

Days & Times Summer A (Wednesday, May 27th and Tuesday, June 30th) Online course

Students required to first log in to class in eLearning between 6am May 27th and 6am May 30th

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<i>Teaching Asst.</i>	Ms. Nina Barbieri (do not contact TA with questions—please send to Dr. Boots)
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<i>Office Location</i>	Green Hall 2.124
<i>Office Hours</i>	by appointment only for Summer 2015 Summer A term

Course Description/Goals

This course examines the policy and legal controversies surrounding the application of capital punishment (i.e., the death penalty) as a punishment for homicide. The goals of the course will be to review 1) capital punishment through history, 2) relevant U.S. Supreme Court decisions and contemporary problems with the application of the death penalty and 3) analyze the nature, extent, and distribution of criminal homicide.

Required Textbooks and Materials

- 1) Textbook: *DeathQuest: An Introduction to the Theory and Practice of Capital Punishment in the United States* 4th edition (YOU **MUST** HAVE ONLY 4th EDITION- OTHERS ARE OUT OF DATE!) by Robert K. Bohm ISBN: 978-1-4377-3493-5 Anderson Publishing
- 2) Other required and assigned media and readings are listed on the attached course calendar provided at the end of this syllabus. These supplements are posted in eLearning for each chapter, as links in your Power Points in the learning modules, and in the Homicide Module—students are required to download, view, and/or read these supplemental audio, video, and written materials. All materials contained in the Power Points and posted in eLearning are testable material for this class in addition to the text. All original materials created and posted online by the professor are the property of Dr. Boots and may not be used outside this class without written permission of the instructor.

AN IMPORTANT NOTE ON TEXTBOOKS: If you opt to purchase your textbook online, make sure to order **only the 4th edition** and to get your book **PRIOR** to the class starting. If you have ANY doubt it will arrive in time, I encourage you to purchase the text at Off Campus Books in Richardson. I will not make extensions on graded assignments if you do not have your book in time and the class moves very fast since it is a summer course. Please do not ask me to borrow my text if yours has not arrived or ask to borrow another student's book via our email or discussion boards. **It is CRITICAL that you have your text and in hand no later than the end of the first day of class on May 27th!!!**

AN IMPORTANT NOTE REGARDING DISABILITIES: If you have a certified disability from UT Dallas and are in need of accommodations for this class, please contact me ASAP with your documentation so we may discuss how to best facilitate you in the course. It is very important for students inform me of their needs at the very beginning of the class since this course moves at a very fast pace.

AN IMPORTANT NOTE REGARDING eLearning OUTAGES: Regular maintenance window for eLearning is Tuesdays between 2-4am but can go longer. It is strongly discouraged by eLearning that users access course sites or tests during this time. ELearning can go down during this window at any time and work will not be saved. Unscheduled outages or issues for eLearning should be monitored on the eLearning home page on the top left side for updates and via your UTD email.

Course Policies & Requirements

This course is completed within a five-week time frame and will wrap up on Tuesday, June 30th; please note that although it is abbreviated, **the course load is required to be the same as that of a semester-long course!** Be prepared to do a ***significant*** amount of assignments and reading to complete the course successfully. This is an advanced 3000-level course and will be reading intensive. With that being said, I have worked hard to make this an enjoyable class for you. You will find many study tools and online study aids to facilitate your learning and no group work will be required. I will be online and responding to your posts frequently and available to you via email if you have any questions as you get through the course material.

In addition to the textbook assigned readings, you will have additional readings, handouts, and/or media files that are uploaded via the course modules for each chapter in your Learning Modules in eLearning. This material will be included on the test and it will be very important that you review the Power Points, other materials assigned in each module, and use these materials to help you in your studying.

Students will have weekly discussion board postings and quizzes for each chapter that are due per your course calendar. You will also be graded on your active class participation weekly. There will be one midterm and one final exam. Custom study guides for the midterm and final exam have also been created and are available to you under the LEARNING MODULES link to aid you in your targeted studying, as there are a sizeable number of court cases and definitions from the readings you will be responsible for on your exams. You are strongly encouraged to utilize ALL these learning tools to facilitate your learning and help you with your studying, as this is an accelerated class and you will have no time to get behind! It is critical that you prepare well and do NOT procrastinate on your board posts or exam preparations...those students who do this risk a poor grade on their exams and in the overall course.

Detailed and comprehensive information on the course policies, deadlines, and virtual classroom are located here within your syllabus. **It is critical for each student to read this syllabus carefully and email me if they are not clear on the grading and assignment requirements at the BEGINNING of this class.**

Please note: **I will NOT make exceptions for grading or test deadlines if a student does not follow the directions in the syllabus!!!! Please email me with questions only AFTER you have consulted your syllabus for information. Students with a verified disability through the University, who have a university-sponsored event on test days, or who have a conflict due to religious holidays are strongly encouraged to contact the instructor via email the FIRST FEW DAYS OF CLASSES to make arrangements to accommodate these issues. Keep in mind that the midterm exam will be held just over two weeks into the class on June 12th. Check the course calendar for due dates carefully and consider whether you can make these due dates if you wish to stay enrolled in the course. If I make an exception for one student, I must do it for all, and I simply will not compromise the class in this manner. To be fair to all students, I will enforce these policies STRICTLY.**

eLearning Issues or Technical Problems

This course is offered completely through the internet using eLearning. **Contact the UT Dallas ELearning Helpdesk immediately at 866-588-3192 if you are having issues accessing the class. The normal maintenance window runs on Tuesdays from 2-4am. Please do not access the system during this time.** If students do not follow these directions and subsequently have issues meeting deadlines, the instructor will not delay grade deadlines.

