

Comparative Justice Systems – Web Based

Course Syllabus



The University of Texas at Dallas

Course Information

Course Number	CRIM 3319 section OIA
Course Title	Comparative Justice Systems (Web Based)
Term	Spring 2010
Days & Times	ONLINE COURSE - NO In-Class Meetings

Professor Contact Information

Professor	Dr. Robert Morris
Phone	(972) 883-6728
Email address	morris@utdallas.edu (See Email Policy Prior to Submission! – use eLearning mail only!!!)
Office Location	Green Hall - GR 3.526
Office Hours:	Please email to set an appointment.

Teaching Assistant(s):	Brie Diamond (diamond@utdallas.edu) Brook Nodeland (brookenodeland@utdallas.edu)
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Course Pre-requisites, Co-requisites, and/or Other Restrictions

All students must be familiar with the use of eLearning (formerly WebCT), students must have internet access, students should have basic computer skills. **Individuals not comfortable using a computer should not attempt to take this course!** If you do not have a fast AND reliable internet connection, you should plan to use UTD computer labs for all coursework. Late work will not be accepted for any reason, so make sure you complete assignments ahead of time if worried about your computer or connection.

Course Description

Comparative Justice Systems (3 semester hours) is a survey of the differing policies, practices, and procedures of crime and justice cross nationally. This course is designed to present students with information regarding a variety of ways that justice systems are organized and practiced around the world. Often, practitioners and scholars fail to recognize alternative approaches that may have found success in foreign countries which could potentially benefit the justice system of the United States. The social, cultural, and political background of different systems of justice will be introduced and discussed. Specific focus will be given to the justice systems of Japan, Mexico, and Canada, but the core of the course will explore the common, civil, socialist, and Islamic legal traditions, thus covering dozens of foreign countries and varying systems of justice.

Student Learning Objectives/Outcomes

Upon the successful completion of this course, students will:

1. be able to identify and discuss each of the major legal traditions practiced across the globe.
2. be able to identify and discuss current events in justice systems in various countries.
3. be able to critique and evaluate competing perspectives on variations in the practice of justice.
4. be able to identify and discuss competing justice system practices (policing, courts, and corrections).

Required Text

Comparative Criminal Justice Systems: A Topical Approach (5th Edition) by Phillip Reichel

- Discounted e-text version available at: <http://www.coursesmart.com/9780135017241>

NOTE: TEXT MUST BE THE CORRECT EDITION!

Distance learning information <http://www.utdallas.edu/distancelearning/students/>

Grading Policy

Mid Term Exam	(taken on webct 3/11/2010)	30%
Final Exam	(taken on webct 5/06/2010)	30%
Assignments 1-10		40%

Grading Scale:

98-100 = A+	88-89 = B+	78-79 = C+	68-69 = D+	59 and below = F
93-97 = A	83-87 = B	73-77 = C	63-67 = D	
90-92 = A-	80-82 = B-	70-72 = C-	60-62 = D-	

Assignments

Ten assignments will be posted online beginning on the date of the first class meeting. Class assignments/discussions count for 40% of your final grade. Of that grade, half will be based on reaction essays and the other half on discussion assignments (5 of each type). While you have the opportunity to work ahead, it is your responsibility to meet all assignment deadlines noted on the course calendar. NO EXCEPTIONS will be made for late work. Please note that I will be tracking your access to the eLearning course page, so please avoid being dishonest about the time you spend online and the time you spend completing assignments; I'll know whether you're telling the truth! DO NOT WAIT UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE TO SUBMIT ASSIGNMENTS! Excuses such as "I lost internet service" or "eLearning was down!" will not help you. Other excuses that will NOT help you include, but are not limited to, being sick, winning super bowl tickets, forgetfulness, work issues, family issue, significant other issues, housing trouble, criminal justice entanglements, and/or computer trouble. Ample time is provided for you to complete assignments on time so please don't waste your time and your excuses on me! These rules will not be bent! All students will be treated equally and held to the same standards!

