INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION:

Instructor:  Mark Saber, Ph.D.  
Mark.Saber@unt.edu

Teaching Assistant:  Olabode “Patrick” Shonibare  
Olabode.Shonibare@unt.edu

Office:  Chilton Hall 273G

Office Hours:  by appointment

Phone:  (940) 565-4593

This class is offered on-line. You can contact me or the graduate assistant, Patrick Shonibare via email if you have any questions or want to discuss the course. I am here to assist you in any way possible to make this course as informative and useful in your criminal justice endeavors. This course will require self-discipline and self-motivation to keep up with the readings, assignments and discussion boards. If you put in the effort, you will easily master the content of this course in an online environment.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course will examine the courts, the legal and judicial process, and judicial behavior. As a foundation, we will discuss the history, philosophy, and tradition underlying the American system of justice as they are played out in the criminal courts. The primary objective is to explore the role of the criminal courts within the criminal justice system and the impact on society as a whole. In addition, we will also explore the interaction of judges, prosecutors, defense attorneys, and jurors who collectively contribute to the daily courtroom decisions that include charging, conviction, and sentencing on criminal offenders.

COURSE OBJECTIVES: The goals of this course are for students to:

✓ explain the functions of the participants in the criminal process to
✓ identify the structure of the judicial system
✓ to evaluate the specific criminal law situations and analyze the process that situations will follow both formally and informally through disposition
✓ to explain the rights of victims and defendants provided by law
✓ to appreciate the organization of the courts and the judicial system.

TEXT: The assigned text listed below is 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.

Required Reading:

Method of Evaluation

**ELECTRONIC PARTICIPATION AND COURSE WORK ACTIVITIES:**
Classroom participation is essential to the educational process. Class participation is generally defined as regular class attendance, completing assignments in a timely manner, and participating in class discussions. However, in an internet-based course we will not have standard classroom participation. Instead, we have electronic participation. Specifically, we will have electronic forums on a variety of topics.

**EXAMS:** There will be two exams in this course, Exam 1 and Exam 2. Each exam is worth 250 points of your final grade, for a total of **500 points** of your final grade. Your exams will be timed; from the time that you log in to take an exam, you will have 90 minutes to complete the test. It is imperative that you log in to take it with more than 90 minutes left in the allotted period, because when the time is up, Blackboard will log you out of the exam and all incomplete questions will be marked incorrect by default.

**BLACKBOARD DISCUSSION BOARDS:** Students will be required to submit thorough and well-written responses to blackboard discussion topics. You must participate in ALL discussion boards for each chapter. Typically, an on-line discussion board response should be **at least 300 words**. In addition, students will be required to write at least one response to another student’s participation for each discussion topic. These responses are reactions to the other student’s posting. They should also be **at least 150 to 200 words** and provide a basis for expressing your opinion. There are 6 discussion boards. The Introduction to the class discussion board is worth 10 points and 5 course related discussion boards worth 58 points each (290 points total), for a total of **300 points** of your final grade.

Failure to respond to another student’s post will result in a zero for the assignment.

**Grade calculation (a running point total is available on Blackboard)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exams: 2 exams @ 250 points each</td>
<td>500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Introduction Discussion</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discussion Boards: 5 @ 58 points each</td>
<td>290</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Possible Points</strong></td>
<td><strong>800</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Final grades will be determined based on the following scale:

- A = 720 – 800
- B = 640 – 719
- C = 560 – 639
- D = 480 – 559
- F = 479 points or below

*There are no extra credit opportunities for this course.*

**ONLINE ETIQUETTE**
The objective of an online discussion is to be collaborative, not combative. Please, proofread your responses before you post them to make sure that they will not be offensive to others. Use discussions to develop your skills in collaboration and teamwork. Treat the discussion areas as a creative environment where you and your classmates can ask questions, express opinions, revise opinions, and take positions just as you would in a more “traditional” classroom setting.
**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 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_0](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 SCHEDULE:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Readings</th>
<th>Assignments and Due Dates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Week 1</strong></td>
<td>Readings: Ch. 1 – 3</td>
<td>1. Zip-Code Survey (must be completed to unlock rest of course)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 10 – 16</td>
<td></td>
<td>2. Introduction and Discussion 1 due July 16 at 11:59pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Week 2</strong></td>
<td>Readings: Ch. 4 – 6</td>
<td>Discussion 2 due July 23 at 11:59pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 17 – 23</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Week 3</strong></td>
<td>Readings: Ch. 7 – 8</td>
<td>1. Discussion 3 due July 30 at 11:59pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 24 – 30</td>
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<td>2. Exam 1 (Chapters 1 – 8) due July 30 at 11:59pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Week 4</strong></td>
<td>Readings: Ch. 9 – 11</td>
<td>Discussion 4 due Aug 6 at 11:59pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 31 – Aug 6</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Week 5</strong></td>
<td>Readings: Ch. 12 – 13</td>
<td>1. Discussion 5 due Aug 10 at 11:59pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug 7 – Aug 11</td>
<td></td>
<td>2. Exam 2 (Chapters 9 – 13) due Aug 10 at 11:59pm</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Note: This week’s discussion and Exam are due Thursday this week only – late submissions will not be accepted.**

**The Instructor reserves the right to modify any part of the schedule at any time throughout the semester.**