The UTD 24/7 eLearning Helpdesk may be reached at phone 972-588-3192 or access a live chat session for help at: **<http://www.utdallas.edu/oec/distance/eLearningHelpdesk.html>**. **Please DO NOT email the professor for technical support- you must contact the UT Dallas Helpdesk to resolve any user problems you have.**

Also be aware that I am able to track in detail your access to all areas of the eLearning system by time and date for every student as well as the length of time each of you were logged in. Please do not make statements which are patently dishonest about dates and times you were in the system or problems that actually did not occur to try

to make a case for late submissions—this will be considered an act of academic dishonesty. I will first verify all logon information if a student claims to have technical issues that have been reported to the Help Desk.

If students contact the Help Desk and still are unable to get into the class site, please email Dr. Boots directly from your UTD email account at: deniseboots@utdallas.edu and copy me in on all original trouble tickets and correspondence that you have had with the Help Desk.

Students MUST have reliable access to a computer with an internet connection such as a cable modem, DSL, or a T-1 connection, whether that be at home, at school, or another location of their choice. If you do not have a fast and/or reliable internet connection at your home, you MUST to do your class work at an alternate location such as at UTD in the library or computer labs. This rule especially applies for your EXAMS, as once you log in to the exam the timer will start on your test time. No extensions will be given if your internet connection is not reliable and your test will close within the allotted time window regardless of whether you finish or not. This test grade will be final in the event this occurs. Please do not risk a zero on your exams!!!

Virtual Classroom Class Participation, Citizenship, and Communication Styles

The key to doing well in any online course is having the self-discipline to complete your reading, assignments, learning aids, and lectures on time. Procrastination will only cause you problems with your grades in this class and all deadlines will be fairly and uniformly enforced. I strongly encourage you to treat this just like any other live class—set aside a dedicated time that you do your coursework, review this syllabus regularly to ensure that you are on task, and meet your deadlines early for all assignments. **DO NOT** wait until the last hours to try to get your assignments and tests submitted—any loss of internet connection or miscalculation on your part that leads to failure to hit your deadlines will result in a zero for that particular grade.

Class participation will be graded weekly as I will assess your involvement and interaction on the class discussion boards.

NOTE: You will be required to respond to at least one other student on every discussion board posting that is due at least one full day before the deadline for that board assignment. More information on class participation scoring can be found below under the *Course Assignments and Deadlines* section. While online classes give you great flexibility in taking classes that will conform to your schedules and lifestyles, do not assume that “online” equates to an “easy” class.

- **DO** read the syllabus and mark your calendars with course deadlines and exam dates.
- **DO** read the emails sent to by the professor during the course. This will have important tips, reminders, and information on testing and grading.
- **DO** think critically and debate your points with facts and well-written arguments!
- **DO** post early, respond to your classmates as you read their posts, and respond to your messages on your posts.
- **DO NOT** wait to the last hours before a deadline to post your discussion boards or take your quizzes or exams.
- **DO** have respect for differences of opinion in our classroom. My job is to teach you *how* to think, not *what* to think.
- **DO** communicate in a formal and professional language style appropriate for a classroom setting.
- **DO** write in complete sentences, using proper grammar and punctuation for all your posts and assignments.
- **DO NOT** use text messaging language anywhere in our virtual classroom, including in emails addressed to me.
- **DO** act and speak to your classmates and me as you would in a live class (knowing that I will be monitoring class correspondence and grade you accordingly).
- **DO NOT** abbreviate words or use contractions (e.g., don’t, isn’t, couldn’t, etc.)
- **DO** avoid all profanity, slang, or incomplete sentences in any of your postings or emails.
- **DO NOT** use personal attacks, inflammatory, racist, or sexist language on our class boards. Any student who abuses these privileges will have their final grade penalized accordingly and at my discretion.
- **DO NOT** use the discussion boards or email system in this class for anything unrelated to this course.

Email Use

This class is an online course, so email correspondence is vital to its success and to ensure good communication. The university states that 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. **As such, I CANNOT respond to emails from anything other than a UTD email account for YOUR protection.**

****Please** address me as Dr. Boots in all correspondence (and I do apologize to those of you to whom this is common sense, but this has become enough of an issue that I feel I must now put this in my syllabi for online classes to avoid awkward situations later on) at deniseboots@utdallas.edu.

I will send important updates to students often via email since this is my only way to communicate with the class. If you do not receive an email update because your email box is full, you will be held to any updates to the course calendar and changes in deadlines that might occur. **I STRONGLY ENCOURAGE STUDENTS TO CHECK THEIR EMAIL INBOX ONCE DAILY FOR MESSAGES SINCE THIS IS AN ACCELERATED COURSE AND YOU WILL HAVE SHORT TURNAROUND TIMES ON DEADLINES.**

IMPORTANT: Please include your full student name and the class name in the SUBJECT LINE of any emails sent so I can identify quickly that the message is from a student from this class. **I get a large number of emails each day and teach different classes, so this will allow me to get to you faster. While I will make every effort to respond to your emails promptly, please plan your work accordingly and allow for up to a 48-hour response time, especially on weekends or evenings.** During our class there may be times I will be out of the office or traveling, and it could mean that you will not hear back from me for over a day or more because I do not have email readily available. Do not wait until the last minute on deadlines for responses or expect immediate responses to inquiries overnight near deadline times.

