUS 5470) 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 24 - 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:
This course will help students understand the phenomenon of juvenile delinquency in the context of real communities and social policies, integrating the many social factors that shape juvenile delinquency and its control (including race, ethnicity, socioeconomic class, gender, and sexuality). Offering a thorough mix of traditional and cutting-edge theories, research, and practices, this course helps students answer many of the difficult questions on juvenile delinquency that they will face in their careers and lives.

Student Learning Objectives/Outcomes:
Students who successfully complete this course will be able to:
1. Understand the basic theories of juvenile delinquency
2. Understand the nature and prevalence of delinquency in the United States
3. Understand how communities and social policies impact juvenile delinquency
4. Understand the current research concerning juvenile delinquency
5. Understand how numerous social factors shape juvenile delinquency
6. Understand why we have a separate juvenile justice system

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.

Please send questions regarding the class to myself at Mark.Saber@unt.edu. Do not email me through Blackboard. You can expect a response from me within 24 - 48 hours. With that said, if we do receive several emails regarding a common topic, an announcement will be posted or a mass email will be sent addressing the issues instead of responding to each individual email. It is your responsibility to utilize a computer system that works and is compatible with the UNT online system/Blackboard Learn. 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.


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

**NOTE:** If a student chooses to purchase anything other than the current edition of the assigned course text, it is their responsibility to ensure access to and familiarity with the most up-to-date course materials.

**Method of Evaluation**

**Midterm:** The midterm will be worth 40% of your grade. Students will answer multiple questions concerning juvenile delinquency and will submit their papers via email (mark.saber@unt.edu) by 3/19/18 at 11:59pm. Late work will receive a zero. Student responses will be between 8 – 10 pages (at least 8 pages, not more than 10 pages; not including title page and reference list). Your paper will be 12 Font, Times New Roman, Double Spaced, Justified Margins, and IAW APA (in-text and reference list). Papers must be submitted as MSWord documents or pdfs, any other form will receive a zero. While there is not a minimum or maximum number of references required, students are expected to support their work via the literature (required course material and outside scholarly sources).

**Final:** The final will be worth 40% of your grade. Students will answer multiple questions concerning juvenile delinquency and will submit their papers via email (mark.saber@unt.edu) by 5/6/18 at 11:59pm. Late work will receive a zero. Student responses will be between 8 – 10 pages (at least 8 pages, not more than 10 pages; not including title page and reference list). Your paper will be 12 Font, Times New Roman, Double Spaced, Justified Margins, and IAW APA (in-text and reference list). Papers must be submitted as MSWord documents or pdfs, any other form will receive a zero. While there is not a minimum or maximum number of references required,
students are expected to support their work via the literature (required course material and outside scholarly sources).

**Discussion Boards:** There will be 4 discussion boards during the course of this class. For each, you will be required to make at least 1 substantive original posting plus you will need to reply to at least 2 other students postings (original). The instructor will propose the question or dilemma and the student must answer the question. To earn points, such 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). Students need to include at least one outside scholarly article per posting (1 for original and 1 for reply). Your original post needs to be at least 500 words and at most 1000 words. Your reply must be at least 250 words and at most 500 words. Points will be deducted for those postings not adhering to the stated standard. Discussion board contributions are worth 20% (5% each discussion board) of your total grade. Each discussion forum will remain open from Saturday at 12:01 a.m. and remain open until the following Sunday at 11:59 pm.

Lackadaisical discussions will result in a loss of points for Blackboard discussions.

**Course total based on assignments**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Discussion Boards</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterm</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final</td>
<td>40%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100%</td>
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</tbody>
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Course grades will be calculated using the following scale:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>90-100%</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>80-89%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>70-79%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>60-69%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>59% or Below</td>
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*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 not automatically rounded, this is based on student performance throughout the semester. Rounding will not occur in all cases.***

**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 February 23, 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. 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.

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**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.

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**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](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 (1/15 – 1/21)**
- 1/15: MLK Day – University Closed – No Class
- Chapter 1: Understanding Juvenile Delinquency in a Diverse Society
- Video Links on Blackboard

**Week 2 (1/22 – 1/28)**
- Chapter 2: The Creation of Delinquency
- Video Links on Blackboard

**Week 3 (1/29 – 2/4)**
- Chapter 3: Understanding Delinquency, Data, Correlated, and Trends
- Video Links on Blackboard
- **Discussion Board 1**: Opens 1/27 at 12:01am
  Closes 2/4 at 11:59pm

**Week 4 (2/5 – 2/11)**
- Chapter 4: Micro Level Theories
- Video Links on Blackboard

**Week 5 (2/12 – 2/18)**
- Chapter 5: Macro Level Theories
- Video Links on Blackboard

**Week 6 (2/19 – 2/25)**
- Chapter 6: Critical Theories
- Video Links on Blackboard
- **Discussion Board 2**: Opens 2/18 at 12:01am
  Closes 2/25 at 11:59pm

**Week 7 (2/26 – 3/4)**
- Chapter 7: The Family in Context
- Video Links on Blackboard

**Week 8 (3/5 –3/11)**
- Chapter 8: Schools in Context
Supplemental Reading: Beyond Bad Girls
Video Links on Blackboard

**Week 9 (3/12 – 3/18)**
Spring Break – No Class

**Week 10 (3/19 – 3/25)**
- Midterm Due 3/19 at 11:59pm
- Chapter 9: Peers and Gangs in Context
- Video Links on Blackboard

**Week 11 (3/26 – 4/1)**
- Chapter 10: Drugs in Context
- Video Links on Blackboard
- **Discussion Board 3:** Opens 3/25 at 12:01am
  Closes 4/1 at 11:59pm

**Week 12 (4/2 – 4/8)**
- Chapter 11: why a Separate Juvenile Justice System
- Video Links on Blackboard

**Week 13 (4/9 – 4/15)**
- Chapter 12: The Process of the Juvenile Court
- Video Links on Blackboard
- **Discussion Board 4:** Opens 4/8 at 12:01am
  Closes 4/15 at 11:59pm

**Week 14 (4/16 – 4/22)**
- Chapter 13: Juvenile Corrections
- Supplemental Reading: Lost Causes
- Video Links on Blackboard

**Week 15 (4/23 – 4/29)**
- Chapter 14: Preventative, Rehabilitative, and Restorative Approaches to Delinquency
- Supplemental Reading: Last Chance in Texas
- Video Links on Blackboard

**Week 16 & 17 (4/30 – 5/11)**
- Final Exam Due 5/6 at 11:59pm