CJUS 4901-001: Senior Seminar
Course Syllabus

Instructor: Brooke Miller
Term: Summer 2015
Class meeting: MTWTh 10-11:50a
Classroom: BLB 140

Instructor’s Contact Information

Office Phone 940-565-2562 – email preferred
Email brooke.miller@unt.edu
Office Location Chilton 273K
Office Hours 9-10a M-W by appointment

Email expectations: Include the COURSE NUMBER (CJUS 4901) in the subject line of all email correspondence. Only emails sent through your UNT email account (username@unt.edu) will receive a response. Allow 24 hours on weekdays for a response; emails sent over the weekend or on holidays will generally be answered on the next business day.

Required readings
The assigned text listed below is required for all students enrolled in this course.


Course Description
(3 hours) Examination of the problems and issues involved in forming and implementing criminal justice policy in the United States. Course represents the final capstone experience for the student and should generally be taken in the semester the student will graduate.
(Prerequisite(s): Senior standing and at least 33 hours of criminal justice, with 18 hours from the criminal justice core.)

Learning Objectives
After completion of this course, it is expected that students:

• have a firm understanding of the importance of studying the effectiveness criminal justice policy from an evidence-based perspective
• be able to differentiate the reality of crime and criminal justice policy from myths
• be familiar with the various models and types of public policy
• examined essential literature related to criminal justice policy
• improve their ability to integrate and synthesize diverse forms and sources of information
• improve their ability to consider diverse perspectives, ideas, cultures, and viewpoints when looking at criminal justice policy issues
• improve their ability to use ethical analysis in addressing criminal justice policy issues
Method of Evaluation

**Discussion reaction essays:** Students will complete a reaction essay and participate in an online discussion each week. There will be 4 reaction essays/participation assignments worth 100 points each. Discussions will consist of an initial reaction essay submission as well as responses to at least 2 classmates posts each discussion week. The initial reaction post will comprise a short written assignment arguing a single side of the assigned criminal justice issue for the week. **Participation expectations:** In addition to the initial discussion response, students must also post a minimum of 2 substantive participation posts in response to another classmates discussion post each discussion week. Participation posts must reflect critical thought and reflect substantive contribution to the class discussion (a minimum of 250 words). Rather, simply posting that you agree or disagree with another students post or restating their post does not constitute a substantive response. Students are also expected to incorporate appropriate citations in APA format for any information obtained from an outside source, including the course textbook. **Availability and due dates:** Reaction essays/discussions will be posted each Thursday mornings at 12:01a and will close Monday morning at 10a. Students must respond to the discussion question in order to unlock that week’s discussion and enable the ability to respond to others’ posts. All reaction essays and participation posts must be completed by the due date and time. **No late reaction essay submissions or participation posts will be accepted for any reason.** Reaction essay discussions/ participation posts will be graded and returned within one week of the assignment due date.

**In class debates:** Students will be assigned to groups at the beginning of the course. They will work with this group throughout the course in developing 4 in class debate presentations worth 100 points each. Everyone in the group is expected to participate in generating ideas, collecting articles/supporting materials and participating in class discussions. As part of these discussions, students will evaluate their group members on their participation in the preparation and presentation process. Presentations will take place each Monday during weeks 2-5 of the course. Students must be present for the presentation in order to receive credit.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Discussion reaction essays (4 @ 100 pts each)</th>
<th>400 possible pts</th>
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<tr>
<td>In-class debates (4 @ 100 pts each)</td>
<td>400 possible pts</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>800 possible pts</strong></td>
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Final course grades will be based on your accumulation of points according to the table below (grades will not be rounded – the total points accumulated at the end of the semester will be used to determine the final grade):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Points Range</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>720-800 pts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>640-719 pts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>560-639 pts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>480-559 pts</td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>479 pts and below</td>
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*If an opportunity for extra credit presents itself, it will be discussed in class and available to the entire class at the discretion of the instructor. There will be no individual opportunities for extra credit.

**Makeup policy**
There are no make-up exams/assignments in this class with the exception of authorized absences according to university policies prescribing authorized absences in certain situations (work, work travel, vacation etc. do not constitute a university authorized absence or an emergency and are not excuses warranting the issuance of a makeup). The professor reserves the right to consider extreme circumstances and modify this rule. Those who are absent for religious holidays, and/or those involved in other school supported activities that require being absent from class will be allowed to make up work if proper procedures are followed in requesting an excused absence. The professor must have written documentation in advance that the student will be away from class for the absence to be excused. Notification must be in writing so that the professor may have it for record purposes. There is, absolutely, no make-up for “assignments” missed or turned in late unless authorized as a result of a university related absence. Make-up assignments as a result of authorized absences must be turned in within 3 days of returning from the authorized absence. In the event that circumstances require a make-up test, and provided students follow the appropriate procedures for requesting an excused absence that falls on a test day, any authorized make-up test will be conducted at the discretion of the professor. In the event that the instructor approves the makeup exam, it may be administered in an alternate format.

**Attendance Policy**
Class attendance is not required. However, students must be present to participate in group work preparation and presentations as part of their grade. As such, it will be difficult to earn a passing grade in the course if students are not present. Students not in class, will not receive credit for missed assignments, presentations, etc. and will not be able to make these assessments up.