NOTE: ALL ASSIGNMENTS WILL BE DUE ON A THURSDAY BY 11:59PM (see calendar for specific dates)

All assignment/discussion details will be posted on the eLearning page (you can access the page at www.utdallas.edu by clicking the eLearning link) at the start of the semester. Discussion posts and reaction essays that do not comply with the guidelines presented herein will be given no credit, no exceptions. Marginal responses will receive reduced or no credit. Responses that adequately meet all requirements and follow all guidelines will receive a strong score; only those exceeding expectations will receive the highest possible score (see scoring guidelines on eLearning). As an example, Assignment 1 requires that you:

1. Read Chapter 1 in the textbook, access the LEARNING MODULE for assignment 1 in eLearning and use the study material presented for the section to better learn the material (i.e., lecture notes, learning objectives, chapter outline, and complete the practice quiz and essay questions for chapter 1).
2. After completion of the learning module, click on the link to Chapter 1 Reaction Essay (in Assignments portal) and post your response to each question presented. For reaction essays, you must post a minimum of 2 COMPLETE paragraphs (**250 word minimum**) per question for each post to receive credit. You MAY NOT cut sentences from the textbook or from the internet!! This constitutes plagiarism and even the most minor cases are

required to be reported to UTD Judicial Affairs for investigation (for more information see http://www.utdallas.edu/~morris/index_files/Plagiarism_Handout.pdf). Again, **REVIEW THE SCORING CRITERIA BEFORE BEGINNING!!** Responses should be thoughtful and appropriate. If your response is unclear, illogical, or I suspect that little effort was put into completing it, you will NOT receive full credit for the response. Your responses will be monitored by me so be sure to follow course policy for submissions (see below – proper grammar, punctuation and complete sentences, etc.). You are welcome to write more if you choose and you should strive to use outside sources beyond the text (scholarly articles, **reliable** internet sources (e.g., government websites), current events and etc.) to substantiate your posts. **An appropriate style of citation is required (APA preferred) for all assignments/discussions: YOU MUST cite outside work appropriately.** Visit the helpful links page on WebCT for a list of useful sources to help you answer the questions. **You may only submit question responses twice**, so make sure you are satisfied with your response prior to submission. NOTE: Critical reaction essays are only visible to the student and to the professor/TA, they are not made public to the rest of the class. *HINT- use a word processor to type your response and paste it into WebCT when you're happy with what you've got.*

For other learning modules, you will be asked to complete a Discussion Post assignment, rather than a reaction essay.

GROUP DISCUSSION POSTS- For discussion post assignments, you must post a response to a discussion question that **will be made public** to the rest of the class. Post your response to the discussion question using the same format as for the critical reaction essay (e.g., 250 word minimum, formatting, etc.). You can access the discussion question via the learning module for any given chapter or by clicking the discussions tab on the toolbar. After you have submitted your post, you **MUST respond to a minimum of TWO other students' discussion posts**. Posts to peers work must also be thoughtful and appropriate and **must be at least 100 words each**. A sentence or two is NOT good enough (see scoring criteria). Your discussion assignment grades are based on your post and your response to peers. Note that peer responses are due by 11:59pm on the SUNDAY following the due date of the assignment. **If you do not submit an initial post you cannot receive partial credit for responses to peers.**

Each chapter assignment will be formatted as above. Each reaction essay/discussion topic will be posted on eLearning beginning the first day of class for those who choose to work ahead.

Exams- Students are required to take 2 exams, a midterm and a final. Together, they are worth 60% of your final grade. The final exam is NOT comprehensive. Exams will mainly entail objective style questions (i.e., multiple choice, true false, matching) from the assigned readings and learning modules. All test material is covered in the readings, lecture notes, practice modules, and assignments. There will be no test reviews. Exams are taken ONLINE and are timed (2hrs). Exams are open book/open notes, however, you are expected to work individually. If you have not read the material prior to the exam, you will probably fail so do not attempt the exam unprepared! You will have a 30 hour window to start each exam; once you begin the clock cannot be reset. The content of the exam changes each semester.

