Judicial and Legal Systems
SUMMER 2018
Student Syllabus: CJUS 3210

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION:
Instructor: Mark Saber, Ph.D.
Email: Mark.Saber@unt.edu
Office: Chilton Hall 273G
Office Hours: by appointment
Phone: (940) 565-4593

This class is offered on-line. You can contact me via email (from your official UNT email address) 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:

**Technical Requirements/Assistance**
The following information has been provided to assist you in preparation for the technological aspect of the course.
UIT Help Desk: [http://www.unt.edu/helpdesk/index.htm](http://www.unt.edu/helpdesk/index.htm)
Hardware and software necessary to use Bb Learn: [http://www.unt.edu/helpdesk/bblearn/](http://www.unt.edu/helpdesk/bblearn/)
Necessary plug-ins: [http://goo.gl/1lsVF](http://goo.gl/1lsVF)

**Minimum Technical Skills**
This is not a computer skills course and as such, students are expected to have a minimum skill set in order to access course materials and complete course assignments. Specifically, students should know how to access a Web site when given an address, use the features of their Web browser, download files, attach files to emails, use word processing software, copy and paste …etc.

**Access and Navigation**
Access and Log in Information
This course was developed and will be facilitated utilizing the University of North Texas’ Learning Management System, Blackboard Learn. To get started with the course, please go to: [https://learn.unt.edu](https://learn.unt.edu)

You will need your EUID and password to log in to the course. If you do not know your EUID or have forgotten your password, please go to: [http://ams.unt.edu](http://ams.unt.edu).

**Student Resources**
As a student, you will have access to:
- Student Orientation via Blackboard Learn. It is recommended that you become familiar with the tools and tutorials within the Orientation to better equip you in navigating the course.
- Blackboard’s [On Demand Learning Center for Students](http://ams.unt.edu). It is recommended that you become familiar with the tools and tutorials to better equip you to navigate the course.
- From within Blackboard, you will have access to the “UNT Helpdesk “tab which provides student resources and Help Desk Information.

**Course Organization**
Course materials can be accessed for each chapter within the course materials tabs. Assignments can be accessed and submitted through the assignments link, discussions through the discussion link, and quizzes can be located by clicking on the Quizzes link within the classroom. The Course Calendar located at the end of the syllabus provides a breakdown of the quiz, discussion and assignment due dates for the course.

**First steps**
Upon entrance into the online classroom, students should spend some time navigating course materials and links to ensure they are able to locate all required materials. After the student has reviewed the syllabus and course materials, students will be required to post an introduction in the Discussion forum and complete a Course expectations quiz.
Student Support
The University of North Texas provides student technical support in the use of Blackboard and supported resources. The student help desk may be reached at:
Email: helpdesk@unt.edu Phone: 940.565-2324

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.

Quizzes: There will be 5 quizzes in this course; each is worth 100 points towards your final grade. Your quizzes will be timed; from the time you log in to take a quiz, you will have 60 minutes to complete the quiz. Quizzes must be completed in one sitting and will auto-submit at the end of the time allowed or the due date and time. Quiz questions will be delivered all at once and you will be able to change your answers. Your quiz score will be available when you finish the quiz, the correct responses will be visible after the availability period ends. If you have questions over a specific question, please email the professor directly after the quiz availability period ends. It is likely that your question will be answered when the correct responses become available. Quiz due dates are listed in the course schedule.

BLACKBOARD DISCUSSION BOARDS: Students will be required to submit thorough and well-written responses to blackboard discussion topics. Typically, an on-line discussion board response should be no less than 200 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 no less than 150 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)
Quizzes: 5 exams @ 100 points each 500 Points
Introduction Discussion 10 Points
Discussion Boards: 5 @ 58 points each 290 Points
Total Possible Points 800 Points

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.*
Late assignment policy:
Late assignments will not be accepted and will receive a grade of “0”. In addition, there is absolutely no allowance for make-up work.

Attendance Policy
As this is an online course, there are fixed deadlines on assignments that students must meet in order to receive up to full credit for completed assignments. Students are expected to log in to the course daily to review course assignments, due dates, and check announcements, etc. 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 July 19, 2018.

Classroom Policies and Online Etiquette:
While this is an online class, we will still engage in weekly discussions in which individuals may have strong opinions regarding course related topics. Our online classroom is a collaborative environment in which every student should feel comfortable expressing ideas, opinions and engaging in thoughtful discussions. Please, proofread you responses carefully 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. Students engaging in disruptive or disrespectful behavior in the classroom will be given one warning through an email from the instructor. A second violation will result in the student being locked out of future discussions eliminating their ability to either participate in future discussions or earn additional discussion points for the course.

A Grade of “Incomplete” (“I”): An Incomplete Grade ("I") is a non punitive grade given only during the last one-fourth of a term/semester and only if a student (1) is passing the course and (2) has a justifiable and documented reason, beyond the control of the student (such as serious illness or military service), for not completing the work on schedule; and (3) arranges with the professor before the end of the semester to finish the course at a later date by completing specific requirements that the professor must list on the grade sheet. All work in the course must be completed within the specified time (not to exceed one year after taking the course) If you do not meet the specifications for this grade, you will need to see the Registrar’s office about resigning from the University.