Course Assignments and Deadlines

The course is paced along with the term and allows students to work independently. This accelerated course is split into two sections (Chapter 1 through 6 for Midterm; Chapter 7 through 12/Homicide Module for Final), with coursework made available to students in advance-- you are free to work ahead on any released chapters and assignments as you wish. The first section and all 6 chapters' discussion posts and quizzes are available as of the first day of class on May 27th. The second section and the last 6 chapters' plus the homicide components assignments will be released to you on June 12th (the same day as your midterm).

Again, there will be NO EXCEPTIONS made if a student fails to meet the date and time deadlines set forth on your course calendar, unless there is a documented hospitalization or death of immediate relative. Potential excuses that will not be considered include, but are not limited to: eLearning being down, illnesses, forgetfulness, falling behind, work, family, friends, housing, sporting events, scheduling, relationships, and/or computer, viruses, or internet access problems. **Please note that being sick is NOT a valid excuse for missing regular assignments that are posted well in advance, even with a doctor's note.** In other words, please do not try to use your issues as an excuse for not getting your assignments submitted by their due dates. I will hold to this policy as written here to ensure that EVERY student is treated equally and fairly. **The CST clock in eLearning determines cut offs for due dates, so match your clocks appropriately.**

FIRST DAY OF CLASS ASSIGNMENT (5 Points for 1st Day Pre-Test Quiz/3 points for Introductory Discussion Board Post for total of 8 points on 1st DAY ASSIGNMENTS):

- All students are **REQUIRED** to log onto eLearning **between 6am on May 27th and 6am on May 30th** and complete the 1st Day Assignments—students will receive a maximum of 8 points on these first assignments.
- After **May 30th at 6am**, all students who have not completed quiz or discussion board post will be given a **ZERO**—no extensions or exceptions allowed.
- Students must log in to eLearning off the main page of the UTD website (www.utdallas.edu), click on the eLearning link on the top right of that website, log into eLearning, then click on our class, and **complete ALL** of the following:
 - **Review the 1st Day of Class Power Point**
 - **Read and review syllabus guidelines, requirements, and deadlines**
 - **Complete the pre-test 1st Day Assessment for up to 5 points**
 - **Complete the Introductory Discussion Board Post for 3 points**
 - **Download and review the Study Guide for Chapters 1-6**

COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING STEPS IN ORDER:

- 1) **RETRIEVE, DOWNLOAD, AND REVIEW THE FIRST DAY OF CLASS POWERPOINT**- go under Learning Modules, then click on 1st Day of Class folder,
- 2) **RETRIEVE, DOWNLOAD & THOROUGHLY READ SYLLABUS**- a copy of the class syllabus is located under the 1st day of class folder,
- 3) **REVIEW** all course and assignment deadlines carefully in back of the syllabus under the course calendar and mark your personal calendars,
- 4) **COMPLETE THE PRE-TEST ASSESSMENT**—each student must take a quiz that registers your pre-test knowledge of the death penalty by clicking under Assessments, then 1st Day Pretest DP Knowledge.
- 5) **RETAKE THE QUIZ UNTIL YOU HAVE A PERFECT SCORE OF 5/5**- you may retake the quiz as many times as they wish until May 30th at 6am...however,
- 6) **DEADLINE:** Whatever your **LAST** recorded score is out of 5 possible points **at 6am on May 30th** will be automatically recorded as your final score in the grade book, so please make sure that your last score is acceptable to you. You cannot contest this grade!
- 7) **ACKNOWLEDGE:** By completing the pre-test quiz assessment, students are stating they:
 - 1) have read and understand all the terms within the syllabus, including the policy on academic dishonesty and plagiarism,
 - 2) understand that each student is responsible to read all class emails from the instructor in a timely manner and check their UTD email regularly throughout the course duration,
 - 3) will use high-speed, reliable internet while accessing eLearning and during exams, and
 - 4) understand and can meet the due dates and times for all assignments, readings, and assessments and that no extensions will be provided. All exams will only be available during the stated dates and times specified in the course calendar.
- 8) **LASTLY, COMPLETE THE INTRODUCTORY DISCUSSION BOARD POST**- click under the tab Discussion Boards and into this assignment to complete your post. Make sure you write in correct sentence format with checks on spelling, grammar and punctuation. Answer all questions.
- 9) **A NOTE ABOUT STUDY GUIDES:** Before starting the learning modules and reading for Chapters 1-6, students should download this study guide in the named folder under the Learning Modules section. Students are strongly encouraged to use and complete the study guide as they work through each chapter or risk not being prepared for exams. This is the only study guide that will be provided. These custom study guides include **ALL** key terms and court cases that will be on your midterm and second exams. Students should download the study guide for Chapter 7-Homicide module after the midterm.

