

**Criminal Law**  
**CJUS 3201.900/.950**  
**Spring 2014**

Welcome to the online section of CJUS 3201, Criminal Law! To access the class materials, begin with the Start Here tab on the left side of the course page. Review the orientation materials and the document describing the organization of course materials. I have also included a brief welcome video there that provides an overview of the course format and materials. I look forward to having you in this class.

**Instructor Contact Information**

- Professor Peggy Tobolowsky
- Office: Chilton Hall, Room 265
- Office phone: 940-565-4085; Office fax: 940-565-2548
- Email contact: [peggy.tobolowsky@unt.edu](mailto:peggy.tobolowsky@unt.edu)
- Office hours: T/Th: 2:00 - 3:30 pm and by appointment

**Graduate Assistant Information**

Anna Parker is the graduate assistant for this course. She will be assisting me with course logistics and documentation, and will provide support for grading activities. *She will be the person who will be your first point of contact for handling routine matters in the course.* Her email contact is [anna.parker@unt.edu](mailto:anna.parker@unt.edu). She will respond to you within 48 hours of your email. If you contact her with a question that requires my consideration, she will forward your message to me. If you feel that you have a question that requires my initial consideration, feel free to indicate that in your email. If you do not receive a response from Ms. Parker within 48 hours of your email (or if you are in an emergency situation), please contact me directly at [peggy.tobolowsky@unt.edu](mailto:peggy.tobolowsky@unt.edu) or via phone at 940-565-4085. We will not use the Blackboard message function for communication purposes. Email communication with Ms. Parker and me should be done via our unt.edu email addresses.

Please be aware that Ms. Parker does not have the authority to make exceptions for course requirements or modify grades.

## **Online Class Considerations**

This class is completely online. For those of you who have not taken an online class before, these classes require your personal discipline and motivation to keep up with the pace of the class materials. For example, chapter materials will usually be released each week. Most of the chapters will have an assignment and a Blackboard discussion that are due by the end of the week. Similarly, students will have 5 days in the course schedule to identify up to 1 hour to take each exam. Because students have an extended period of time to complete exams, assignments, and Blackboard discussions, there will generally be no make-up exams and late assignments and Blackboard discussions will generally not be accepted. Students with absences that are authorized pursuant to university policy *and* that impact the timeliness of their work (for example, by covering the entire time period during which an assignment or exam could be done), should contact me and provide documentation *prior to any due date* in order for such absence to receive any consideration.

Because the class is online, you will, of course, need to use a personal computer that is compatible with the UNT Blackboard Learn system or use one of the computers available in the campus computer labs. This is important for submitting your assignments and Blackboard discussions in a timely manner and is especially important for your exams. Because your exams are timed, you want to avoid any computer glitches that may impact your work.

In scheduling sufficient time for the submission of your work, remember that the Blackboard Learn system closes for weekly maintenance from 11:00 pm on Saturday nights until 2:00 am early Sunday morning. You will not be able to access Blackboard during this period. In addition, if you are on Blackboard during this period, you will be logged out and no material submitted prior to the shutdown will be saved.

Because most of the communication in this course will occur online, you will need to make sure that you keep up with the class communications. I will use the Announcement page to communicate with the class as a whole. You should check this page frequently. These announcements will also be sent to your UNT email address. If you do not routinely check this email address, make sure to forward your UNT email to your preferred email address so that you can stay up-to-date with class announcements.

Finally, online classes also require some basic technological skills to access course materials and complete assignments. UNT has a variety of resources to assist you with the technological aspects of navigating this and other online classes. One of the most important of these resources is the help desk. It can be reached by email at [helpdesk@unt.edu](mailto:helpdesk@unt.edu) and via phone at 940-565-2324. Personnel at the help desk can assist you with issues concerning access to Blackboard and other technological issues. Additional technological resources are described in Appendix 1 to this syllabus.

## **Course Description**

As the course title indicates, this course concerns criminal law. This is the area of law that defines crimes and provides for their punishment. This is a subject that is essential for all students of Criminal Justice to understand.

The course materials will first address general concepts of crime, such as the elements of crime and the parties that can be held responsible for crime. Next, we will address the basic categories of crime, such as murder, robbery, and theft. Finally, we will cover the defenses to criminal responsibility. With regard to these topics, we will cover both traditional and contemporary concepts of these subjects.