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 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.

**Resources**

Links to Academic Support Services, such as Office of Disability Accommodation, Counseling and Testing Services, UNT Libraries, Online Tutoring, UNT Writing Lab and Math Tutor Lab can be located within Blackboard Learn on the “Academic Support” tab. UNT Portal: [http://my.unt.edu](http://my.unt.edu)


UNT Library Information for Off-Campus Users: [http://www.library.unt.edu/services/facilities-and-systems/campus-access](http://www.library.unt.edu/services/facilities-and-systems/campus-access)
UNT Computing and Information Technology Center:
http://citic.unt.edu/services-solutions/students

UNT Academic Resources for Students:  http://www.unt.edu/academics.htm
Computer Labs: General access computer lab information (including locations and hours of operation) can be located at:  http://www.gacl.unt.edu/

**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.

**Important Notice for F-1 Students taking Distance Education Courses Federal Regulation**
To read detailed Immigration and Customs Enforcement regulations for F-1 students taking online courses, please go to the Electronic Code of Federal Regulations website at http://ecfr.gpoaccess.gov. The specific portion concerning distance education courses is located at ”Title 8 CFR 214.2 Paragraph (f)(6)(i)(G)” and can be found buried within this document: http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/get-cfr.cgi?TITILE=8&PART=214&SECTION=2&type=TEXT

The paragraph reads:
(G) For F–1 students enrolled in classes for credit or classroom hours, no more than the equivalent of one class or three credits per session, term, semester, trimester, or quarter may be counted toward the full course of study requirement if the class is taken on-line or through distance education and does not require the student's physical attendance for classes, examination or other purposes integral to
completion of the class. An on-line or distance education course is a course that is offered principally through the use of television, audio, or computer transmission including open broadcast, closed circuit, cable, microwave, or satellite, audio conferencing, or computer conferencing. If the F–1 student's course of study is in a language study program, no on-line or distance education classes may be considered to count toward a student's full course of study requirement.

**University of North Texas Compliance**

To comply with immigration regulations, an F-1 visa holder within the United States may need to engage in an on-campus experiential component for this course. This component (which must be approved in advance by the instructor) can include activities such as taking an on-campus exam, participating in an on-campus lecture or lab activity, or other on-campus experience integral to the completion of this course.

If such an on-campus activity is required, it is the student’s responsibility to do the following:

1. Submit a written request to the instructor for an on-campus experiential component within one week of the start of the course.
2. Ensure that the activity on campus takes place and the instructor documents it in writing with a notice sent to the International Student and Scholar Services Office. ISSS has a form available that you may use for this purpose.

Because the decision may have serious immigration consequences, if an F-1 student is unsure about his or her need to participate in an on-campus experiential component for this course, s/he should contact the UNT International Student and Scholar Services Office (telephone 940-565-2195 or email internationaladvising@unt.edu) to get clarification before the one-week deadline.

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**Copyright Notice**

Some or all of the materials on this course Web site may be protected by copyright. Federal copyright law prohibits the reproduction, distribution, public performance, or public display of copyrighted materials without the express and written permission of the copyright owner, unless fair use or another exemption under copyright law applies. Additional copyright information may be located at: [http://copyright.unt.edu/content/unt-copyright-policies](http://copyright.unt.edu/content/unt-copyright-policies).

**Voluntary Product Accessibility Template (VPAT) Blackboard Learn Release 9.1**

**COURSE SCHEDULE:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Readings</th>
<th>Assignments and Due Dates</th>
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| Week 1       | Readings: Ch. 1 – 3 | 1. Zip-Code Survey (must be completed to unlock rest of course)  
| July 9 – 15  |           | 2. Introduction and Discussion 1 due July 15 at 11:59pm  
|              |           | 3. Quiz 1 due July 15 at 11:59pm                         |
| Week 2       | Readings: Ch. 4 – 6 | 1. Discussion 2 due July 22 at 11:59pm  
| July 16 – 22 |           | 2. Quiz 2 due July 22 at 11:59pm                         |
| Week 3       | Readings: Ch. 7 – 8 | 1. Discussion 3 due July 29 at 11:59pm  
| July 23 – 29 |           | 2. Quiz 3 due July 29 at 11:59pm                         |
| Week 4       | Readings: Ch. 9 – 11 | 1. Discussion 4 due Aug 5 at 11:59pm  
| July 30 – Aug 5 |           | 2. Quiz 4 due Aug 5 at 11:59pm                         |
| Week 5       | Readings: Ch. 12 – 13 | 1. Discussion 5 due Aug 9 at 11:59pm  
| Aug 6 – Aug 9 |           | 2. Quiz 5 due Aug 9 at 11:59pm                         |

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

***Assignments for this week will open on 8/4 at 12:01am***

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