The mid term will be held on Thursday, March, 11 2010. Access starting at 6am.

The final exam will be held on Thursday, May, 6 2010. Access starting at 6am.

The exam date/time is NOT negotiable. You should arrange your schedule so that you can complete the exams. If you have conflict, you should drop the course and take it during another semester.

ADVICE ON EXAM SUCCESS: **Read all assigned materials;** Put effort into completing the assignments. Focus on the “what to look for” section presented at the beginning of each chapter; pay attention to the “You should know!” sections of the chapters; most importantly, take advantage of the study aids presented in the learning modules/practice questions on the website. Do all of these things and you should be very prepared for the exams.

IMPORTANT: Make-up exams will absolutely NOT be considered unless there is documented proof of an extreme emergency and I am contacted BEFORE THE EXAM BY EMAIL. Saying you are sick or are you are feeling sick IS NOT A VALID EXCUSE FOR A MAKEUP EXAM. Religious holidays will be fully accommodated, but students must contact me during the first week of classes to make arrangements for a makeup exam. The instructor reserves the right for all makeup examinations to be full essay and be administered on a date of my choosing. **If you cannot guarantee that you will be available to take the exams at the above time/dates, please drop this class and take another class that is better suited to your schedule.**

NOTE: There will be some weeks where no assignments are due.

Course Calendar

Topics, Reading Assignments, Due Dates, Exam Dates

DATE

NOTE: Assignment MUST BE SUBMITTED BY DATES/TIMES LISTED BELOW

Reading Assignment

Monday, January 11, 2010

Class begins.

You should have purchased your Text by now and have begun reading. Read course expectations and reply to my message (see eLearning discussion portal)

Thursday, January 21, 2010

Chapter 1: An International Perspective

Ch. 1 Assignment DUE by 11:59pm (replies to peer posts are ALWAYS due by 11:59pm on the following Sunday).

Thursday, January 28, 2010

Chapter 2: Domestic Crime, Transnational Crime, and Justice

Ch. 2 Assignment DUE by 11:59pm (replies to peer posts are ALWAYS due by 11:59pm on the following Sunday).

- Thursday, February 11, 2010 Chapter 3: An American Perspective on Criminal Law
Ch. 3 Assignment DUE by 11:59pm (replies to peer posts are ALWAYS due by 11:59pm on the following Sunday).
- Thursday, February 18, 2010 Chapter 4: Legal Traditions
Ch. 4 Assignment DUE by 11:59pm (replies to peer posts are ALWAYS due by 11:59pm on the following Sunday).
- Thursday, March 04, 2010 Chapter 5: Substantive Law and Procedural Law in the Four Legal Traditions
Ch. 5 Assignment DUE by 11:59pm (replies to peer posts are ALWAYS due by 11:59pm on the following Sunday).
- Thursday, March 11, 2010 **Mid Term Exam - Access begins at 6am**
- Thursday, March 25, 2010 Chapter 6: An International Perspective on Policing
Ch. 6 Assignment DUE by 11:59pm (replies to peer posts are ALWAYS due by 11:59pm on the following Sunday).
- Thursday, April 01, 2010 Chapter 7: An International Perspective on Courts
Ch. 7 Assignment DUE by 11:59pm (replies to peer posts are ALWAYS due by 11:59pm on the following Sunday).
- Thursday, April 15, 2010 Chapter 8: An International Perspective on Corrections
Ch. 8 Assignment DUE by 11:59pm (replies to peer posts are ALWAYS due by 11:59pm on the following Sunday).
- Thursday, April 22, 2010 Chapter 9: An International Perspective on Juvenile Justice
Ch. 9 Assignment DUE by 11:59pm (replies to peer posts are ALWAYS due by 11:59pm on the following Sunday).
- Thursday, April 29, 2010 Chapter 10: Japan: Examples of Effectiveness and Borrowing
Ch. 10 Assignment DUE by 11:59pm (replies to peer posts are ALWAYS due by 11:59pm on the following Sunday).
- Thursday, May 06, 2010 Final Exam - Access begins at 6am**

Course Policies

Make-up Grades

No make-up grades will be given unless DIRE circumstances arise (e.g. hospitalization, military deployment, and etc.) PROOF WILL BE REQUIRED AS NOTED BY UTD GUIDELINES

Extra Credit

No extra credit will be offered for this course.