The course material will be divided into chapters and modules. The order in which we will cover the text materials will differ somewhat from the order presented in the text, as reflected in the order of coverage described in the preceding paragraph. Online materials that accompany each chapter will highlight and supplement the assigned text readings. Most chapters will have an accompanying assignment and Blackboard discussion.

## **Course Objectives**

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Demonstrate an understanding of the constitutional limitations on criminal law and how they shape the definitions of crimes.
- Identify and explain the essential elements of the basic crimes and defenses, using both traditional definitions (such as those of the common law) and contemporary definitions (such as those of the Model Penal Code).
- Apply contemporary criminal law definitions (such as those of Texas or other states) to fact patterns.
- Analyze court decisions that apply criminal laws to individual cases.
- Engage in thoughtful discussion with fellow students about aspects of judicial decision making in criminal law cases and topics of current interest in criminal law.

## **Required Text**

Worrall, John R., and Jennifer L. Moore, *Criminal Law*. Boston: Pearson, 2013.

This text is required for all students enrolled in the class and is the only required text for the course. Reading assignments are noted in the Course Schedule. Throughout the course, students

will be directed to other supplementary materials that will either be provided to them via Blackboard or that can be accessed via the internet.

### **Course Requirements**

There are a total of 600 points that students can earn in this class: 3 exams (100 points each, for a total of 300 points); 10 assignments (20 points each, for a total of 200 points); and 10 Blackboard discussions (10 points each, for a total of 100 points). The grading scale and descriptions of the assessment measures are described below.

### **Grading Scale**

537 – 600 points = A

477 – 536 points = B

417 – 476 points = C

357 – 416 points = D

Below 356 points = F

### **Exams (300 points total)**

There will be 3 online exams for this class, located in the Exams tab of the course site when they are released. Each exam will consist of 50 multiple choice questions. Each question is worth 2 points. Thus, each exam is worth 100 points. Each exam will cover the assigned text material *and* any supplemental material provided in the online Blackboard materials. Each exam will cover a portion (approximately 1/3) of the class materials; the third exam is not comprehensive.

During each week in which an exam is scheduled, you will have from Monday at 8:00 am until Friday at 11:59 pm to set aside up to 1 hour to take the exam. These exams will be timed. From the time that you log in to take the exam, you will have up to 1 hour to complete the exam. You are allowed only 1 attempt to take each exam. Once you start the exam, you cannot exit (and return to) the exam or pause the exam time. Make sure that you log in to take the exam with at least 1 hour left in the allotted time period. When the allotted time period for the exam expires, Blackboard will log you out of the exam and will mark all uncompleted answers as incorrect.

Students who do not complete any exam during the scheduled period will receive a zero for the exam. There will generally be no make-up exams.

### **Assignments (200 points total)**

Most chapters will have an accompanying assignment due by the end of time allotted for the chapter, as reflected in the Course Schedule. These assignments will be posted with the Chapter Materials each week. They will also appear in the Assignments tab on the course page once the chapter materials have been released and should be submitted there. There will be a total of 10 of these assignments. Each will be worth a maximum of 20 points.

Students who do not complete any assignment will receive a zero for the assignment. Late assignments will generally not be accepted.

### **Blackboard Discussion Boards (100 points total)**

Most chapters will have an accompanying Blackboard discussion due by the end of time allotted for the chapter, as reflected in the Course Schedule. These Blackboard Discussion assignments will be included in the related Chapter Materials. They will also appear in the Blackboard Discussion Board tab on the course page once the chapter materials have been released and should be submitted there. There will be an introductory discussion board the first week of class and the rest of the discussion boards will be related to class materials.

Each discussion submission should be thorough and well-written and at least 300 words long. Most of the discussion boards will ask you to provide your own posting and respond to the posting of at least 1 other student. Responses to other students should be at least 100 words long. There will be a total of 10 discussion board assignments. Each will be worth a maximum of 10 points – up to 7 points for your posting and up to 3 points for your response to another student's posting. The discussions boards will close at the time indicated on the Course Schedule.

