# University of North Texas at Dallas
# FALL 2016
# SYLLABUS for Distance Learning

## CJUS 3700D: ETHICS (3 Hrs)

| Department of | Criminal Justice | School of | Liberal Arts and Sciences |
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| **Instructor Name:** | *Gretchen Hackard, J.D., M.S.C.J.* |
| **Office Location:** | *FH (DAL2) 317* |
| **Office Phone:** | *972-338-1840* |
| **Email Address:** | *Gretchen.hackard@untdallas.edu* |
| ***Office Hours:*** | ***TBA*** |
| ***Virtual Office Hours:*** | ***TBA*** |

***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. If it is urgent, please see my phone policy below. I generally check Blackboard at least once daily during the workweek, and at least once during a weekend. I will do my best to respond to 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.*

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.*

*PHONE: If you have an urgent question and I have not responded in Blackboard, you may contact my work cell. For my cell, texts are preferred initially. You MUST identify yourself and the class you are in when you send your first text. If the conversation needs to go beyond a reasonable text length, then we can talk. I do not check office 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). Please understand that I may not always be available at the very moment you need assistance, but will do my best to respond promptly when I am available to do so.*

| **Classroom Location:** | ONLINE |
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| **Class Meeting Days & Times:** | **Asynchronous** |
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| **Course Catalog Description:** | This course examines ethical issues facing those working within the criminal justice system. Problems confronting the police, the courts and the juvenile and adult correctional systems are addressed. |
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| **Prerequisites:** | **CJUS 2100 or equivalent** |
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| **Co-requisites:** | **None** |

| **Required Text:** | Pollock, Joycelyn M. (2012). *Ethical Dilemmas & Decisions in Criminal Justice* (7th ed.). Belmont, CA: Wadsworth Cengage Learning. |
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| Recommended Text and References: | Provided through Blackboard as applicable |
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| Access to Learning Resources: | Please refer to the "UNTD Student Resources" link in Blackboard |
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| Course Goals or Overview: | |
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| | During this course, students will be asked to demonstrate their depth of understanding of the variety of human experience and gain the capacity to see situations from another's viewpoint, as well as to articulate the values that undergird students' lives, the UNT Dallas community and the larger society. Students will learn decision making strategies that include an ethical analysis and will cultivate self-awareness, balance and an on-going openness to change. Students will be required to think critically and creatively, and to communicate effectively. |

| Learning Objectives/Outcomes: | At the end of this course, the student will be able to: |
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| 1 | Define critical terms related to the study of ethics in the criminal justice system |
| 2 | Describe and apply different ethical systems to human behavior, while demonstrating a working understanding about how we, as individuals, make decisions about what we consider "ethical" behavior |
| 3 | Communicate multiple and opposing perspectives on ethical dilemmas presented |
| 4 | Demonstrate a working understanding of ethical issues arising within the criminal justice system and policy-making |

**Online/Hybrid Course Outline**

This schedule is subject to change by the instructor. Any changes to this schedule will be communicated in class or via class email or Blackboard announcement. Additional readings and activities may be added, these will be noted in the Readings and Activities/Assignments sections.

| TOPICS | TIMELINE/DUE DATES |
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| *MODULE 1 ASSIGNMENTS OPEN BEGINNING OF SEMESTER:*<br>• Readings: Chapters 1-4<br>• Module 1 Discussion Board<br>• Ethical dilemma essay 1<br>• Journals open; Journals will remain available until the due date for Module 3 (see section of the syllabus on "Journals") | MODULE 1 DUE BY:<br>11:59 PM 9/13/16 |
| *MODULE 2 ASSIGNMENTS OPEN 12:00 AM 9/15/16:*<br>• Readings: Chapters 5-7<br>• Module 2 Discussion Board<br>• Ethical dilemma essay 2 | MODULE 2 DUE BY:<br>11:59 PM 10/11/16 |
| *MODULE 3 ASSIGNMENTS OPEN 12:00 AM 10/13/16:*<br>• Readings: Chapters 8-10<br>• Module 3 Discussion Board<br>• Ethical dilemma essay 3<br>• Journals are due: Individual journal entries for Episodes 1-10 of Making a Murderer, plus an entry (#11) re: the Rowles article, and a final entry (#12) for your own thoughts | MODULE 3 DUE BY:<br>11:59 PM 11/8/16 |
| *MODULE 4 ASSIGNMENTS OPEN 12:00 AM 11/10/16:*<br>• Readings: Chapters 11-13<br>• Module 4 Discussion Board<br>• Ethical dilemma essay 4 | MODULE 4 DUE BY:<br>11:59 PM 12/6/16 |
| Reflection Paper Due (see section of the syllabus on "Reflection Paper") | 11:59 p.m. 12/13/16 |