Students are expected to attend each scheduled class meeting having completed the assigned readings and prepared for discussion. In the event of an absence, students are responsible for the material covered during each class session. The professor does not repeat lectures or hand out class notes. Pop quizzes and graded in class assignments cannot be made up; students must be present to receive credit for these types of assignments.

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 23, 2015**.

**Classroom Policies**
Students are expected to arrive to class on time and be attentive/engaged during class lectures and discussions. The classroom is a place to express ideas, opinions, and engage in thoughtful discussions. Students will respect the views and opinions of others at all times or will be asked to leave the classroom. Additionally, disruptive behaviors such as arriving late, having a conversation while someone else is talking, profanity, sleeping, text messaging, using laptops/tablets for anything other than course related activities, cell phones going off during
class, etc. are not acceptable. Students repeatedly engaging in any of these behaviors may be asked to leave the classroom.

**Additional 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.

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 the issues in class as well as test material.

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.

**Exam policies:** Students will be expected to leave all of their belongings at the front of the classroom during the exam which they may retrieve upon completing the exam when leaving the classroom. During exams, students may only have the materials necessary to complete their exam on their desk (e.g., pencil, scantron, blue book etc.). Also, no exams will be issued after the first exam has been submitted. Rather, if a student arrives late on exam day and one completed exam has been turned in, the student will not be allowed to complete the exam.

**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 Teaching Effectiveness (SETE)
The Student Evaluation of Teaching Effectiveness (SETE) is a requirement for all organized classes at UNT. This short survey will be made available to you at the end of the semester, providing you a chance to comment on how this class is taught. I am very interested in the feedback I get from students, as I work to continually improve my teaching. I consider the SETE to be an important part of your participation in this class.

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.
### 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.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>WEEK</th>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>TOPIC AND ASSIGNMENT SUMMARY</th>
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|      | M7/13  | Topic: Introduction, Locating sources and APA, Group assignments/topic selection  
Reading: Syllabus |
| 1    | T7/14  | Topic: CJ system and CJ policy creation  
Reading: Chapters 1-3 |
|      | W7/15  | Topic: CJ system and CJ policy creation - 3 strikes  
Reading: Chapters 1-3 CJ system and CJ policy creation  
Assignment: Prepare for week 2 group presentations |
|      | Th7/16 | Topic: CJ system and CJ policy creation  
Reading: Chapters 1-3  
Assignment: Wk1 reaction essay available July 16 |
|      | M7/20  | Assignments: Wk1 reaction essay due 10a  
Group presentations  
10-11a: Use of force – Group 3 in favor & Group 4 against  
11-12p: Mandatory sentencing/3 strikes – Group 1 in favor & Group 2 against |
| 2    | T7/21  | Topic: Prediction, law enforcement, deterrence  
Reading: Chapters 4-6 |
|      | W7/22  | Topic: Prediction, law enforcement, deterrence  
Reading: Chapters 4-6  
Assignment: Prepare for week 3 group presentations |
|      | Th7/23 | Topic: Prediction, law enforcement, deterrence  
Reading: Chapters 4-6  
Assignment: Wk2 reaction essay available |
|      | M7/27  | Assignments: Wk2 reaction essay due 10a  
Group presentations  
10-11a: Body cameras – Group 2 against & Group 3 in favor  
11-12p: Death penalty – Group 1 in favor & Group 4 against |
<p>| 3    | T7/28  | Topic: Incarceration, victimization, loop holes |</p>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading: Chapter</th>
<th>Assignment</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>W7/29</td>
<td>Topic: Incarceration, victimization, loop holes</td>
<td>7-9</td>
<td>Prepare for week 4 group presentations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Th7/30</td>
<td>Topic: Incarceration, victimization, loop holes</td>
<td>7-9</td>
<td>Wk3 reaction essay available</td>
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<td>M8/3</td>
<td>Assignments: Wk3 reaction essay due 10a</td>
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<td>Group presentations</td>
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<td>10-11a: Prison privatization – Group 1 against &amp; Group 4 in favor</td>
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<td>11-12p: Campus carry – Group 2 in favor &amp; Group 3 against</td>
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<td>T8/4</td>
<td>Topic: Gun control, rehabilitation, evidence based practice</td>
<td>10-12</td>
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<tr>
<td>W8/5</td>
<td>Topic: Gun control, rehabilitation, evidence based practice</td>
<td>10-12</td>
<td>Prepare for week 5 group presentations</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Reading: Chapter</td>
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<tr>
<td>Th8/6</td>
<td>Topic: Gun control, rehabilitation, evidence based practice</td>
<td>10-12</td>
<td>Wk4 reaction essay available</td>
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<td>Reading: Chapter</td>
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<tr>
<td>M8/10</td>
<td>Assignments: Wk4 reaction essay due 10a</td>
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<td>Group presentations</td>
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<td>10-11a: Alternative policing styles – Group 2 maintain &amp; Group 4 change</td>
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<td>11-12p: Decriminalization of drugs – Group 1 in favor &amp; Group 3 against</td>
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<tr>
<td>T8/11</td>
<td>Topic: Drugs and communities and crime</td>
<td>13-14</td>
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<tr>
<td>W8/12</td>
<td>Topic: Drugs and communities and crime</td>
<td>13-14</td>
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<tr>
<td>Th8/13</td>
<td>Final exam – opens in Blackboard 12:01a due by 11:59p</td>
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