

Course Information

Course Number/Section	CRIM 6300.0W1 (85611)
Course Title	Proseminar in Criminology
Term	Fall Semester 2016

Professor Contact Information

Professor	O. Elmer Polk, Ph.D.
Office Phone	972.883.2983
Email Address	elmer.polk@utdallas.edu You must use the course message link on the course homepage to contact me rather than my personal email. Please feel welcome and encouraged to message me as frequently as you like during the course.
Office Location	GR 2.208
Online Office Hours	11:00 am to 12:00 noon during fall semester. Other times available by appointment.
Other Information	No TA is assigned to this section.

Course Pre-requisites, Co-requisites, and/or Other Restrictions:

Program permission is required to enroll in this section.

Course Description: CRIM 6300 Proseminar in Criminology (3 semester hours):

Introduction to graduate study in criminology through exposure to issues surrounding concepts of crime, criminals and societal response. Students learn to examine critically the theoretical, methodological and policy issues in criminology and criminal justice.

Student Learning Objectives/Outcomes:

- Present linkages between criminological and policy implications in the practice of criminal justice.
- Examine the history and evolution of crime and societal response.
- Students will analyze the various theoretical concepts within the discipline of Criminology.
- Students will acquire knowledge of criminological theory, research methods, statistics, and policy to contribute to our understanding of crime and criminality.

Required Textbooks and Materials

1. T1-Roth, Mitchell P. *Crime and Punishment: A History of the Criminal Justice System*, 2nd edition (2011). Wadsworth Publishing, Cengage Learning. ISBN #: 0-495-80988-8, ISBN 13#: 978-0-495-80988—3.
2. Reddington, Francis P. & Gene Bonham, Jr. *Flawed Criminal Justice Policies (21012)*, Carolina Academic Press, ISBN#: 978-1-59460-936-7.

Additionally, students are required to read appropriate, current criminal justice journal articles and access internet materials as assigned in the Course Calendar and Assignment Schedule section of this syllabus or as required for Discussion Board Postings and completion of the required writing assignments. Textbooks and some other bookstore materials can be ordered online through Off-Campus Books <http://www.offcampusbooks.com> or the UT Dallas Bookstore <http://www.bkstr.com/texasatdallasstore/home>. They are also available in stock at both bookstores.

Technical Requirements

In addition to a confident level of computer and Internet literacy, certain minimum technical requirements must be met to enable a successful learning experience. Please review the important technical requirements <http://www.utdallas.edu/elearning/students/getting-started.html#techreqs> on the Getting Started with eLearning webpage <http://www.utdallas.edu/elearning/students/getting-started.html>.

Course Access and Navigation

The course can be accessed using the UT Dallas NetID account at: <https://elearning.utdallas.edu>. Please see the course access and navigation <http://www.utdallas.edu/elearning/students/getting-started.html#courseaccessandnav> section of the site for more information. To become familiar with the eLearning tool, please see the Student eLearning Tutorials <http://www.utdallas.edu/elearning/students/eLearningTutorialsStudents.html>.

UT Dallas provides eLearning technical support 24 hours a day/7 days a week. The eLearning Support Center <http://www.utdallas.edu/elearninghelp> services include a toll free telephone number for immediate assistance (1-866-588-3192), email request service, and an online chat service.

Communication

Interaction with Professor: The professor will communicate with students mainly using the Course Messages, Announcements and Discussions tools. Students must send personal concerns or questions to the instructor using the course message tool. The instructor will reply to student messages or Discussion board postings within 1-3 working days under normal circumstances.

Distance Learning Student Resources

Online students have access to resources including the McDermott Library, Academic Advising, The Office of Student AccessAbility, and many others. Please see the eLearning Current Students page <http://www.utdallas.edu/elearning/students/cstudents.htm> for details.

Server Unavailability or Other Technical Difficulties

The University is committed to providing a reliable learning management system to all users. However, in the event of any unexpected server outage or any unusual technical difficulty which prevents students from completing a time sensitive assessment activity, the instructor will provide an appropriate accommodation based on the situation. Students should immediately report any problems to the instructor and also contact the online eLearning Help Desk <http://www.utdallas.edu/elearninghelp>. The instructor and the eLearning Help Desk will work with the student to resolve any issues at the earliest possible time.

Grading Policy

Grades will be posted based on the following scale: Graduate: A=94-100, A-=90-93, B+= 87-89, B=84-86, B-=80-83, C+=77-79, C=70-76, F=0-69. Grades are based on the following events. **Please note that there is absolutely no extra credit work available in this class** and each student should strive to do his or her best work on each and every grading event as the course progresses. **The mathematical rule of rounding will apply to the computation of the final grade** in the course based on the grades received in the following events.

