

# University of North Texas at Dallas

## FALL 2015

### SYLLABUS

<b>CJUS 3201D: CRIMINAL LAW (3 Hrs)</b>			
<b>Department of</b>	<b>Criminal Justice</b>	<b>School of</b>	<b>Liberal Arts and Sciences</b>
<b>Instructor Name:</b>	<i>Gretchen Hackard, 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>	<a href="mailto:Gretchen.hackard@untdallas.edu">Gretchen.hackard@untdallas.edu</a>		
<b>Office Hours:</b>	<b>MW 1-3:45 PM and by appointment</b>		
<b>Virtual Office Hours:</b>	<b>TR 1-3 PM and by appointment</b>		
<b>Contacting Dr. Hackard:</b>			
<p>For <u>course-related questions and information</u> (e.g., grades, questions about an assignment or exam, etc.), you must use Blackboard to contact me. Course-related messages that are sent to my general UNT Dallas email address will not be answered.</p> <p>For <u>non-course information</u> (e.g., career information, prelaw advising, internship opportunities, etc.), you may use the email address in my contact information above, but are also free to use Blackboard as well.</p> <p>I do not check phone messages remotely, so if you leave a message on my office phone, it may not be returned until the next time I am in the office (which could be as much as a few days). I generally check Blackboard and email at least once daily during the workweek, and at least once during a weekend.</p>			
<b>Classroom Location:</b>	<b>Learn.untdallas.edu</b>		
<b>Class Meeting Days &amp; Times:</b>	<b>ONLINE – ASYNCHRONOUS</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. <i>Texas Criminal Law: Principles and Practices</i> . Upper Saddle River: Pearson, 2009 ADDITIONAL RESOURCES POSTED ONLINE WITHIN COURSE		
<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>	Please refer to the “UNTD Student Resources” link in Blackboard		

**Course Goals or Overview:**

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.

**Learning Objectives/Outcomes:** 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 Schedule and Requirements**

This schedule is subject to change by the instructor. Any changes to this schedule will be communicated via announcements or emails in Blackboard. You are also responsible for reading through the course information on Blackboard.

- Unit 1 (located inside the “Start Here” tab) is an introduction to the course. There is an introductory quiz about the online environment and the syllabus that must be completed with a score of 20 before you can begin the academic content section of the course (this counts as your first quiz grade, so everyone gets an A out of the gate – after that, it’s up to you).
- The academic content contains 4 modules with units (chapters) within each module. Each unit has its own readings, assignments, discussions, and quiz; and each module has its own exam. You will not be able to take the module exam until you have completed at least one attempt on all the unit quizzes within the module.
- The exam grade will NOT be counted into your final average, but you must achieve at least 60% in order to get credit for the points earned for the quizzes and discussions within that module.
- Quizzes may be taken an unlimited number of times before the deadlines. You may take the exam for each module twice as long as you complete it before the deadlines below.
- If you pace yourself, you will complete more or less one unit per week (with some slight variations). Module course material will remain available throughout the course after the module becomes available, but the discussions, quizzes, and exams will only be available through the deadline for each module.

**Module 1** – Module 1 consists of Units 2-5 and begins after the introduction quiz at the beginning of the course; Module quizzes, exam, and discussion must be completed no later than **11:59 p.m. on Wednesday, September 16.**

**Module 2** – Module 2 consists of Units 6-8 and begins at 12:00 a.m. on Thursday, September 17; Module quizzes, exam, and discussion must be completed no later than **11:59 p.m. on Wednesday, October 7.**

**Module 3** – Module 3 consists of Units 9-11 and begins at 12:00 a.m. on Thursday, October 8; Module quizzes, exam, and discussion must be completed no later than **11:59 p.m. on Wednesday, November 11.**

**Module 4** – Module 4 consists of Units 12-15 and begins at 12:00 a.m. on Thursday, November 12; Module quizzes, exam, and discussion must be completed no later than **11:59 p.m. on Wednesday, December 9.**

## Legislative Inquiry Assignment:

For this assignment, you will locate two bills that have been proposed to affect Texas criminal law (adding a new crime, changing the definition of a current crime, or affecting the punishment of an offense).

For each of the bills you select, you will write an analytical paper that has two major parts:

1. General information about the bill
2. Your personal analysis of the bill

This assignment will be due no later than **11:59 p.m. on Wednesday, November 25**. Details are provided in the course page in Blackboard labeled "Legislative Inquiry." **LATE PAPERS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**

## Module Discussions

You will be placed into small groups for purposes of online discussions. Each module will have a discussion prompt related to criminal law. You will be required to post a response to the prompt and reply to at least two other students within your group. I am well aware that sometimes there are only one or two students who post within a group. If your peers have not created any original responses to the prompt, I will assume your good intention to respond to them and will assess you accordingly as long as you have posted a response to the prompt. If your peers **HAVE** posted, good intentions earn you nothing if you don't respond. A rubric for grading will be posted in Blackboard.

## Course Evaluation Methods

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

Instrument	Value (points or percentages)
Unit quizzes (15) ***Must achieve 60% on Module exam to get credit for all the unit quizzes in each module.	20 points each (300 points total)
Legislative Inquiries (2)	50 points each (100 points total)
Module discussions (4)	50 points each (200 points total)
<b>Total:</b>	<b>600 points</b>

To determine your grade, divide your total number of points earned by 600.

- A = 90 – 100%
- B = 80 – 89%
- C = 70 – 79%
- D = 60 – 69%
- F = less than 60%

## University Policies and Procedures

### Emergencies:

*If you have a university-recognized emergency during the semester that prevents you from timely completing a portion of the course (e.g., module exam, quizzes, etc.), you must notify me immediately of the reason you were unable to fulfill the requirement on time. Access to the material after the deadline has passed will be granted on a case-by-case basis.*

### **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).*

### **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 Affairs 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 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.**

### **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.*

### **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. For those meeting certain qualifications, the Dallas Volunteer Attorney Program is a good way to get affordable help (<http://dallasvolunteerattorneyprogram.org/>). Alternatively, you can get referrals from the Dallas Bar Association (if you have a legal issue that arises within Dallas County - <http://www.dallasbar.org/lawyerreferralservice>) or through the State Bar of Texas referral service for legal issues arising outside of Dallas County (<http://www.texasbar.com>). There are also clinical programs and law libraries at the courthouse and SMU and Texas A&M University law schools that might have resources available to assist you. Once the clinical programs are up and running at the UNT Dallas College of Law, I expect they will be available as well.*