CJUS 5800-001  
Topics in Criminal Justice  
Firearms in America

Instructor: Mark Saber, Ph.D.  
Term: Fall 2017  
Class Meeting: T 1:00pm – 3:50pm  
Classroom: ECB 110

Instructor’s Contact Information  
Office: 273G Chilton Hall  
Office Hours: R 1:30pm – 2:30pm by appointment  
Phone: 940-565-4593  
Email: Mark.Saber@unt.edu

REQUIRED TEXTS


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

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES
The primary purpose of this course is to inform students of what scientific research has to say on a topic that is typically treated as if it were a purely ideological or political issue: the relationship between guns, violence, and gun control. The course provides a comprehensive criminological view of the topic rather than a political or legal one, and concentrates on research and evidence rather than opinions.

COURSE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES
At the completion of this course:

- You should be able to evaluate evidence and flaws in arguments for or against stricter gun laws
- You should be able to identify tricks used by advocates to persuade people to agree with their point of view
- You should be able to define and discuss defensive gun uses
- You should be able to discuss the violence enhancing and violence decreasing effects of firearms
- You should be able to distinguish between the different motivations for firearm ownership
- You should be able to identify and discuss the various correlates of firearm ownership

COURSE REQUIREMENTS
This course is out of 100 percent: 40% for term paper, 30% for the midterm exam, 20% for weekly journal articles, and 10% for leading the class chapter discussions.
Grading Scale:
90 – 100 percent = A
80 – 89 percent = B
70 – 79 percent = C
60 – 65 percent = D
59 and below = F

**Missing 3 classes will result in your overall course grade being lowered by one letter grade.**
**Missing 4 or more classes will result in a F as the overall course grade.**

**There is no extra credit offered in this course. Grade related questions or concerns must be addressed within 1 week of the grade being posted to Blackboard. Finally, Grades are not automatically rounded, this is based on student performance throughout the semester. Rounding will not occur in all cases.**

**Term Paper (40%)**
Students will write one final term paper worth 40% of their final grade. This paper will be an update (literature since 1997) of a chapter or section in Targeting Guns (only one student per chapter/section). This paper will be IAW APA in-text citations and reference list, 12 Font, Times New Roman, and Justified Margins. The paper will be 15 pages long and will include a title page and reference list (not included in page count).

**MidTerm Exam (30%)**
There will be one essay base midterm exam worth 30% of your total grade. Students will answer the questions provided using literature concerning the topic since 1997 (Literature after Targeting Guns). Responses will be typed, 12 font, Times New Roman, double spaced, justify margins, and cited IAW APA (in-text and reference list). Your response to the question should be between 8 – 10 pages long with a title page and reference list (not included in page count). Exams will be turned in hardcopy only at the beginning of class as noted in the syllabus. Late midterm exams will receive a zero.

**Weekly Journal Articles (20%)**
When assigned, students will select 3 scholarly journal articles to correspond with the chapters being discussed in class. Each article will be submitted to the professor NLT the Thursday before class by 4:00pm. Students will present their article to the class. Your article presentation should not only discuss the selected article, but also include a discussion of the chapter or part of the chapter, primarily in Targeting Guns, the selected article fit. In total, students will submit articles between 3 and 4 times during the semester. Your presentation should last between 30 and 45 minutes. Article selection and presentation will make up 20% of your final grade.

When submitting journal articles for posting please name the article in the following format:
Author Last Name or et al (Year), Chapter and Section of Targeting Guns

**Example:**
Smith et al. (2007) Chapter 6 Purpose and Motives

Course expectations are that students are reading all articles posted to Blackboard in addition of assigned text chapters and can actively participate and lead a discussion on all readings if called upon.

**Chapter Discussion (10%)**
Students will also lead the class discussion on their selected chapter/assigned chapter in the course texts. While one student will be leading the class discussion, all students are expected to actively participate in all class discussions. Leading the class discussion will make up 10% of your final grade.
Course expectations are that students are reading all chapters assigned and journal articles posted and could step in and take over as needed.

**Late Work**
All due dates are listed in the syllabus and ample time is provided to complete the assignments. Late work of any form is not accepted. Late Assignments = zero.

**MAKE-UP POLICY**
There are no make-ups given in this class. I cannot accept late work or article submissions. Unless extreme exigent circumstances arise, note that I have to be fair to all students in the course and thus deadlines must be in place. You should note that tests and other graded material are open during a range of times, giving all students ample opportunity to avoid missing important deadlines. With that said, if exigent circumstances come up, please let me know and I will do what I can to work with you.

**Authorized Absences for School Related Activities:** 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 graduate/undergraduate catalog for UNT policies and procedures regarding this issue). 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 in a timely manner as set by the professor (usually within the week).

Missing 3 classes will result in your overall course grade being lowered by one letter grade.
Missing 4 or more classes will result in an F as the overall course grade.

**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 the contact the instructor with questions related to citations or other academic integrity concerns.

**Student Evaluation of Instruction (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](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](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.

**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

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.

**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. It is the student’s responsibility to monitor class emails and announcements so that any and all syllabus changes are noted. Failure to obtain syllabus changes or other changes to the class due to lack of diligence on the part of the student does not constitute a defense against missing deadlines and other applicable changes.

**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.
\(T = \text{Targeting Guns} \quad A = \text{Armed}\)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 1</td>
<td>Aug 28</td>
<td>Course introduction, syllabus, term paper, midterm, journal articles, class discussions, and chapter sign-up.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 2</td>
<td>Sep 5</td>
<td>Why does this issue matter? : T1 A1 Journal Articles</td>
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<td>Week 3</td>
<td>Sep 12</td>
<td>Research on Guns and Violence: Fair and Balanced or Twisted? T2 A2, 4 Journal Articles</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 4</td>
<td>Sep 19</td>
<td>Firearm Ownership: T3 A7, 8 Journal Articles</td>
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<td>Week 5</td>
<td>Sep 26</td>
<td>The Bad Gun: T4 AWB: What did it do? Journal Articles</td>
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<td>Week 6</td>
<td>Oct 3</td>
<td>Guns and Self-Defense: T5 A6 Journal Articles</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 7</td>
<td>Oct 10</td>
<td>Guns for Self-Protection: T6 Journal Articles</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 8</td>
<td>Oct 17</td>
<td>MidTerm Exam Due Guns and Violent Crime: T7 Journal Articles</td>
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<td>Week 9</td>
<td>Oct 24</td>
<td>Guns and Suicide: T8 Firearm Accidents: T9 Journal Articles</td>
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<td>Week 10</td>
<td>Oct 31</td>
<td>Public Opinion, the Media, and Gun Control: T10 A3, A5 Journal Articles</td>
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<td>Week 11</td>
<td>Nov 7</td>
<td>Impact of Gun Control on Violence Rates: T11 Journal Articles</td>
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<td>Week 12</td>
<td>Nov 14</td>
<td>ASC Conference – No Class</td>
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<td>Week 13</td>
<td>Nov 21</td>
<td>Library Day: Work on Term Paper</td>
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<td>Week 14</td>
<td>Nov 28</td>
<td>What Should be Done? : T12 Journal Articles</td>
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<td>Week 15</td>
<td>Dec 4</td>
<td>Term Paper Due</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 16</td>
<td>Dec 11</td>
<td>End of Term: Final Exams</td>
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**These descriptions and timelines are subject to change at the discretion of the Professor.**