

University of North Texas at Dallas
Fall 2015
SYLLABUS for Distance Learning

CJUS 2600D “Diversity Issues in Criminal Justice” (3HR-Internet Based)			
Department of Liberal Arts & Life Sciences		Division of Criminal Justice	
Instructor Name:	Spencer Wayne Ellison		
Office Location:	None		
Office Phone:	501-247-5289		
Email Address:	spencer.ellison@untdallas.edu		
Office Hours:	Monday, Wednesday, & Friday: 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Tuesday & Thursday: 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.		
Classroom Location:	Online		
Class Meeting Days & Times:	Online		
Course Catalog Description:	This course critically examines race, gender and other diversity issues within the U.S. Criminal Justice System. Topics of emphasis include the importance of diversity issues in the development, organization and operation of the criminal justice system.		
Prerequisites:			
Required Text:	The Color of Justice; Race, Ethnicity, and Crime in America, 5th edition, by Samuel Walker, Cassia Spohn, and Miriam DeLone. Published by Cengage Publisher. ISBN: 978-1-111-34692-8.		
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:	The goals of this course are as follows -		
	The goal of this course is for students to understand how class, race and gender play in the development of our criminal justice system from past years to today’s criminal justice system.		
Learning Objectives/Outcomes:	At the end of this course, students will be able to:		
1	Recognize and understand the basic theories related to the study of race, class, gender and crime.		
2	Examine the various perspectives relevant to the death penalty and the racial and ethnic makeup of persons in the prison population.		
3	Examine the nature of drug crime disparity and criminal records when considering class, gender, and race are involved.		
4	Identify and understand class and economic inequality and privilege when considering who commits major crimes in American society.		
5	Understand the police role, the courts, punishment, sentencing and imprisonment when class, gender and race are involved.		
6	Examine crimes by minority youth and racial disparities in the juvenile justice system.		
7	Examine victimology & patterns of victimization; understand the law making process & the administration of criminal law.		

Grading Matrix:

Activities/Assignments	Value (percentages)	Total Points
4 unit quizzes	0 – 100 points each	400
4 discussion board questions	0 – 25 points each	100
Information quiz	0 – 100 points	100
Practical Exercise	0 – 100 points	100
Total:	Total earned points will be divided by 7 to get a final average.	700

Grade Determination

A = 90% or better

B = 80 – 89 %

C = 70 – 79 %

D = 60 – 69 %

F = less than 60%

Practical Exercise (Reaction Paper) Assignment:

There will be one (1) practical exercise assignments in the course. The exercise will be worth from 0 – 100 points toward the student's final grade in the course.

Grading Rubric

Practical Exercise Assignment Rubric	Excellent (88-100 points)	Good (75 – 87 points)	Acceptable (62 – 74 points)	Poor (51-61 points)	Non acceptable (0-50 points)
Comprehension	Reflects complete understanding of project	Reflects a good understanding of project	Reflects a poor understanding of project	Reflects no understanding of project	Minimal or no effort in submitting assignment
Content	Contains all required elements of the assignment	Contains at least 80% of the required elements of the assignment	Contains at least 60% of the required elements of the assignment	Contains less than 60% of the required elements of the assignments	Minimal or no effort in submitting assignment
Organization	The document is clearly organized	The document is somewhat organized	The document is unorganized	This document is unorganized	Minimal or no effort in submitting

			d but can be read		ng assignme nt
--	--	--	--------------------------	--	-----------------------

Information Quiz:

The information quiz will come from all the material inside the Your Professor Link, the Start Here Link, and the Course Information Link. The quiz will consist of 20 questions worth 5 points each for up to 100 points toward a student’s final grade in the course. The quiz will be timed and you will have 1 hour to take the quiz.

Discussion Board Postings:

Each student will be required to post to (4) different discussion board postings during the semester. The discussion board topics will correspond with information from each selected chapter in the textbook. Each student will be required to post to the discussion question asked and then reply to (3) other student’s posts. **Postings will be graded according to the Critical Thinking Value and Written Communication Value in each posting.** The (4) discussion board postings will count up to (25) points each (for a total of 0 – 100 total points) toward a student’s final grade. A completion date will be posted on each discussion question located inside the Discussion Board link.

Discussion Board Grading: Discussion board activities and any other grading activities will be graded within 48 hours after the closing of each unit. Instructor will also respond to student Blackboard questions within 24 hours of student posting in the Blackboard’s messaging tool.

Discussion Board Grading:

- 0 - 25 points for posting to each discussion question.
- 0 - 100 total points for the (4) discussion questions can be earned.
- 0 -10 total points for posting to each discussion board question.
- 0 - 15 total points for posting to 3 other student’s posts. (0-5 points each)

Criteria	No Points	Novice	Competent	Proficient
Critical Thinking	0 Points Does not post or response with, “I agree/disagree”.	8.5 Points Posts reflects little or no analysis, only repeats what has already been said; Uses personal experiences, but no references from reading; Does not answer all components of the question	10 Points Posts demonstrate understanding and analysis of the concepts; Specific examples and references and how they relate to the discussion is included. All components of the question is answered	12.5Points Posts demonstrate superior understanding and analysis of concepts; Substantive comments to advance discussion is used; Includes articles or other research to support point of view
Participation	0 Points Does not post or respond to any students	8.5 Points Post to (1) student	10 Points Post to (2) students	12.5 Points Post to (3) students

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 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:

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.

Assignment Policy: (According to the instructor's discretion while working in concert with the division/program's guidelines).

Exam Policy: (Online exams and the ability to retake is solely at the instructor's discretion). **NOTE:** Online exams may be proctored on campus per instructor's discretion.

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.

Classroom Policies

Online Attendance and Participation:

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. .

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

Inclement Weather and Online Classes: Online classes may or may not be effected 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 "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 in the online environment. 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 Dean of Students 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