Students who do not complete any discussion board assignment will receive a zero for the discussion board. Late discussion postings will generally not be accepted.

### **General Class Policies**

Communication: Ms. Parker ([anna.parker@unt.edu](mailto:anna.parker@unt.edu)) will generally be your first point of contact for routine class matters and will respond to you within 48 hours of your email. If you contact her with a question that requires my consideration, she will forward your message to me. If you feel that you have a question that requires my initial consideration, feel free to indicate that in your email. If you do not receive a response from Ms. Parker within 48 hours of your email (or if you are in an emergency situation), please contact me directly at [peggy.tobolowsky@unt.edu](mailto:peggy.tobolowsky@unt.edu) or via phone at 940-565-4085. We will not use the Blackboard message function for

communication purposes. Email communication with Ms. Parker and me should be done via our unt.edu email addresses.

Release of Chapter Materials: The Chapter Materials for each chapter and related modules will be released on Blackboard according to the schedule on the Course Schedule. Once released, they will remain available on Blackboard.

Late Policy: Because students have an extended period of time to complete exams, assignments, and Blackboard discussions, there will generally be no make-up exams and late assignments and Blackboard discussions will generally not be accepted. A zero will be awarded for any work that is submitted late or not turned in at all. Students with absences that are authorized pursuant to university policy and that impact the timeliness of their work (for example, by covering the entire time period during which an assignment or exam could be done), should contact me and provide documentation *prior to any due date* in order for such absence to receive any consideration.

Online Etiquette: This online format provides the opportunity to thoughtfully discuss issues and exchange ideas. Your communication with me and your fellow students in this online format should be appropriate to the course and respectful of the opinions of others. Engaging in disruptive or disrespectful behavior in this online forum may result in your dismissal from this class, as provided in university policy.

Posting of Grades: Grades for discussion boards, assignments, and exams will be posted in the Blackboard grade book *no later than 7 days after the final due date* for each assessment. Thus, if the final due date for a discussion board is February 2, the grade for the discussion board will be posted in the grade book by 11:59 pm on February 9. Students can access their grades via the My Grades tab on the course page.

Academic Dishonesty: The university rules concerning cheating and plagiarism will be strictly enforced. Your work on assignments, Blackboard discussions, and exams should be your own independent work.

SETE (Student Evaluation of Teaching): Students will have the opportunity to complete the SETE at the end of the semester and share your thoughts about the course. I value the feedback that I receive from the SETE and strongly encourage you to participate.

ADA Statement: 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://disability.unt.edu/>. You may also contact them by phone at 940.565.4323.

Intellectual Property Statement: The material posted online for this course is my personal intellectual property or that of the university. You may not use this material for anything other than class purposes.

Important Notice for F-1 Students taking Distance Education Courses: see Appendix 2.

## Course Schedule

**Note: Chapter and module materials will be released on Blackboard at 8:00 am on the first date indicated for each unit in the Opening Date column. Students will generally have until the following Sunday night at 11:59 pm to complete any related assignment and Blackboard discussion. Students will have until Friday night at 11:59 pm to complete Exams 1 and 2 of the week they are scheduled. Please note that Exam 3 will be given during the university's exam week and that students will have until 11:59 pm of the Friday of exam week to complete Exam 3.**

<b>Opening Date</b>	<b>Readings, Assignments, Discussion Boards, Exams</b>	<b>Due Dates</b>
Week 1 Opens Monday, January 13 at 8:00 am	Ch. 1, The Basics of Criminal Law  Assignment #1 Discussion Board #1	Assignment #1 and Discussion Board #1 due by Sunday, January 19 at 11:59 pm
Week 2 Opens Monday, January 20 at 8:00 am	Ch. 2, Limitations on the Criminal Law  Assignment #2 Discussion Board #2	Assignment #2 and Discussion Board #2 due by Sunday, January 26 at 11:59 pm
Week 3 Opens Monday, January 27 at 8:00 am	Ch. 3, The Elements of Criminal Liability  Assignment #3 Discussion Board #3	Assignment #3 and Discussion Board #3 due by Sunday, February 2 at 11:59 pm
Week 4 Opens Monday, February 3 at 8:00 am	Chs. 6,7, Criminal Responsibility and Inchoate Crimes	No Assignment or Discussion Board
<b>Week 5 Opens Monday, February 10 at 8:00 am</b>	<b>Exam 1 (covering chs. 1, 2, 3, 6, 7)</b>	<b>Exam 1 must be completed by <u>Friday</u>, February 14 at 11:59 pm</b>
Week 6 Opens Monday, February 17 at 8:00 am	Ch. 8, Homicide  Assignment #4 Discussion Board #4	Assignment #4 and Discussion Board #4 due by Sunday, February 23 at 11:59 pm
Week 7 Opens Monday, February 24 at 8:00 am	Ch. 9, Assaultive Offenses  Assignment #5 Discussion Board #5	Assignment #5 and Discussion Board #5 due by Sunday, March 2 at 11:59 pm

