

# **CJUS 3201: Criminal Law**

**University of North Texas  
Spring, 2013**

## **Course Information:**

Monday, Wednesday & Friday  
1:00 pm – 1:50 pm  
Location: BLB, Room 120

## **Professor Information:**

Dr. Scott H. Belshaw  
Office: Chilton Hall #265  
Telephone: (940) 565-4591  
Email: scott.belshaw@unt.edu  
Office Hours: By appointment

## **COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This course examines general and statutory bases and theories of criminal law and jurisprudence. Prerequisite(s): CJUS 2100 or equivalent.

## **COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

This course will be an overview of the explanations of criminal law within the components of the criminal justice system (police, courts, prosecution and corrections). At the end of this course, the student will be there to do the following:

1. Describe the basic elements of criminal law and explain the roles of actus reus and mens rea as it relates to criminal law;
2. Recognize statutes that violate the principles of Constitutional law as they relate to Equal Protection, Vagueness, Due Process, Proportionality and others;
3. Understand that without a law, there is no crime; there is no such thing as an inherently criminal act;
4. Explain the methodology used by appellate courts in deciding questions of criminal law;
5. Brief cases, finding the relevant issue(s) and decisions of courts;
6. Apply all of this knowledge to other areas of Criminal Justice, including law enforcement and corrections.

## **REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS:**

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.

1. Worrall & Moore (2012) Criminal Law: Printice Hall  
ISBN-10: 0131383175 | ISBN-13: 978-0131383173 | Edition: 1
2. Dupont III, Todd. Texas Crimes and Consequences: Jones McClure Publishing.  
2011-2012 or 2012- 2013 Editions

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**

The following section lists the required components of this course as well as the points that may be earned toward the final course grade for each component.

**Readings:**

Students should follow the schedule of reading assignments found on the course calendar. The reading assignments need to be read *before* you come to class. This will not only facilitate class discussion, but will also allow you time to formulate questions as we go over the material in class. In addition to the required texts, the course will utilize video presentations, additional handouts, and guest lectures that concern issues pertinent to the study of violence. Information from all sources (textbook, lectures, video presentations, handouts, guest speakers) may be included on course examinations. I understand that you are assigned a lot of reading material. This is actually normal for an upper level class.

**Failure to be prepared can go against your participation grade and not adequately prepare you for the examinations. You are responsible for all material from the lectures and books. This includes when the material is not covered by the professor in class.**

**Extra Credit (Given at SOLE discretion of the instructor):**

Extra credit will be given to students that participate in class. If the instructor sees that the students are not reading the material that has been given to them-(i.e. showing up to class late, texting or using cell phones in class etc.) extra credit will not be given to the students.

**Examinations:**

Each exam will consist of some combination of multiple choice, true/false, matching, and/or essay questions. Note that any material covered in the textbook, class discussions, or any supplemental material (such as extra assigned readings, in-class movies, etc.) is “fair game”. The use of listening devices (MP3 players, etc.) and electronics (including cell phones) is prohibited during testing. Anyone answering cell phone calls, text messages, etc. during the exam will receive a 0. If you have an extreme exception, please see me prior to the exam. **You are responsible for all material from the lectures and books. This includes when the material is not covered by the professor in class.**

IMPORTANT: Make-up exams will absolutely NOT be considered unless there is documented proof of a hospitalization or emergency and I am contacted BEFORE THE EXAM BY EMAIL. Your doctor saying you are sick or you feeling sick is NOT A VALID EXCUSE FOR A MAKEUP EXAM. All makeup examinations will be full essay and will be administered on a date at my discretion. PLEASE DO NOT TRY TO MAKE UP AN EXCUSE IF YOU MISS THE EXAM!

If an emergency situation comes up on test day please notify me immediately by calling my office or the undergraduate office. For any other questions please contact instructor.

**GRADE BREAKDOWN:** Grades are based on your earned point totals for the semester.

Midterm Exam -----	45%
Final Exam -----	45%
Attendance and Participation-----	10%
Total-----	100%
A- 100% -90%	

- B- 80%-89%
- C- 70%-79%
- D- 69%-60%
- F- Below 60%

**Spring 2013 Course Calendar and Reading Schedule\***

Dupont Chapters will be assigned in class.

