University of North Texas at Dallas
SPRING 2016
SYLLABUS

CJUS 2300D/3201D: CRIMINAL LAW (3 Hrs)

Department of	Criminal Justice	School of	Liberal Arts and Sciences

Instructor Name:	*Gretchen Hackard, J.D., M.S.C.J.*
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Office Hours:	**M 10-2; W 12-12:50; and by appointment**
Virtual Office Hours:	**T 10-2 PM and by appointment**

Contacting Dr. Hackard outside of office hours:

For **course-related questions and information** (e.g., grades, questions about an assignment or exam, etc.), you **must use Blackboard messaging** to contact me. Course-related messages that are sent to my general UNT Dallas email address will not be answered. Please only use Skype during my virtual office hours.

For non-course information (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.

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. I will do my best to respond to emails and Blackboard messages within 1 business day. If I am unable to answer a question immediately, I will respond and let you know that I am working on it.

Classroom Location:	**Learn.untdallas.edu**
Class Meeting Days & Times:	**ONLINE – ASYNCHRONOUS**

Course Catalog Description:	This course examines the constitutional and statutory bases and theories of criminal law and jurisprudence.

Prerequisites:	**None**
Co-requisites:	**None**

Required Text:	Dowling, Jerry L. Texas Criminal Law: Principles and Practices. Upper Saddle River: Pearson, 2009 ADDITIONAL RESOURCES POSTED ONLINE WITHIN COURSE

Recommended Text and References:	**Texas Penal Code (available online); access to Lexis/Nexis or Westlaw through UNT Dallas library electronic resources**

Access to Learning Resources:	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 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, and quiz; and each module has its own discussion and 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 **70%** 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, February 10**.

  Module 2 – Module 2 consists of Units 6-8 and begins at 12:00 a.m. on Thursday, February 11; Module quizzes, exam, and discussion must be completed no later than **11:59 p.m. on Wednesday, March 9.**

  Module 3 – Module 3 consists of Units 9-11 and begins at 12:00 a.m. on Thursday, March 10; Module quizzes, exam, and discussion must be completed no later than **11:59 p.m. on Wednesday, April 13**.

  Module 4 – Module 4 consists of Units 12-15 and begins at 12:00 a.m. on Thursday, April 14; Module quizzes, exam, and discussion must be completed no later than **11:59 p.m. on Wednesday, May 11.**

Additional important Dates:
- **Wednesday, 2/3/16 – Last day to drop without a W**
- **Friday, 4/8/16 – Last day to drop with instructor consent**
- **Friday, 4/22/16 – Last day to withdraw from all courses**

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 70% 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) (up to 10 points per original response; up to 5 points per peer response)	25 points each (100 points total)
Total:	**500 points**

To determine your grade, divide your total number of points earned by 500.

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

Policy on Late Work:
Module quizzes and discussions will no longer be accessible after the due dates. The link to submit your legislative inquiries closes at the due date. Late work will not be accepted. Emergencies will be considered on a case-by-case basis, and you must request permission to submit late work at the earliest opportunity. Requests may or may not be granted.
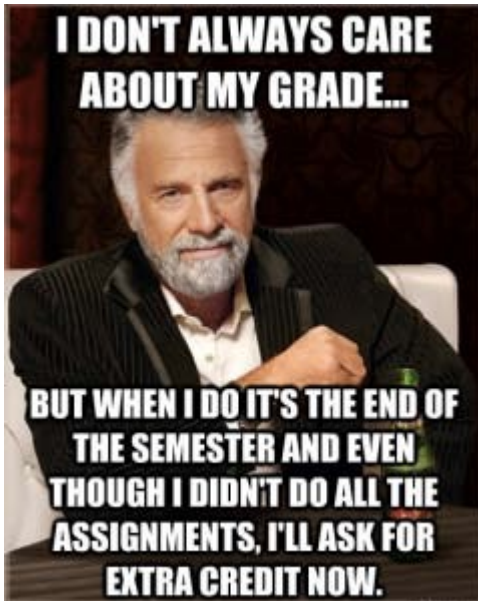
Incompletes:
Pursuant to University policy, incompletes will not be given unless ALL of the following conditions have been met:
(1) the student has completed 3/4 of the class
(2) the student is currently passing the course, and
(3) the request for an incomplete is pursuant to a University-recognized reason (medical emergency or military deployment).

Extra Credit:
On occasion, I have assigned extra credit to various classes. If offered, it is a privilege and an opportunity, not a right or an obligation, and will only be available if I make it available to the class as a whole. I do not give individual extra credit opportunities under any circumstances.

Assignments for the Course

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*

Further details for this assignment, including guidelines and a rubric, are provided in the course page in Blackboard labeled "Legislative Inquiry."

Online Discussions:
Students will be randomly placed into online groups for each module. Within each online group, each student is required to create an original response to the module prompt, as well as responding to three of their peers. If none of your peers have created any original posts but you have, I will assume your good intention to respond and will assess you accordingly. If your peers HAVE posted, good intentions earn you nothing if you don't respond.

Your responses should be thoughtful and demonstrate insight into the question based on course content. Responses to your peers can agree or disagree, but must provide insight into why your perspective is similar or different. Challenge yourselves and your classmates to think from perspectives other than your own.