REGULAR DISCUSSION POSTS and QUIZ ASSESSMENT INSTRUCTIONS (5 total points per discussion post assignment/3 total points per quiz for all 12 chapters of the textbook):

For each of the 12 book chapters students will:

- 1) **EARN UP TO 5 TOTAL POINTS for the CHAPTER DISCUSSION BOARD POST**
 - * including 3 points for an **ORIGINAL BOARD POST- Submit discussion post assignment in your own words, AND**
 - * 2 additional points for **CLASS PARTICIPATION- Submit at least one substantive response to at least one other student's discussion board post no later than 24 hours in advance of the final deadline for that assignment, AND**
- 2) **EARN UP TO 3 POINTS for completing the CHAPTER QUIZ**
 - *Take an assessment to gauge student knowledge for each chapter.
 - * Students may retake the quiz unlimited number of times to get a perfect score up to due date and deadline time.
 - * **Last score recorded at due date and time automatically records in grade book.**

Follow the template provided below for each of the 12 chapters, starting with Chapter 1:

1. Read Chapter 1 in your textbook and review all the materials for each chapter starting with the POWERPOINTS for this chapter on your eLearning course home page. Next, click on LEARNING MODULES link on your main menu (left side of home page), click on Chapter 1, and review the Power Points, study guide for midterm, and other attachments under Chapter 1 to ensure that you have comprehended this material to practice your reading and key term comprehension. You may be tested on ANY document that is under the Chapter 1 link, so make sure you open each attachment.
IMPORTANT NOTE ON VIEWING MATERIALS: You must view the Power Point in slide show mode (full screen) to access any links imbedded in them! This is testable material. On the other attachments under each chapter module folder, please click the green link on the page that appears if your download does not automatically. I highly recommend you then click the download button (on the top toolbar just over the document- shows as a gray arrow icon second from the right and next to the print icon), then click on that document in your downloads and view and print the PDF's. Otherwise multiple pages of these documents may not print correctly.
2. Next, click on "QUIZZES & EXAMS" tab and then click on Chapter 1 Quiz link. Press "BEGIN" to start your assessment. There are 10 questions which are true/false for each quiz and your answers are saved as you move through the assessment. When you are done with the quiz, press the "SAVE AND SUBMIT" button and you will be brought to another screen. Click "OK" to see your quiz score. Click "OK" at the bottom right and you will be brought back to the main page for assessments. Retake the quiz until you are satisfied with your score. There is a minimum of 3 points available per quiz. **YOUR LAST QUIZ SUBMISSION WILL AUTOMATICALLY BE REGISTERED IN YOUR GRADEBOOK AT THE DUE DATE AND TIME.**
3. Next, click on the "DISCUSSIONS" tab on the far left side of your menu in eLearning and post your response to the discussion question I have posted for Chapter 1 regarding the content from that chapter. Read the direction below carefully before posting.
4. *Directions for your original post.* For each of your original posts to the discussion board questions, you are required to submit a **MINIMUM** of TWO CONSECUTIVE PARAGRAPHS (with at **LEAST** four complete sentences **per** paragraph) **AND** one hard entry space separating the paragraphs so they are clearly distinguished from one another for the questions posed on the board. Both paragraphs must be submitted in ONE posting (not in multiple posts). **Each post must be written with proper spelling, punctuation, and grammar to receive credit.** I recommend you write your post FIRST in a Word document, check it for accuracy, and then transfer it in into

eLearning when you are satisfied and ready to post. You are welcome to write more four sentences per paragraph and two paragraphs in total if you wish! **Always double check that the format and content of your postings is correct AFTER you post them.** If something occurred during the posting that renders them non-compliant with these instructions you will be given a zero for that part of the assignment unless you correct the problem—this may mean you having to repost your response!

5. ***Discussion board post grading.*** Each assigned discussion board post for the 12 chapters will be assigned a score out of 5 total points—you will be graded up to 3 points for your original post (you must answer the question and the formatting/writing requirements) and 2 more points for your class participation score (you must post to at least one other student at least **ONE FULL DAY** (at least 24 hours) **BEFORE THE DUE DATE AND TIME**). In other words, to get the full 5 points, you must respond to a classmate no later than the Thursday at 6am before the deadline cutoff AND have your own original post submitted no later than Friday at 6am (see your Course Calendar at back of this syllabus for exact due dates and times). **Work early and work ahead to avoid problems with getting posts submitted on time.**

NOTE: THE SCORE SHOWING IN THE GRADEBOOK AFTER THE DUE DATE UNDER THE DISCUSSION BOARD POST FOR EACH CHAPTER INCLUDES BOTH SCORES AND THE TOTAL EARNED OUT OF 5 POINTS.

- **STUDENTS WHO DO NOT SUBMIT A SUBSTANTIVE REPLY (not just a “I liked your post,” or “I agree with you.”) TO A FELLOW STUDENT AT LEAST 24 HOURS IN ADVANCE OF THE DEADLINE WILL BE GIVEN A ZERO FOR THEIR PARTICIPATION GRADE FOR THAT BOARD ASSIGNMENT.**
- *** NO PARTIAL CREDIT ON ORIGINAL DISCUSSION BOARD POSTS WILL BE GIVEN FOR NONSUBSTANTIVE ANSWERS, THOSE THAT DO NOT ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS POSED, OR THOSE THAT ARE WRITTEN WITH SPELLING, GRAMMATICAL, OR PUNCTUATION ERRORS AND TYPOS.**

Feel free to supplement your responses with outside information if properly cited from news sources, reliable websites, outside readings, current events, etc. (Properly cited= means including the name of source, author, date, name of article/story, webpage url, and/or publisher in APA format). Your responses should represent YOUR thoughts, beliefs, and ideas, not someone else's! Usually these discussion posts are opinion pieces, so there is no reason for a student to feel compelled to borrow from another source. You should all have an opinion on these topics I would hope. However, if you use outside sources, you must cite all used to supplement your answers. With that said, while outside sources are welcomed as they help make your response more informed, **THE VAST MAJORITY OF YOUR RESPONSE MUST BE IN YOUR OWN WORDS; USE OUTSIDE SOURCES SPARINGLY OR RISK NO CREDIT ON YOUR ASSIGNMENT. This item will be posted in your gradebook. Students who do not complete the assignment or follow the directions and post their two paragraphs TOGETHER will receive a zero.**