## Additional important Dates:
- **Wednesday, 9/7/16 – Last day to drop without a W**
- **Friday, 9/4/16 – Last day to drop with instructor consent**
- **Friday, 11/18/16 – 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: Discussions, Essays, Journals, and Reflection Paper. Please see the sections in the syllabus related to each of these instruments for more detail on the instructor's expectations.*

**Grading Matrix:**

| Instrument | Value (points or percentages) | Total |
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| *Discussions (4 total; 1 per module)*<br>- *4 points per original post in each module*<br>- *2 points for <u>each</u> of 3 peer responses in each module* | *10 points per module \* 4 modules =*<br>*40 points* | *10%* |
| *Ethical dilemma essays (4 total; 1 per module)*<br>- *40 points each* | *160 points* | *40%* |
| *Journal entries (12 total)*<br>- *10 points each* | *120 points* | *30%* |
| *Reflection paper*<br>- *80 points* | *80 points* | *20%* |
| **Total:** | **400 points** | **100%** |

**Grade Determination:**

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| A | ≥ 90% |
| B | = 80-89% |
| C | = 70-79% |
| D | = 60-69% F < 60% |

**Policy on Late Work:**
*Modules will no longer be accessible after the due dates and **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.*
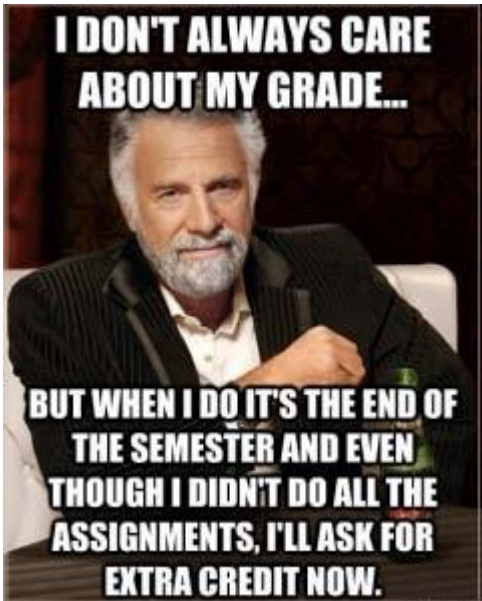
**Incompletes:**
*Pursuant to University policy, incompletes will not be given unless ALL of the following conditions have been met:*
*(1) the student has completed 3/4 of the class*
*(2) the student is currently passing the course, and*
*(3) the request for an incomplete is pursuant to a University-recognized 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

**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 (up to 4 points) to the module prompt, as well as responding to three of their peers (up to 2 points per response). 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).*

**Ethical Dilemma Essays:**
*For each module, you will be given two essays that present an ethical dilemma. You are to choose ONE to which you should respond. Additional instructions and grading rubric are available in Blackboard in the modules.*

**Journals:**
*During the semester you will be watching the Netflix series "Making a Murderer." Your journals will be due at the same time as Module 3. After each of the 10 episodes, you will make an entry into your journal about your thoughts (for a total of 10 separate entries). Don't just describe what you watched and what happened in each episode, but discuss how it impacted your thoughts on ethics in the criminal justice system, particularly if there was something related to the class material. Think about such questions (as an example) as what could have been done differently? What could have been the consequences of a different choice? Who was affected by the decisions that were made? Do not limit yourself to just these questions; if you have other thoughts and insights, your journal is the place to include them.*

*After you have watched all 10 episodes of Making a Murderer, read the article by Dustin Rowles, "Evidence 'Making a Murderer' Didn't Present in Steven Avery's Case." Your 11th journal entry will reflect on this article, and how it impacted your opinions formed to that point. Your 12th and final journal entry will reflect overall on the journals you*

*wrote previously and how your outlook may or may not have changed about this case during the course of the semester. This is different from your reflection paper, which will be more structured and address specific points about the class overall.*

**Reflection Papers:**
*Every student must complete a reflection paper at the end of the course. It should be organized with an introduction, body, and conclusion, and should be written from your perspective, which means you will probably not need a reference page unless you use sources. It must also contain the honor code statement given in the section on Academic Integrity below. The guidelines for content will be posted on Blackboard and it will be submitted via Turnitin link.*

*The reflection paper will be graded based on content (50%); organization (30%); and grammar, punctuation and spelling (20%). You will be given 5 bonus points on the reflection paper if you use the writing center to help you with these things and attach to your paper a certificate from them to show that you used the writing center for this assignment (it must state this). Your paper must be on time to receive the extra credit from the writing center.*

# 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](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.*

**Course Evaluation Policy:**
*Student's evaluations of teaching effectiveness 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 students' evaluations 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.*

**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.*

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