- Week 1: Introduction and Overview of course/Chapter 1
- Week 2: Worrall Chapter 1
- Week 3 Worrall Chapter 2
- Week 4 Worrall Chapter 3
- Week 5 Worrall Chapter 4
- Week 6 Worrall Chapter 5
- Week 7 Worrall Chapter 6
- Week 8 Worrall Chapter 7
- Week 9 \*\*\*Spring Break\*\*\*
- Week 10 Worrall Chapter 8
- Week 11 Worrall Chapter 9
- Week 12 Worrall Chapter 10
- Week 13 Worrall Chapter 11
- Week 14 Worrall Chapter 12
- Week 15 Worrall Chapter 13/Federal Criminal Justice System (Supplement)
- Week 16 Review for Final Exam

WEEKLY CHAPTERS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE AT THE DISCRETION OF THE INSTRUCTOR.

Final Exam: Friday, May 12<sup>th</sup> @ 10:30am-12:30am Final Exam (Covers Material from midterm to end of course)

\*This reading schedule includes any University holidays. Even if we do not have class you will be still responsible for the material covered. Cases from the Belshaw text will be assigned to the student in class.

**ATTENDANCE POLICY:**

No specific records will be kept regarding student attendance. Attendance, however, will strongly affect course grades because 1) at least 50% of each exam will be drawn from lectures, 2) lectures will elaborate on and review text materials, and 3) each student will be responsible for the content of all lectures, as well as for any announcements, schedule changes, etc. that are made in class. (4) I am aware of the students that do not show up to class. If you are one of those students, you will not receive any help from me regarding recommendation letters, borderline grades etc.

The professor expects that each student will regularly and promptly attend class sessions. A student who is absent from a class session is responsible for the subject matter discussed during that particular session. It will be extremely difficult for you to obtain an acceptable grade in this course if you consistently miss class.

Bonus assignments might be given at the discretion of the professor. You must be present in class to receive credit for the bonus assignments and bonus points will be added to test grades.

#### **ACADEMIC HONESTY:**

It is expected that each student will do his/her own work. Cheating, including plagiarism, on any assignment will result in a zero for that assignment. This is criminal justice, how could anyone even contemplate cheating when you are studying to work in a system based on trust and honor? With that said, I reserve the right to pursue the formal channels for plagiarism/cheating set down in the UNT Policy Manual.

All students are **urged** to read the UNT Code of Student Conduct and Discipline located in the UNT Policy Manual (Section 5.2). Academic dishonesty will be handled on a case-by-case basis with the final disposition being at the discretion of the professor.

#### **A GRADE OF “INCOMPLETE”**

I – Incomplete; a non-punitive grade given only during the last one-fourth of a semester and only if a student (1) is passing the course; (2) has justifiable reason (medical or other emergency circumstance) why the work cannot be completed on a 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.

#### **INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY:**

My lectures are protected by state and common law and by applicable federal copyright laws. You are not authorized to make any commercial use of them without express prior permission from myself. Persons who do make use of my lecture notes for commercial purposes (i.e. sell your class notes to an internet site or other commercially-related business) will be held legally liable.

#### **ADA STATEMENT:**

It is the policy of UNT not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, disability (where reasonable accommodations can be made), disabled veteran status or veteran of the Vietnam era status, in its educational programs, activities, admissions or employment policies. In addition to complying with federal and state equal opportunity laws and regulations, the University, through its diversity policy declares harassment based on individual differences (including sexual orientation) inconsistent with its mission and educational goals. Direct questions or concerns to the equal opportunity office, (940) 565-2456, or the dean of students, (940) 565-2648.

I will make every attempt possible to accommodate anyone with a documented disability. *Please let me know in advance* of exams or other class requirements so I have enough time to send exams or other materials to ODA. You must provide me with the appropriate

exam request forms from ODA prior to the exam in order to take the exam at ODA.