6. ***Plagiarism:*** PLEASE HEED THIS WARNING: DO NOT COPY ANY OTHER SOURCE VERBATIM WITHOUT QUOTES AND A CITATION!!! Copying an outside source without documentation is considered plagiarism and academic dishonesty. If you are citing your assigned textbook, you don't need to give me a source, but state after the quote the author and page number (e.g., Bohm, p. 113). Any student who commits academic dishonesty in this class will be referred to Judicial Affairs for disciplinary action. Moreover, it is considered academic dishonesty for ANYONE other than the registered student in the course to submit class assignments, quizzes, or tests, or to pose as someone else online. **I take these issues VERY seriously, so please do your OWN work.**
7. ***Due dates:*** All assignments are due according to the due dates in your detailed COURSE CALENDAR at the back of this syllabus. Once the due date and time has been reached within eLearning, assignments and quizzes will no longer be available for viewing or submission. You may submit all discussion board posts and quizzes earlier than the due date for chapters once they are released to you in eLearning. All assignments will be graded by me in a timely manner and then posted on your gradebook—it is your

responsibility to check your gradebook promptly once these scores are posted and make sure that your scores are accurate. I will make an eLearning email announcement to the class when assignments have been graded and posted to notify you that these scores are available for viewing in your gradebook.

For all 12 chapters assigned in your syllabus EXCEPT THE HOMICIDE MODULE (see below), you will do exactly the same as the above example for the quizzes and discussion postings due each week. You may work ahead on chapters before due dates. **Please note that all quizzes and discussion board postings are due at 6am on due dates.** You are responsible to follow the course calendar and know the appropriate due dates and times for all assignments!!

HOMICIDE MODULE & DEATH PENALTY JUROR DISCUSSION BOARD ASSIGNMENT

Within the Homicide Module you will view a custom Power Point on Homicide and master the key terms per your study guide for your last exam. This material will be on your last exam!

There will be no quiz on this particular module.

There will be no questions on the last exam regarding the death penalty case.

This module will be available to you at the same date and time as your midterm releases. **You are strongly urged to begin reading through the high volume of materials required to complete the Death Penalty Juror Exercise at least two weeks before the due date and post your response early.** Remember that your last test will begin on the due date for this final assignment and you will need time to review for this major exam!

INSTRUCTIONS: For your last discussion board post you will act as a virtual death penalty juror in a real death penalty case. As this will require a great amount of time and effort on your part to complete this critical assignment, each student is required to submit a final Discussion Board Post that will be (at a bare minimum) double in length of any of the other chapters—IN OTHER WORDS, YOU MUST DO A MINIMUM OF FOUR PARAGRAPHS FOR THE ASSIGNMENT (and follow all other formatting directions for punctuation, spelling, and grammar).

Complete information on this assignment is available under the Discussion Board for this last posting and you should review the questions asked before reviewing all the materials. You will have extensive evidence at your disposal, including court transcripts of opening statements, testimony from experts, autopsy photographs, evidence from the suspect's cells, trial testimony, and photographs from the crime scene. **IT IS CRITICAL THAT YOU ANSWER ALL PARTS OF THE QUESTIONS POSED TO GET CREDIT ON THIS ASSIGNMENT!** Messy, unintelligible, non-substantiated, and poorly articulated posts without needed details will not be given any credit. Remember that this assignment is worth 24 points. You will get all or nothing on this post, just as other discussion board posts. You should give this assignment considerable attention, time, and effort.

WARNING: You may NOT do any outside reading, research, or online inquiries into this case before completing the entire assignment as instructed on eLearning and this syllabus. This will influence your decision and you should only be considering the evidence presented during the court case. In real life, this would be grounds for a mistrial. Once you have completed your assignment in full, you may do as much research on the case as you wish! See complete instructions on the discussion board post before doing work on this assignment and read that info in full please.

Examinations

This class will have a CLOSED BOOK/CLOSED NOTE midterm and final examinations that will be administered via the Quizzes & Exams link within our eLearning course. You are on the honor system as this is an online course. **For our class, your test days will be on Friday, June 12th (MIDTERM) from 6am to 9pm CST and Tuesday, June 30th from 6am to 9pm CST ONLY. STUDENTS MAY NOT TAKE THE EXAMS EARLIER OR LATER THAN THIS TESTING WINDOW, SO PLEASE SCHEDULE YOURSELF ACCORDINGLY TO BE AVAILABLE DURING THE SCHEDULED TESTING TIME.**

The midterm and last exam will become available on scheduled test days at 6am and must be completed and submitted within eLearning BEFORE 9pm CST on the eLearning clock! You will have 70 minutes from the time you log in to take the test to submit your answers. Once you log in, the clock starts and you will not be allowed to stop the clock. You **MUST** log in prior to 9pm to take the exam or you will not have 70 minutes to take the test—the assessment will automatically become unavailable at 9pm promptly.

There will be 75 multiple-choice questions on each exam and each question is worth 2 points for a total of 150 points per test. You may not log in and out of the exam—if you log off your exam will continue on the timer and will automatically save your final score when the allotted time has expired. **IT IS VERY IMPORTANT YOU USE A RELIABLE HIGH-SPEED INTERNET CONNECTION FOR THE TEST.** You should read the section below on “How to take assessments” PRIOR to taking the test if you are new to online exams!

