

University of North Texas at Dallas
Fall 2013
SYLLABUS

CJUS 3210D: Judicial and Legal Systems (3 hrs)	
Department of	Criminal Justice
Division of	Business and Public Leadership
Instructor Name:	<i>Gretchen H. Choe, M.S., J.D.</i>
Office Location:	<i>FH (DAL2) 317</i>
Office Phone:	<i>972-338-1840</i>
Email Address:	<i>Gretchen.choe@unt.edu</i>
Office Hours:	MTWR 2:30-3:50 and by appointment
Virtual Office Hours:	<i>By appointment</i>
Classroom Location:	<i>Founders Hall (DAL2) 303</i>
Class Meeting Days & Times:	Tuesdays 4:00-6:50 p.m.
Course Catalog Description:	This course examines the courts, the legal and judicial process and judicial behavior.
Prerequisites:	None
Co-requisites:	None
Required Text:	Spohn, C. and Hemmens, C. <i>Courts: A Text/Reader</i> 2d ed. Sage: 2012
Recommended Text and References:	Constitution of the United States
Access to Learning Resources:	UNT Dallas Library: phone: (972) 780-3625; web: http://www.unt.edu/unt-dallas/library.htm UNT Dallas Bookstore: phone: (972) 780-3652; e-mail: 1012mgr@fheg.follett.com
Course Goals or Overview:	This course examines the courts, the legal and judicial process and judicial behavior.
Learning Objectives/Outcomes:	At the end of this course, the student will be able to:
1	Describe the federal and state court systems and their historical developments
2	Describe the function of the criminal court systems in the United States
3	Articulate the law and procedural rules applicable to the actors within the court systems
4	Identify the key players in the judicial system, their roles, and the process for their appointments to those positions
5	Describe basic trial procedure and other case disposition options

Course Outline

*This schedule is subject to change by the instructor. Any changes to this schedule will be communicated by an announcement on Blackboard. **Additional readings for each section will be assigned via Blackboard and discussed in class during each session. You are responsible for preparing these readings in advance of the class in which the section is discussed, not just in time for the group discussions during the exam reviews.***

TOPICS	TIMELINE
Introduction Section 1 – Introduction: Courts and Case Processing	9/3/2012
Section 2 – Historical and Contemporary Perspectives on Courts	9/10/2012
Section 3 – Prosecutors and Defense Attorneys	9/17/2012
Group discussion over readings EXAM REVIEW	9/24/2012
EXAM 1	10/1/2012
Section 4 – Judges and Jurors	10/8/2012
Section 5 – Pretrial Proceedings	10/15/2012
Section 6 – Plea Bargaining and Trial Dynamics	10/22/2012
Group discussion over readings EXAM REVIEW	10/29/2012
EXAM 2	11/5/2012
Section 7 – Sentencing	11/12/2012
<u>COURT ASSIGNMENTS DUE</u> Section 8 – Beyond Conviction and Sentencing	<u>11/19/2012</u>
Section 9 – Specialized Courts and Other Trends in Adjudication	11/26/2012
Group discussion over readings EXAM REVIEW	12/3/2012
<u>FINAL EXAM</u>	<u>12/10/2011 4:30 p.m.</u>

Additional Important Dates:

- 10/8/2013 – Last day to drop with automatic W
- 11/6/2013 – Last day to drop with instructor consent

Course Evaluation Methods

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

Three exams

Four court assignments (the best three out of four will count toward the final grade)

Grading Matrix:

	Value (points or percentages)	Total
Assignments	Best 3 out of 4 assignments	25%
Exam 1	100 points	25%
Exam 2	100 points	25%
Final Exam	100 points	25%
Total:		100%

Grade Determination:

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

Assignment Policy:

Each student will be required to do four court assignments during the semester. This is an individual, not a group, assignment. We will discuss in detail these assignments on the first class day. These assignments require you to travel to a County Court and/or District Court that hears criminal cases (municipal court cases, JP cases, and civil cases – e.g., contract dispute, divorce or medical malpractice, are NOT ACCEPTABLE for this assignment; federal criminal cases are acceptable). In addition, juvenile cases are not acceptable for this assignment to protect the privacy of the minors involved. The assignments are to be completed and turned in by hard copy, stapled or bound, with a single cover sheet in class on **November 19**. The lowest grade for the four assignments will be dropped, and the three remaining assignments will be averaged for 25% of your final grade. The assignment criteria and forms will be posted on Blackboard. **START EARLY: Late papers will be penalized 5 points per calendar day (after 7 p.m. on the due date counts as the next calendar day), and will not be accepted after the class following the due date. Hard copies are due in class, but if you are late you may email them to avoid too many points from being deducted, with a hard copy to follow.**

You may, for up to 10 points extra credit on this assignment, attend criminal proceedings in a JP or municipal court (e.g., traffic docket, truancy docket, etc.) and write a 2-3 page paper (12 pt. Times New Roman, double spaced, 1" margins) on what you observed and how it compares to what you observed in the county and district courts. You will be required to provide the same information (court name/location, judge name, etc.) that you do for the regular assignments. This will be graded based on content, grammar, punctuation and spelling and will be due absolutely no later than the BEGINNING of class on November 19. No extra credit points will be given on assignments turned in after class starts.

Exam Policy:

There will be three examinations. The exams may consist of multiple choice, definitional, descriptive, listing, and/or short essay questions. You must bring a #2 pencil and a green scantron form with you for each exam. There will be no make-up exams unless you have a university-recognized emergency and notify me prior to the exam that you will have to reschedule. **If a make-up exam is permitted, the student must take it within one week of the original exam date, and you will be given an essay-only exam.**

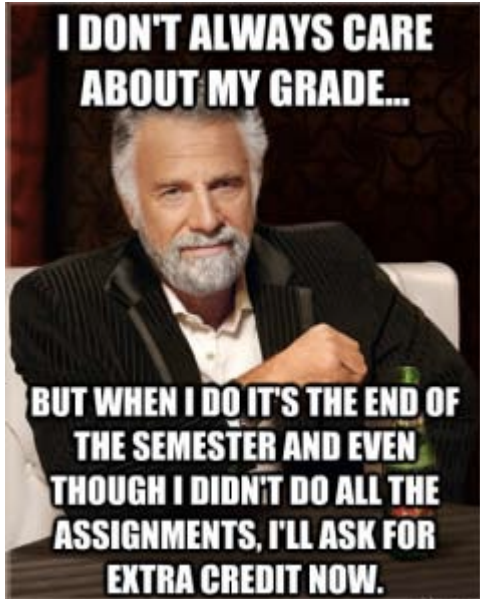
NO CELL PHONES WILL BE PERMITTED DURING THE EXAMS. YOU WILL BE SUBJECT TO A 10-POINT DEDUCTION ON YOUR EXAM FOR A VIOLATION OF THIS RULE. THIS INCLUDES A RINGING OR AUDIBLY VIBRATING CELL PHONE OR USE OF TEXT MESSAGES. As a courtesy, please do not bring food or drink to class during exams. During exams, ALL ITEMS other than what is needed to take the exam (exam, scantron, and a pencil) must be under your desk. You must provide your own scantron and #2 pencil.

You will have an hour to complete the exam once it starts. No additional time will be given if you are late. There is typically a bonus question on each exam. However, if you are late for an exam that has a bonus question on it, you will forfeit the privilege to receive those points.

Incompletes:

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, (3) the request for an incomplete is pursuant to a University-recognized reason (medical emergency or military deployment).

Extra Credit:



Extra credit has already been assigned within the design of this course (see Assignment Policy) and it is unlikely that there will be additional opportunities outside what is described in this syllabus. I do not give individual extra credit opportunities under any circumstances.

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 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 UNT Dallas Campuses main voicemail number (972) 780-3600 or search postings on the campus website www.unt.edu/dallas. Students are encouraged to update their Eagle/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. Attendance is taken. 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. In this course there will be daily discussions requiring class participation at different times, and group discussions during exam review days. 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.

Additional Policies and Procedures

Use of Cell Phones, Laptops & other Electronics 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, but as a courtesy to your fellow test takers, please do not bring food or drink during exams. If this becomes a distraction during class, 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, continually interrupting lectures with commentary 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 personal 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). 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.