Week 8 Opens Monday, March 3 at 8:00 am	Ch. 10, Property Damage and Invasion  Assignment #6 Discussion Board #6	Assignment #6 and Discussion Board #6 due by Sunday, March 9 at 11:59 pm
Week 9 Monday, March 10 – Sunday, March 16	<b>Spring Break</b>	No Assignment or Discussion Board
Weeks 10, 11 Opens Monday, March 17 at 8:00 am	Ch.11, Theft and Related Crimes  Assignment #7 Discussion Board #7	Assignment #7 and Discussion Board #7 due by Sunday, March 30 at 11:59 pm
<b>Week 12 Opens Monday, March 31 at 8:00 am</b>	<b>Exam 2 (covering chs. 8, 9, 10, 11)</b>	<b>Exam 2 must be completed by <u>Friday</u>, April 4 at 11:59 pm</b>
Weeks 13, 14 Opens Monday, April 7 at 8:00 am	Ch.12, Public Order, Morality, and Vice Crimes  Assignment #8 Discussion Board #8	Assignment #8 and Discussion Board #8 due by Sunday, April 20 at 11:59 pm
Week 15 Opens Monday, April 21 at 8:00 am	Ch. 4, Justification Defenses  Assignment #9 Discussion Board #9	Assignment #9 and Discussion Board #9 due by Sunday, April 27 at 11:59 pm
Week 16 Opens Monday, April 28 at 8:00 am	Ch. 5, Excuse Defenses  Assignment #10 Discussion Board #10	Assignment #10 and Discussion Board #10 due by Sunday, May 4 at 11:59 pm
<b>Week 17 Opens Monday, May 5 at 8:00 am</b>	<b>Exam 3 (covering chs. 4, 5, 12)</b>	<b>Exam 3 must be completed by <u>Friday</u>, May 9 at 11:59 pm</b>

## Appendix 1

### Technological Resources for Students

#### Access and Navigation

##### Access and Log in Information

This course was developed and will be facilitated utilizing the University of North Texas's Learning Management System, Blackboard Learn. To get started with the course, please go to: <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> .

#### 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 and Blackboard Help for Students. It is recommended that you become familiar with the tools and tutorials to better equip you to navigate the course.

#### Being a Successful Online Student

-What Makes a Successful Online Student?

-Self Evaluation for Potential Online Students

#### 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](mailto:helpdesk@unt.edu)

Phone: 940.565-2324

In Person: Sage Hall, Room 130

Regular hours are maintained to provide support to students.

Please refer to the website (<http://www.unt.edu/helpdesk/hours.htm> ) for updated hours.

## **Resources**

UNT Portal: <http://my.unt.edu>

UNT Blackboard Learn Student Resources: Technical Support: <http://www.unt.edu/helpdesk/>

UNT Library Information for Off-Campus Users:

<http://www.library.unt.edu/services/facilities-and-systems/campus-access>

UNT Computing and Information Technology Center:

<http://citc.unt.edu/services-solutions/students>

UNT Academic Resources for Students: <http://www.unt.edu/academics.htm>

Computer Labs: General access computer lab information can be located at:

<http://www.gacl.unt.edu/>

## Appendix 2

### **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://www.oea.gov/index.php/links/electronic-code-of-federal-regulations>. 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://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CFR-2012-title8-vol1/xml/CFR-2012-title8-vol1-sec214-2.xml>

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](mailto:internationaladvising@unt.edu)) to get clarification before the one-week deadline.