Remember that although you are completing exams electronically, these tests are **NOT** designed to be open note or open book, thus you are expected to have full knowledge of the material as if you were sitting for a live exam. If you attempt to use your notes, you most certainly will not get through the test on time. You will answer one question at a time but can return to a question if you need to before finalizing your exam (see the detailed directions below and at the end of your syllabus). Once you finalize the test and submit your responses, your assessment will be forwarded in eLearning for grading. All grades will be posted as soon as possible after the close of the exam time (usually within a day or two). There will be a timer in place via eLearning and you will have less than a minute per question to answer. The **CLOCK AND TIMER** on the eLearning system is the only one that counts, not yours. **Exams will account for approximately 2/3 of your final grade in this class.**

Your midterm will cover *DeathQuest* Chapters 1-6 and supplements only. Your second and final exam will NOT be cumulative—it will only include *DeathQuest* Chapters 7-12, supplements, and the Homicide component. The learning modules and all supplements for the second half of the class will be released on June 12th at 6am, which is the same day as your midterm.

You should immediately download the Midterm and Final Study Guides that have been created by the instructor to help you in this course and use this as a guide from DAY ONE of the course. Both the midterm and final exams will include materials covered from your textbook, Power Points, your online study aids, and all supplemental audio, written, and visual materials provided in your Learning Modules. People, places, things, significant court cases, and highlighted words or sections in your text are the areas of interest you should focus on in your studying. I have created very detailed Power Points for every chapter of your text to help you with the materials since I will not be able to lecture you on these materials. Make sure that you pull out key points from all assigned supplements for each chapter, as a good number of questions on each exam will be devoted to these assigned materials as well. You should know the important court cases that are highlighted in the study guides as well as historical figures that have influenced criminological theory and the criminal justice system in each chapter when relevant. Know your key terms and definitions and use your online study tools to review these materials! Recall that your chapter quizzes will NOT be available to you for review past the due date- these are brief but are a good study aid to start with.

PLEASE NOTE: I will not offer further study guides or reviews, provide page numbers or further information for the assigned court cases, or any lists of key terms beyond the study guides and aids provided in eLearning—each chapter and the study aids provided online offers you a comprehensive review of the materials presented. A large percentage of your grade in this course is largely based on your performance on timed, objective assessments. If you do not do well on these types of assessments, it is suggested that you choose another type of course. No alternative assignments or bonus points will be made available for those students that do not perform well on these types of assessments (e.g., extra papers, etc.)

PLEASE DO NOT ASK THE INSTRUCTOR AT ANY POINT IN THE CLASS IF YOU CAN DO EXTRA CREDIT!!! I DO NOT DO THIS IN ANY OF MY CLASSES.

A NOTE ON INTERPRETING EXAM GRADES POSTED IN THE GRADEBOOK: The number posted in your gradebook is your score out of a possible 150 points on each exam-- **NOT A PERCENTAGE.** To calculate your percentage, take your score and multiply by 100; then divide that total by 150 points to get your corresponding grade percentage. Look at the grade policy below to determine the matching letter grade for that percentage.

HOW TO TAKE EXAMS VIA THE ASSESSMENT LINK IN eLEARNING:

The Assessments tool allows you to access any tests, quizzes, or surveys your professor has added to the course. Your professor determines the availability of each test, quiz, or survey as well as how long you have to complete it.

IMPORTANT TEST INFORMATION: PLEASE NOTE THAT ONCE YOU HAVE CLICKED “BEGIN,” YOUR TIME WILL BEGIN ON THE EXAM. IF YOU ARE DISCONNECTED FOR ANY REASON OR FORGET TO CLICK “SAVE ALL ANSWERS” AND LOG OUT OF THE EXAM, YOU WILL RECEIVE A ZERO ON THE TEST. Make sure you have saved AND clicked save on your test BEFORE you log out!!!!

To view step-by-step directions on how to take an assessment in eLearning before your exam, go to http://ondemand.blackboard.com/r91/movies/bb91_student_taking_test_online.htm

TECHNICAL/RESET ISSUES DURING EXAMS:

Please recall that when taking your tests, you should make sure you do NOT use a dial-up connection as the test will not be reset for you and you will be thrown out of eLearning. Failure to use a computer with a high-speed connection is NOT an excuse for failure to complete an exam on time and I will not reset it for you to retake if you are disconnected or cannot complete your test from your internet connection). Review the attached guide on technical requirements for computers and access to eLearning before your assessments are due and contact the eLearning Help Desk if you have questions.

VERY IMPORTANT: Make-up exams will absolutely **NOT** be considered unless there is documented proof of an extreme emergency (e.g., documented death of immediate relative or student hospitalization), you have an official UTD-sponsored event that conflicts with the exam date, and I am contacted **BEFORE THE EXAM GOES LIVE AT 6am ON TEST DAY IN eLEARNING VIA EMAIL.** Documentation will be required and should be submitted at the time you email me if you have a true emergency! Your doctor saying you are sick or you feeling sick IS NOT A VALID EXCUSE FOR A MAKEUP EXAM. The instructor reserves the right for any makeup examination to be full essay taken in person at UTD. All make-up exams will be administered **in person** at my office in Green Hall 2.124 on a date of my choosing. **MAKEUP EXAMS WILL NOT BE TAKEN ONLINE!!!**