### **GENERAL CLASSROOM POLICIES:**

**Cell Phones and Pagers:** Please turn all cell phones and pagers to vibrate if you have that setting or silent if you do not. Please do not make a habit of text messaging during class. I understand emergencies arise. If you receive an emergency call that you must take, please leave class immediately and take the call or page.

**Laptops:** A student may use a laptop or PDA to take notes but the sound must be turned off. If you are using a laptop or other electronic device to take notes, I expect that you will be taking notes, not “surfing” the Internet or working on other course assignments.

**Talking During Class:** Students should only be talking during class when they are addressing a comment to the class, asking a question, or participating in class discussion. Now, admittedly you will always have one or two things to share with a neighbor or friend in the class. What I am referring to here is engaging in a lengthy conversation or overly loud talking with another person(s) while we are having a class discussion, watching a video, or while I’m lecturing.

**Sleeping:** Sleeping during class will not be tolerated. If a student is found sleeping, he/she will be asked to leave the classroom immediately. While I understand that you may be extremely tired, lying down and sleeping is not only rude, but also distracting.

**Children in the Classroom:** Due to University policy, liability concerns, and the course material, children are not permitted in this class, no exceptions.

**Civility:** Students are expected to display tolerance for others’ views and statements given in class. When disagreement occurs, students are to act considerately. All comments and language should be respectful and appropriate for a college community. If you feel you cannot act respectfully or appropriately, please exit the classroom and return only when your emotions and language are under control. I understand that every once in awhile a student may need to exit the class early. If you know you will need to leave early, please sit near the door so you do not distract other students when you exit.

**Grades:** Every semester, at least a couple of students come to my office around **the end** of the semester asking, “What can I do to raise my grade?” My policy and statement concerning that question is this:

- If you focus on learning and being responsible (i.e., keeping up with assignments, completing extra credit when given, etc.), your final grade will reflect this.
- I do not give individual extra credit. If and when I offer an extra credit assignment it will be offered to the entire class. I suggest you take advantage of extra credit whenever it is offered.
- Borderline grades will be evaluated on a case by case basis and my policy is this: if a student is 0.5 percentage points away from the next letter grade (borderline grade), has completed all extra credit opportunities, and has not missed more than the allowed number of absences, I will bump them to the next letter grade. I will not raise any grades

that are not borderline grades. Not all borderline grades will be raised. Grades are not based on how much I like a person. They are based on work and performance, period. The final decision on whether or not to raise a grade is solely at the discretion of the professor.

### **FINAL POINTS:**

Please do not hesitate to come to me with any questions, problems, or issues you may have. Do not wait to address these issues until it is too late for you to receive an acceptable grade. I think you will find me to be very approachable and eager to address any problems with you in a professional manner.

1. To do well in this class the student must complete all assigned readings prior to that class date. (READ!, READ!!, READ!!!) This will allow for a better discussion and understanding of the material. I take test questions from the book and discussions!!!
2. If you are having academic or even a personal problems please feel free to talk to me. I am here to help. I might understand more than you think!
3. Do NOT email me at the end of the semester asking for your grades. Due to the large number of students that I have this becomes an impossible task. If you want to know your grades on your final and paper please provide me a self-addressed stamped envelope and I will mail them to you. This ensures privacy for the person requesting their grade.
4. If you are looking for a letter of recommendation for a job or graduate school DO NOT send a mass email to multiple professors asking this. We take letters of recommendation very serious. If you cannot take the time to personally ask for a letter from your professor then I do not have the time to write you one.

Although we will attempt to adhere to the schedule of topics listed and described below, the course schedule should be viewed as *highly flexible*. I am not interested in covering the material as fast as possible simply for the sake of covering it. Rather, I want to cover the material that we do cover thoroughly, and at a pace that is conducive to *learning* the material instead of simply *covering* the material. Consequently, it is your responsibility to come to class, know where we are in the listing of assigned readings *irrespective of this schedule*, and know the material that we have covered prior to any reading assessment, examination, and/or presentation. Further, there may be additional items added to the calendar throughout the course of the semester (i.e. video presentations and/or handouts). It will be your responsibility to keep up with these as well.