Late Work

Late assignments will not be accepted for any reason. Ample time will be given for students to complete assignments early if time becomes an issue. If you have ANY doubt that you will be able to make the assignment deadline, you should submit your work early!

Classroom Citizenship

Since this class is web based (online), there is no regular in class attendance (aside from the mandatory meetings). However, students will be held accountable for virtual attendance throughout each week by completing practice modules, online discussions, and/or other assignments. Assignments will be due regularly, thus virtual attendance is a requirement but you will have the freedom to complete the work when it is convenient for you, provided that you meet the deadlines. Students should expect to spend as much time per week completing reading assignments and class assignments as they would for a normal class (including in class meetings). DO NOT USE THE CHAT ROOM AND DISCUSSION BOARD FOR PERSONAL CHATTING. All communications will be monitored by the professor. Any non-class related communications through WebCT will result in point deductions from grades. REVIEW AND RESPOND TO MY COURSE EXPECTATIONS POST IN THE DISCUSSION FORUM IMMEDIATELY.

As noted above, virtual class participation is a component of your grade and everyone is encouraged to engage the professor and fellow students in online discussions as to contribute to the learning environment. You will find a chat portal and a discussion forum for this activity on the WebCT class page. Thus, you must have access to a reliable computer with a good internet connection to participate. Your participation will be determined by the level and quality of your participation in completing assignments, discussions, and other class activities. However, I insist on respectfulness in the classroom (even the online classroom) for all participants. Disrespect to any class participant will not be tolerated. Any classroom participant behaving in such a manner will not be warned and will be reprimanded by a loss of points, at a minimum. Serious cases of inappropriate behavior will be directed to judicial affairs. Any student who experiences or witnesses any disrespect or academic dishonesty should report to the professor immediately.

The quality of the online learning environment is contingent on respect and dedication in the classroom. While you are fully encouraged to engage the issues to the best of your abilities, please do so politely and constructively. If you disagree with a classmate's argument/s, submit a proper and engaging rebuttal, not an attack. Debate is a healthy part of learning so please do not hinder the learning environment by responding harshly or inappropriately to others.

DO NOT MAKE THE MISTAKE OF THINKING THAT JUST BECAUSE THIS IS AN ONLINE CLASS THAT IT'S GOING TO BE AN 'EASY' CLASS!! In order to succeed you must be disciplined with keeping up with your readings and assignments as no late work will be accepted. **You also need to take your participation seriously! When completing assignments, chats, or discussions (or anything class related) use ONLY proper language, punctuation, grammar, and ALWAYS write in complete sentences!** Do not use slang or acronyms when completing assignments. Failing to comply with this policy will hinder your grade.

eLearning Technical Support

Students of this course are required to participate through eLearning. Thus, you must have access to a computer and the internet to complete assignments. If you experience any problems with your UTD account or with eLearning you should contact the UTD Helpdesk right away. UTD HELPDESK – 972-883-2911 or assist@utdallas.edu. Detailed instruction on the use of eLearning can be found at www.utdallas.edu/ir/elearning/students.htm. You can also CHAT WITH UTD HELPDESK online by going to webhelp.utdallas.edu

