

**University of North Texas at Dallas  
Spring 2013  
SYLLABUS**

<b>CJUS 3201D: CRIMINAL LAW (3 Hrs)</b>			
<b>Department of</b>	<b>Urban and Public Leadership</b>	<b>Division of</b>	<b>Urban and Professional Studies</b>
<b>Instructor Name:</b>	<i>Gretchen H. Choe, J.D., M.S.C.J.</i>		
<b>Office Location:</b>	<i>DAL2 317</i>		
<b>Office Phone:</b>	<i>972-338-1840</i>		
<b>Email Address:</b>	<i>Gretchen.choe@unt.edu</i>		
<b>Office Hours:</b>	<b>MT 2:00-4:00, W 12:00-1:00, R 3:00-5:00, 6:00-7:00 and by appointment</b>		
<b>Virtual Office Hours:</b>	<i>By appointment</i>		
<b>Classroom Location:</b>	<i>DAL1 262</i>		
<b>Class Meeting Days &amp; Times:</b>	<b>M 4:00-6:50 PM</b>		
<b>Course Catalog Description:</b>	This course examines the constitutional and statutory bases and theories of criminal law and jurisprudence.		
<b>Prerequisites:</b>	<b>None</b>		
<b>Co-requisites:</b>	<b>None</b>		
<b>Required Text:</b>	Dowling, Jerry L. <u>Texas Criminal Law: Principles and Practices</u> . Upper Saddle River: Pearson, 2009		
<b>Recommended Text and References:</b>	<b>Texas Penal Code (available online); access to Lexis/Nexis or Westlaw through UNT Dallas library electronic resources</b>		
<b>Access to Learning Resources:</b>	UNT Dallas Library: phone: (972) 780-3625; web: <a href="http://www.unt.edu/unt-dallas/library.htm">http://www.unt.edu/unt-dallas/library.htm</a> UNT Dallas Bookstore: phone: (972) 780-3652; e-mail: <a href="mailto:1012mgr@fhg.follett.com">1012mgr@fhg.follett.com</a>		
<b>Course Goals or Overview:</b>			
	This course focuses on substantive criminal law: i.e., basic crimes and criminal defenses. In this connection, we will explore the traditional common law and Texas statutory definitions of the crimes and defenses.		
<b>Learning Objectives/Outcomes:</b> At the end of this course, the student will be able to:			
1	Define the elements of Texas and common law crimes		
2	Differentiate between common law and statutory definitions		
3	Evaluate different fact scenarios and apply the elements of crimes to those facts		
4	Demonstrate how to research and locate applicable statutes, including those under consideration by the Texas Legislature (during semesters when the legislature is in session)		

## Course Outline

This schedule is subject to change by the instructor. Any changes to this schedule will be communicated in class and via announcements or emails in Blackboard.

TOPICS	TIMELINE
Introduction Texas/Federal Court Systems Common Law vs. Statutory Law "Elements" of crimes Researching current laws and Texas Legislative Bills	1/14/13
HOLIDAY – NO CLASS	1/21/13
Chapter 1 – Foundations of Criminal Law Chapter 2 – Elements of a Crime Chapter 4 – Parties to Offenses	1/28/13
Chapter 15 – Defenses/Justifications/Excuses Exam Review	2/4/13
<b>EXAM 1</b> Chapter 5 – Criminal Homicide	<b>2/11/13</b>
Chapter 6 – Assault and Sexual Assault	2/18/13
Chapter 7 – Kidnapping and Related Offenses Exam Review	2/25/13
<b>EXAM 2</b>	<b>3/4/13</b>
SPRING BREAK	Week of 3/11/13
Chapter 8 – Property Offenses	3/18/13
Chapter 9 (with Ch. 10 included) – Thefts and Frauds	3/25/13
Chapter 11 – Burglary and Criminal Trespass Exam Review	4/1/13
<b>EXAM 3</b>	<b>4/8/13</b>
Chapter 12 – Offenses against Government Operations SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIAL: Offenses Involving Morality, Narcotics	4/15/13
Chapter 13 – Public Disorder and Safety Crimes	4/22/13
Chapter 14 – Preparatory Offenses Exam Review	4/29/13
<b>FINAL EXAM</b>	<b>May 6, 2013 4:30 p.m. (NOTE THE TIME)</b>

## Course Evaluation Methods

*This course will utilize the following instruments to determine student grades and proficiency of the learning outcomes for the course.*

### Four Exams

#### Grading Matrix:

Instrument	Value (points or percentages)
Exam 1	25%
Exam 2	25%
Exam 3	25%
Final Exam	25%
<b>Total:</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Grade Determination:**

- A = 90% or better
- B = 80 – 89%
- C = 70 – 79%
- D = 60 – 69%
- F = less than 60%

**Exam Policy:**

*The exams may consist of multiple choice, true-false, definitional, descriptive, listing, and/or short answer questions. There will be no make-up exams unless you have a university-recognized emergency, notify me prior to the exam that you will have to reschedule, and provide appropriate documentation of the emergency.*

*Exams will be taken in Blackboard Learn. They will be proctored in a computer lab during our regularly scheduled class time. In the event of a technical problem during the exam, I reserve the right to substitute an alternate, paper exam. Please come prepared with a scantron and pencil as a backup.*

**Assignment Policy:**

*Each student will be required to participate in group discussions and in class assignments relating to different areas of criminal law. Although this work is not assessed, it will be critical to your exam preparation to be present and participate in the group discussions and assignments. Exam questions are likely to come directly from the class discussions.*