Course Grading Policy and Final Grade Scale

Pre-test of Death Penalty Facts	5 points
1 st Day Discussion Board Assignment	3 points
Original Discussion Board Posts Ch. 1-12 (3 points per chapter)	36 points
Class Participation Discussion Board Posts 1-12 (2 points per chapter)	24 points
Quizzes Ch. 1-12 (3 points per quiz):	36 points
Discussion Post for Death Penalty Discussion Board Post	24 points
EXAM 1- Midterm (75 questions @2 points each):	150 POINTS (33% of your grade)
EXAM 2- Final (75 questions @2 points each):	150 POINTS (33% of your grade)

TOTAL

428 POINTS POSSIBLE IN CLASS

GRADING SCALE: Take your **FINAL POINT TOTAL** for all items from eLearning to determine the corresponding grade per the University's +/- standardized grading scale:

<u>Percent</u>	<u>Grade</u>	<u>Point Range Totals</u>
100%	A+	428
93-99%	A	398-427
90-92%	A-	385-397
87-89%	B+	372-384
83-86%	B	355-371
80-82%	B-	342-354
77-79%	C+	329-341
73-76%	C	312-328
70-72%	C-	299-311
67-69%	D+	286-298
63-66%	D	269-285
60-62%	D-	255-268
59% and less	F	254 and below

To check your grades in eLearning, please click the link below for step-by-step directions:
http://ondemand.blackboard.com/r91/movies/bb91_student_checking_grades.htm

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 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, Board of Regents, The University of Texas System, Part 1, Chapter VI, Section 3*, 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).

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 demonstrates a high standard of individual honor in his or her scholastic work.

Scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, statements, acts or omissions related to applications for enrollment or the award of a degree, and/or the submission as one's own work or material that is not one's own. As a general rule, scholastic dishonesty involves one of the following acts: cheating, plagiarism, collusion and/or falsifying academic records. Students suspected of academic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary proceedings and will be referred for any and all academic proceedings via the Dean of Students Office. **PLEASE DO YOUR OWN WORK! For online classes, letting another person complete your work or take an exam for you or representing them as you is considered cheating. Only the student registered for the class may participate in class work or assignments. Plagiarism, especially from the web, from portions of papers for other classes, and from any other source is unacceptable and will be dealt with to the fullest extent possible under the university's policy on plagiarism (see general catalog for details and the plagiarism handout posted to the main course page for this class on**

eLearning for more information). This course will use the resources of turnitin.com, which searches the web for possible plagiarism and is over 90% effective.

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)

Essentially, the law requires that colleges and universities make those reasonable adjustments necessary to eliminate discrimination on the basis of disability. For example, it may be necessary to remove classroom prohibitions against tape recorders or animals (in the case of dog guides) for students who are blind. Occasionally an assignment requirement may be substituted (for example, a research paper versus an oral presentation for a student who is hearing impaired). Classes enrolled students with mobility impairments may have to be rescheduled in accessible facilities. The college or university may need to provide special services such as registration, note-taking, or mobility assistance. 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 during the first week of classes via email so that any special accommodations may be made for the semester.**

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 a religious absence and in advance of the assignment. **All religious holidays that will be observed should be submitted in writing to the instructor via email during the first week of classes so that alternative plans can be made regarding conflicts with due dates.** 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.

Please see the following site for detailed information regarding UTD syllabus policies regarding Student Conduct & Discipline, Off-Campus Instruction, Incomplete Grades, Withdrawals, etc.:

<http://go.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies>

Detailed Course Calendar & Assignment Due Dates for Summer 2015

CRIM 3320 Homicide & Capital Punishment

PLEASE NOTE: *These descriptions and timelines are subject to change at the discretion of the Professor. If any changes are made students will be notified via Announcements/Email in eLearning.*

ALL TIMES ARE LISTED AS CENTRAL STANDARD TIME.

Power Points, the Homicide death case, and any other original works created and posted by the instructor may not be used or reprinted outside this class without expressed and written permission of Dr. Boots.

IMPORTANT: Supplemental Media is located on your Power Points located on eLearning on the Learning Modules under each respective chapter and module. You will need Windows Media Player and/or Real Player to review these materials. All Power Points must be in view slideshow to activate hyperlinks.

Supplemental Readings are downloaded under each module via the Learning Modules if they are not contained within the chapter Power Point—Most readings are PDF and can be read in Adobe Reader.

ALL SUPPLEMENTS LISTED HERE ARE REQUIRED READING/VIEWING FOR THE COURSE AND ARE TESTABLE MATERIAL UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED!!!!

<u>DATE</u>	<u>ASSIGNMENTS/DISCUSSION POSTS/ASSESSMENTS DUE</u>
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May 27th-30th	Student log in for online class—students required to sign on to class via eLearning <u>starting at 6am on May 27th and ending at 6am on May 30th</u>
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ASSIGNMENT: review Dr. Boots' Introduction PPT, read ENTIRE syllabus, take 1st day quiz off Quizzes & Exams tab of eLearning

***Note that first assignments on *DeathQuest* Ch. 1-3 are due on June 5th BEFORE 6am!!**

June 5th	Readings/Study Aids should be completed for <i>DeathQuest</i> Ch. 1-3 and all materials reviewed that are included in Chapter 1-3 Learning Modules (this goes for all chapters for each week)
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***Discussion Posts/Quizzes Ch 1, 2, & 3 due to be completed in ELearning by 6am today!**

Chapter 1: History of the Death Penalty

Supplemental media in PPT: DPIC Timeline of History of DP PowerPoint (PPT) slide 2

Supplemental readings in eLearning: DPIC Overview Sheet &

History of DP & Recent Developments PDF

Chapter 2: Capital Punishment and the Supreme Court :The Premodern Period

Supplemental reading in eLearning: LA Times article on DP as affirmation of sanctity of life

Chapter 3: The Challenge to Capital Punishment's Legality

Supplemental reading in eLearning: Exonerated Former Death Row inmate article

Cassell Wall Street Journal article

June 12th	<u>*MIDTERM must be taken by students today between 6am-9pm*</u>
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(recall that midterm grades will not be released or viewable to students upon completion of the exam—the instructor will release grades after deadline once I post these grades and send an email to the class—usually within few days of exam date. Check your UTD emails.)