Email Use Policy

USE ONLY WEBCT MAIL TO COMMUNICATE WITH ME OR THE TEACHING ASSISTANT! If you have an emergency, you should email my UTD email using your UTD email account only! You should check eLearning for new messages and announcements every day. The University of Texas at Dallas recognizes the value and efficiency of communication between faculty/staff and students through electronic mail. At the same time, email raises some issues concerning security and the identity of each individual in an email exchange. The university encourages all official student email correspondence be sent only to a student's U.T. Dallas email address and that faculty and staff consider email from students official only if it originates from a UTD student account. **DO NOT USE ANY FORM OF EMAIL OTHER THAN YOUR OFFICIAL UT DALLAS EMAIL ACCOUNT.** When emailing the professor, please include in the subject line of the message "CRIM 3319." Also include your full student name in the body of the email. This allows the university to maintain a high degree of confidence in the identity of all individual corresponding and the security of the transmitted information. UTD furnishes each student with a free email account that is to be used in all communication with university personnel. The Department of Information Resources at U.T. Dallas provides a method for students to have their U.T. Dallas mail forwarded to other accounts.

Field Trip Policies / Off-Campus Instruction and Course Activities

Off-campus, out-of-state, and foreign instruction and activities are subject to state law and University policies and procedures regarding travel and risk-related activities. Information regarding these rules and regulations may be found at the website address http://www.utdallas.edu/BusinessAffairs/Travel_Risk_Activities.htm. Additional information is available from the office of the school dean. Below is a description of any travel and/or risk-related activity associated with this course.

Student Conduct & Discipline

The University of Texas System and The University of Texas at Dallas have rules and regulations for the orderly and efficient conduct of their business. It is the responsibility of each student and each student organization to be knowledgeable about the rules and regulations which govern student conduct and activities. General information on student conduct and discipline is contained in the UTD printed publication, *A to Z Guide*, which is provided to all registered students each academic year.

The University of Texas at Dallas administers student discipline within the procedures of recognized and established due process. Procedures are defined and described in the *Rules and Regulations, Series 50000, Board of Regents, The University of Texas System*, and in Title V, Rules on Student Services and Activities of the university's *Handbook of Operating Procedures*. Copies of these rules and regulations are available to students in the Office of the Dean of Students, where staff members are available to assist students in interpreting the rules and regulations (SU 1.602, 972/883-6391) and online at <http://www.utdallas.edu/judicialaffairs/UTDJudicialAffairs-HOPV.html>

A student at the university neither loses the rights nor escapes the responsibilities of citizenship. He or she is expected to obey federal, state, and local laws as well as the Regents' Rules, university regulations, and administrative rules. Students are subject to discipline for violating the standards of conduct whether such conduct takes place on or off campus, or whether civil or criminal penalties are also imposed for such conduct.

Academic Integrity

The faculty expects from its students a high level of responsibility and academic honesty. Because the value of an academic degree depends upon the absolute integrity of the work done by the student for that degree, it is imperative that a student demonstrate a high standard of individual honor in his or her scholastic work.

Scholastic Dishonesty, any student who commits an act of scholastic dishonesty is subject to discipline. Scholastic dishonesty includes but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts.

PLEASE DO YOUR OWN WORK! If you are caught letting someone else do your work for you you will found in violation of UTD academic dishonesty policies. Only the registered student may participate in class work or assignments. This applies to every component of the course.

Plagiarism, especially from the web, from portions of papers for other classes, and from any other source is unacceptable and will be dealt with under the university's policy on plagiarism (see general catalog for details). This course will use the resources of turnitin.com, which searches the web for possible plagiarism and is over 90% effective.

Copyright Notice

The copyright law of the United States (Title 17, United States Code) governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted materials, including music and software. Copying, displaying, reproducing, or distributing copyrighted works may infringe the copyright owner's rights and such infringement is subject to appropriate disciplinary action as well as criminal penalties provided by federal law. Usage of such material is only appropriate when that usage constitutes "fair use" under the Copyright Act. As a UT Dallas student, you are required to follow the institution's copyright policy (Policy Memorandum 84-I.3-46). For more information about the fair use exemption, see <http://www.utsystem.edu/ogc/intellectualproperty/copypol2.htm>

Withdrawal from Class

The administration of this institution has set deadlines for withdrawal of any college-level courses. These dates and times are published in that semester's course catalog. Administration procedures must be followed. It is the student's responsibility to handle withdrawal requirements from

any class. In other words, I cannot drop or withdraw any student. You must do the proper paperwork to ensure that you will not receive a final grade of "F" in a course if you choose not to attend the class once you are enrolled.