**Incompletes:**

*Pursuant to University policy, incompletes will not be given unless ALL of the following conditions have been met:*

- (1) the student has completed 3/4 of the class*
- (2) the student is currently passing the course, and*
- (3) the request for an incomplete is pursuant to a University-recognized reason (medical emergency or military deployment).*

**Extra Credit:**

*On occasion, I have assigned extra credit to various classes. It is a privilege and an opportunity, not a right or an obligation. I do not give individual extra credit under any circumstances. If extra credit is assigned in class, depending on the nature of the assignment, turnitin.com may be used as a tool. By submitting your assignment in this manner, you are consenting to its access by other individuals and entities for comparison and plagiarism detection.*

**University Policies and Procedures****Students with Disabilities (ADA Compliance):**

*The University of North Texas Dallas faculty is committed to complying with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Students' with documented disabilities are responsible for informing faculty of their needs for reasonable accommodations and providing written authorized documentation. Grades assigned before an accommodation is provided will not be changed as accommodations are not retroactive. For more information, you may visit the Student Life Office, Suite 200, Founders Hall (Building 2).*

**Student Evaluation of Teaching Effectiveness Policy:**

*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.*

### **Academic Integrity:**

*Academic integrity is a hallmark of higher education. You are expected to abide by the University's code of Academic Integrity policy. Any person suspected of academic dishonesty (i.e., cheating or plagiarism) will be handled in accordance with the University's policies and procedures. Refer to the Student Code of Academic Integrity at [http://www.unt.edu/unt-dallas/policies/Chapter%2007%20Student%20Affairs,%20Education,%20and%20Funding/7.002%20Code%20of%20Academic\\_Integrity.pdf](http://www.unt.edu/unt-dallas/policies/Chapter%2007%20Student%20Affairs,%20Education,%20and%20Funding/7.002%20Code%20of%20Academic_Integrity.pdf) for complete provisions of this code.*

*In addition, all academic work submitted for this class, including exams, papers, and written assignments should include the following statement:*

**On my honor, I have not given, nor received, nor witnessed any unauthorized assistance that violates the UNTD Academic Integrity Policy.**

### **Bad Weather Policy:**

*On those days that present severe weather and driving conditions, a decision may be made to close the campus. In case of inclement weather, call the UNT Dallas main voicemail number (972) 780-3600 or search postings on the campus website [www.unt.edu/dallas](http://www.unt.edu/dallas). Students are encouraged to update their Jag Alert contact information, so they will receive this information automatically.*

### **Attendance and Participation Policy:**

*The University attendance policy is in effect for this course. Class attendance and participation is expected because the class is designed as a shared learning experience and because essential information not in the textbook will be discussed in class. The dynamic and intensive nature of this course makes it impossible for students to make-up or to receive credit for missed classes. Attendance and participation in all class meetings is essential to the integration of course material and your ability to demonstrate proficiency. Students are responsible to notify the instructor if they are missing class and for what reason. Students are also responsible to make up any work covered in class. It is recommended that each student coordinate with a student colleague to obtain a copy of the class notes if they are absent.*

### **Diversity/Tolerance Policy:**

*Students are encouraged to contribute their perspectives and insights to class discussions. However, offensive & inappropriate language (swearing) and remarks offensive to others of particular nationalities, ethnic groups, sexual preferences, religious groups, genders, or other ascribed statuses will not be tolerated. Disruptions which violate the Code of Student Conduct will be referred to the Center for Student Rights and Responsibilities as the instructor deems appropriate.*

### **Use of Blackboard Learn:**

*I utilize Blackboard extensively to communicate announcements, provide additional readings of interest, facilitate discussion topics, email individual students, and for other reasons as may be appropriate during the semester. It is your responsibility to check Blackboard regularly throughout the semester.*

### **Use of Cell Phones, Laptops & other Electronic Gadgets in the Classroom:**

*I do not prohibit the use of electronics in the classroom as a general rule. I trust that most students are using these devices to further their education and for educational purposes during class. However, if it comes to my attention that these devices are creating a distraction to yourself or to other students, I reserve the right to change this policy by communicating such a change in class and through Blackboard.*

### **Food & Drink in the Classroom:**

*I do not prohibit food or drink the classroom during classes, If this becomes a distraction, I reserve the right to change this policy by communicating such a change in class and through Blackboard.*

**Disruptions:**

*I reserve the right to ask anyone who is creating a disruption during class to leave the room. Please be respectful of your fellow students. Come to class on time and stay until class ends. Students constantly coming into and leaving the classroom during class create a distracting environment for the other students as well as the instructor. While classroom questions and discussion are encouraged and assessed, continually interrupting lectures with commentary and off-topic questions may also be disruptive.*

**Legal Questions:**

*In my capacity as the instructor of record for this course, it would create a potential conflict of interest if I were to render legal opinions regarding specific circumstances. As such, if you have specific questions of a legal nature, please seek appropriate legal advice. The UNT legal services office is available to UNT Dallas students, and the website is <http://studentlegal.unt.edu/>. You can also get referrals from the Dallas Bar Association if you live in Dallas County (<https://www2.dallasbar.org/referral/>) and through the State Bar of Texas referral service for outside of Dallas County ([http://www.texasbar.com/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Other\\_Lawyer\\_Referral\\_Services](http://www.texasbar.com/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Other_Lawyer_Referral_Services)). There are also clinical programs and law libraries at the courthouse and SMU and Texas Wesleyan University law schools that might have resources available to assist you.*