Readings/Study Aids should be completed for *DeathQuest* Ch. 4-6

***Discussion Posts/Quizzes Ch 4-6 due in eLearning by 6am today!**

Chapter 4: Capital Punishment and Supreme Court: The Modern Period

Supplemental reading in eLearning: BJS Statistical Tables 2010

Chapter 5: Death Penalty at Federal Level, Military, & Globally

Supplemental reading in eLearning: DPIC List of Federal Executions 1927-2003 sheet
Chapter 6: Methods of Execution
Supplemental media: Video link to Texas Execution Information Center, video link Charles Hood
Supplemental reading in eLearning: AMA Physician Participation article

CHAPTERS 7-12 & HOMICIDE MODULE RELEASED @6am on June 12th

- June 19th Readings/Study Aids should be completed for *DeathQuest* Ch. 7-9
 * **Discussion Posts/Quizzes Ch 7-9 due in eLearning before 6am today!**
- Chapter 7: General Deterrence & Death Penalty**
Supplemental media: Audio Podcast from DPIC Episode Four: Deterrence at end of PPT
Supplemental readings in eLearning: Kovandzic, Vieraitis, & Boots (2009) *Criminology & Public Policy* journal article on deterrence &
Introduction to article by Donahue (additional download—read this one first!),
- Chapter 8: Incapacitation and the Costs of Capital Punishment**
Supplemental media: Audio interview on Legal Broadcast Network with Richard Dieter and Audio Podcast from DPIC Episode 3: Costs of CP at end of PPT
Supplemental readings: none
- Chapter 9: Miscarriages of Justice**
Supplemental media: YouTube video on Sacco and Vanzetti link in PPT slide 4, CBS News clip on Ethel Rosenberg in PPT slide 4, Audio Podcast from DPIC Episode 4: Innocence at end of PPT, and CNN video interview with Louisiana death row exoneree John Thompson at end of PPT
Supplemental reading in eLearning: David Grann article on Cameron Todd Willingham
- June 26th Reading/Study Aids should be reviewed for *DeathQuest* Ch. 10-12
 * **Discussion Posts/Quizzes Ch 10-12 due in eLearning before 6am today!**
- Chapter 10: Arbitrariness and Discrimination**
Supplemental media: Audio Podcast from DPIC Episode 1: Arbitrariness and Audio Podcast from DPIC Episode 6: Racial Discrimination at end of PPT
Supplemental reading in eLearning: Baumgartner Geography of DP & DPIC Arbitrariness PDF
- Chapter 11: Retribution and Religion**
Supplemental media: View 70 x7 Documentary short and Death Penalty Ends Suffering of Family in Alaska news clip at end of PPT
Supplemental readings in eLearning: Carmical essay DP is Morally Defensible & Goodwin argument against families viewing executions article
- Chapter 12: American Death Penalty Opinion**
Supplemental media: NPR video with New Jersey police chief abolishes death penalty, Pew Research Continued Majority Support for Death Penalty
Supplemental readings in eLearning: Time Texas Changing Its Mind & Time Tide Shifts Against DP

June 30th

SECOND EXAM must be taken by students today between 6am-9pm

Reading/Study Aids should be reviewed for Homicide component in eLearning—on last exam!
Discussion Post for Broadnax Death Penalty Juror Exercise due BEFORE 6am today!

Thoroughly review custom Homicide Power Point in eLearning for Reading Assignment and then read supplemental materials (some of which are synthesized in PPT)

Supplemental readings: Texas Dept. Public Safety 2013 Report &
Texas Penal Code

DEATH PENALTY JUROR DISCUSSION BOARD POST: Using all your newfound knowledge on homicide and the death penalty you have gained in this class, all students are charged as a “jury” for their final discussion board assignment (24 points awarded for this assignment). As a class and individually, you will review the evidence in a *real* homicide case from Dallas, Texas, read the transcripts regarding evidence and testimony, render a verdict of guilty or not guilty, and if finding guilt, each individually decide on whether the defendant should be sentenced to death or life in prison. You will review the evidence individually online and then post your responses on the discussion board.

- As the “judge” of this case, I am instructing all jury members that you are **STRICLY** forbidden from doing any research on the case or offenders involved before completing this assignment in full—you may only review the evidence presented to you and make your judgment based on this evidence. You may, however, have spirited debates with your fellow jury members as you come to a consensus on what the appropriate punishment might be for this crime on the boards. Detailed instructions for this last discussion board posting can be found in eLearning under and in this syllabus under the section: Death Penalty Juror Exercise.

REMEMBER: ALL Students MUST take Second Exam via Assessments link of eLearning on *all assigned materials in Chapters 7-12 and the Homicide Module* between 6am and 9pm on June 30th. This exam is not cumulative and does not include material from Chapters 1-6.

****I will send an email to the entire class at once after finals close and all final grades are calculated. Second exam grades will not post until I release them with final grades—usually within a couple of days after the exam. Check your UTD emails for this final email with important information in it!**

Last updated: 5/27/2015