Student Grievance Procedures

Procedures for student grievances are found in Title V, Rules on Student Services and Activities, of the university's *Handbook of Operating Procedures*.

In attempting to resolve any student grievance regarding grades, evaluations, or other fulfillments of academic responsibility, it is the obligation of the student first to make a serious effort to resolve the matter with the instructor, supervisor, administrator, or committee with whom the grievance originates (hereafter called "the respondent"). Individual faculty members retain primary responsibility for assigning grades and evaluations. If the matter cannot be resolved at that level, the grievance must be submitted in writing to the respondent with a copy of the respondent's School Dean. If the matter is not resolved by the written response provided by the respondent, the student may submit a written appeal to the School Dean. If the grievance is not resolved by the School Dean's decision, the student may make a written appeal to the Dean of Graduate or Undergraduate Education, and the dean will appoint and convene an Academic Appeals Panel. The decision of the Academic Appeals Panel is final. The results of the academic appeals process will be distributed to all involved parties.

Copies of these rules and regulations are available to students in the Office of the Dean of Students, where staff members are available to assist students in interpreting the rules and regulations.

Incomplete Grade Policy

As per university policy, incomplete grades will be granted only for work unavoidably missed at the semester's end and only if 70% of the course work has been completed. An incomplete grade must be resolved within eight (8) weeks from the first day of the subsequent long semester. If the required work to complete the course and to remove the incomplete grade is not submitted by the specified deadline, the incomplete grade is changed automatically to a grade of **F**.

Disability Services

The goal of Disability Services is to provide students with disabilities educational opportunities equal to those of their non-disabled peers. Disability Services is located in room 1.610 in the Student Union. Office hours are Monday and Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.; Tuesday and Wednesday, 8:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.; and Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

The contact information for the Office of Disability Services is:

The University of Texas at Dallas, SU 22

PO Box 830688

Richardson, Texas 75083-0688

(972) 883-2098 (voice or TTY)

disabilityservice@utdallas.edu

If you anticipate issues related to the format or requirements of this course, please meet with the Coordinator of Disability Services. The Coordinator is available to discuss ways to ensure your full participation in the course. If you determine that formal, disability-related accommodations are necessary, it is very important that you be registered with Disability Services to notify them of your eligibility for reasonable accommodations. Disability Services can then plan how best to coordinate your accommodations.

It is the student's responsibility to notify his or her professors of the need for such an accommodation. Disability Services provides students with letters to present to faculty members to verify that the student has a disability and needs accommodations. Individuals requiring special accommodation should contact the professor after class or during office hours.

Religious Holy Days

The University of Texas at Dallas will excuse a student from class or other required activities for the travel to and observance of a religious holy day for a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property tax under Section 11.20, Tax Code, Texas Code Annotated.

The student is encouraged to notify the instructor or activity sponsor as soon as possible regarding the absence, preferably in advance of the assignment. The student, so excused, will be allowed to take the exam or complete the assignment within a reasonable time after the absence: a period equal to the length of the absence, up to a maximum of one week. A student who notifies the instructor and completes any missed exam or assignment may not be penalized for the absence. A student who fails to complete the exam or assignment within the prescribed period may receive a failing grade for that exam or assignment.

If a student or an instructor disagrees about the nature of the absence [i.e., for the purpose of observing a religious holy day] or if there is similar disagreement about whether the student has been given a reasonable time to complete any missed assignments or examinations, either the student or the instructor may request a ruling from the chief executive officer of the institution, or his or her designee. The chief executive officer or designee must take into account the legislative intent of TEC 51.911(b), and the student and instructor will abide by the decision of the chief executive officer or designee.

These descriptions and timelines are subject to change at the discretion of the Professor.