*Nothing in this policy is intended to limit or restrict lively debate or discussion of additional topics of interest to the class, so long as students remain respectful. **Discussions unrelated to the module should be kept separate from the module discussions – please use the general Q&A board for this purpose.** Please remain on topic within each thread of discussion (responding to a specific thread within the thread, rather than responding or starting a different thread to respond).*

University Policies and Procedures

Students with Disabilities (ADA Compliance):

Chapter 7(7.004) Disability Accommodations for Students

The University of North Texas at Dallas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodations must first register with the Disability Services Office (DSO) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the DSO 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, DSO 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/communicate with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. Students are strongly encouraged to deliver letters of accommodation during faculty office hours or by appointment. Faculty members have the authority to ask students to discuss such letters during their designated office hours to protect the privacy of the student. For additional information see the Disability Services Office website at http://www.untdallas.edu/disability. You may also contact them by phone at 972-338-1777; by email at UNTDdisability@untdallas.edu or at Building 2, room 204.

Blackboard Learn Accessibility Statement:

University of North Texas at Dallas is committed to ensuring its online and hybrid courses are usable by all students and faculty including those with disabilities. If you encounter any difficulties with technologies, please contact our ITSS Department. To better assist them, you would want to have the operating system, web browser and information on any assistive technology being used. Blackboard Learn course management system's accessibility statement is also provided: http://www.blackboard.com/Platforms/Learn/Resources/Accessibility.aspx

NOTE: *Additional instructional technology tools, such as Skype, Turnitin, Respondus, Panopto, and publisher cartridge content (i.e. MyLab, Pearson, etc.) may NOT be fully ADA compliant. Please contact our Disability Office should you require additional assistance utilizing any of these tools.*

Student Evaluation of Teaching Effectiveness Policy:
The Student Evaluation of Teaching Effectiveness (SETE) is a requirement for all organized classes at UNT Dallas. 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. Many of the aspects of this course especially have been modified in response to student feedback from previous semesters.

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.untdallas.edu/sites/default/files/page_level2/pdf/policy/7.002%20Code%20of%20Academic_Integrity.pdf *for complete provisions of this code.*

Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarizing, fabrication of information or citations, facilitating acts of dishonesty by others, having unauthorized possession of examinations, submitting work of another person or work previously used without informing the instructor, or tampering with the academic work of other students.

Web-based Plagiarism Detection: *Please be aware in some online or hybrid courses, students may be required to submit written assignments to Turnitin, a web-based plagiarism detection service, or another method. If submitting to Turnitin, please remove your title page and other personal information. 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.

Inclement Weather and Online Classes:
Online classes may or may not be affected by campus closures due to inclement weather. Unless otherwise notified by your instructor via e-mail, online messaging, or online announcement, students should assume that assignments are due as scheduled.

Attendance and Participation Policy:
The University attendance policy is in effect for this course. Class attendance in the Blackboard classroom 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 the discussion board. Online presence and participation in all class discussions is essential to the integration of course material and your ability to demonstrate proficiency in the subject area.

Attendance for this online or hybrid course is considered when you are logged in and active in Blackboard, i.e., posting assignments, taking quizzes, or completing Discussion Boards. To maintain financial aid award eligibility, activity must occur before the census date of the session or term of the course. Refer to http://www.untdallas.edu/registrar for specific dates. If you are absent/not active in the course shell, it is YOUR responsibility to let the instructor know immediately, upon your return, the reason for your absence if it is to be excused. All instructors must follow university policy 7.005 covering excused absences; however, it is the instructor's discretion, as outlined in the course syllabus, of how unexcused absences may or may not count against successful completion of the course

Online "Netiquette:"
In any social interaction, certain rules of etiquette are expected and contribute to more enjoyable and productive communication. Emails, Discussion Board messages and/or any other forms of written communication in the online environment should use proper "netiquette" (i.e., no writing in all caps (usually denotes yelling), no curse words, and no "flaming" messages (angry, personal attacks).

Racial, ethnic, or gender slurs will not be tolerated, nor will pornography of any kind.

Any violation of online netiquette may result in a loss of points or removal from the course and referral to the Dean of Students, including warnings and other sanctions in accordance with the University's policies and procedures. Refer to the Student Code of Student Rights Responsibilities and Conduct at http://www.untdallas.edu/osa/policies. Respect is a given principle in all online communication. Therefore, please be sure to proofread all of your written communication prior to submission.

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.

Technology Requirements:
In order to successfully access the materials in an online or hybrid course, UNT Dallas advises that your computer be equipped with the minimum system requirements.

Blackboard Learn 9.1 is the platform software for this course. Blackboard Learn supports major web browsers such as Windows Internet Explorer, Apple Safari, Mozilla Firefox, and Google Chrome. However, since the latter two are updated continually, some recent versions may not be compatible. If you experience difficulty accessing or using components of the course, try using Internet Explorer. Also, no matter what browser you use, always enable pop-ups. For more information see:

- *http://www.untdallas.edu/dlit/ecampus/requirements*
- *https://help.blackboard.com/en-us/Learn/9.1_SP_12_and_SP_13/Student/040_Browser_Support_for_SP_13*
- *https://learn.unt.edu/bbcswebdav/institution/BrowserCheck/check_full.html*

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 UNT Dallas, SMU and Texas A&M University law schools that might have resources available to assist you.