1. Examination I (100 points) 3 hours, online, open-book; questions from textbooks and internet sites
2. Forum 1 grade (100 points) Answers to five of the issues must be posted on the discussion board in essay format of 350 words or more per answer. Three bibliographic citations and the word count must be posted with each of the issue postings along with internal cites – one source can be your textbook.
3. Forum 2 grade (100 points) Same as Forum 1 except questions are from Forum 2.
4. Responses (100 points) to five of your classmates' postings either agreeing or disagreeing and stating why.
5. Library Research Paper 1 (100 points) on a **criminology** theory chosen by you. Theory must be approved via message by the professor prior to commencing work on the paper. Only one or two students will be allowed to write on each topic – it is up to the student to get permission early if you have individual interest in a particular issue (details below). Paper must include how the theory has been researched in the literature.
6. Library Research Paper 2 (100 points) on an **criminal justice** topic chosen by you from your Crime and Punishment textbook. Topic must be approved via message by the professor prior to commencing work on the paper. Only one or two students will be allowed to write on each topic – it is up to the student to get permission early if you have individual interest in a particular issue (details below). Paper must include discussion of the research and statistics used in prior research on your topic.
7. Final Examination (100 points) Essay questions testing depth of knowledge obtained during the entire course. Each student must answer five of the seven questions posed and submit them through the course assignment folder no later than the due date specified in the course calendar.
8. Syllabus Quiz (no credit points) This quiz is required by the due date in the course calendar before any student takes any of the exams or posts any discussion questions. Please message your professor via the course message link if you have any questions whatsoever after taking the quiz. Quiz should be repeated until you obtain a score of 100. (0 points)
9. Introductions (0 points) Each student should log onto the discussion board the first week of class and provide a brief introduction to the rest of the class. Please give us your class standing (where you are in the program) and why you are in the graduate program plus any other information you would like to share. Please do not provide personal phone numbers or addresses on the discussion board.

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.

University Drop Policy: It is the responsibility of the student to process the official drop and add forms. Faculty/staff cannot drop students from class. Please be aware the professor cannot drop a student for never attending or missing too many classes and can only assign grades based on the work submitted. For this reason it is important to your grade that if, for any reason, you decide to not complete the course, to complete the appropriate paperwork to drop the class officially or to withdraw from the university.

Online Examinations/Quizzes/Assignments

You can access the required syl quiz, exams, and papers by clicking the Syl Quiz, Exams, & Assignments folder on the course homepage and then clicking the appropriate link to open the one you are ready to take or submit. Each quiz/exam is timed and can be accessed only one time within the scheduled time window. Please read the on-screen instructions carefully before you click "Begin Assessment". Message the professor if you experience problems submitting the exams.

Syllabus Quiz: All students are required to complete the syllabus quiz by the due date specified in the Course Calendar and Assignment section of this syllabus.

Examinations: The mid-term exam is open-book and will consist of 100 objective items each with a maximum cumulative score of 100 points on the exam. You will access the mid-term exam in the Syl Quiz, Exams, & Assignments folder assessments tool on the course homepage. Questions are taken from your textbooks and the internet sites identified in the Course Calendar & Assignment Schedule section of this syllabus. Your score will be posted in percentage scores in your gradebook with a maximum score of 100% on each. You will be given a maximum of three hours to complete the exam. Please read and study the texts and required internet sites in detail before beginning the exams. The professor will manually curve the class scores depending upon the highest grade made on each exam. The manual adjustments, if any, will be entered into your gradebook within one week of the due date for each exam. Each exam will be available to you seven days before the due date. Failure to take the exams during the time window available results in a grade of 0.

The final examination will consist of five essay questions which must be submitted via the course assignments tool to your professor no later than the date provided in the Course Calendar and Assignment Schedule later in this syllabus. Answers may be sent as a file attachment by clicking on the Final Exam link in the Syl Quiz, Exams, & Assignments folder on the course homepage and following the on screen instructions to upload and submit your exam. The examination will be posted to the course homepage one week prior to the due date. The questions must be completed in Word compatible format and must consist of one to two pages per answer with appropriate citing throughout. Further instructions will accompany the Examination when it is posted.

Discussion Board Questions: Ten of the issues in your text (T2) must be answered with each item worth 20 points for a cumulative score of 100 on each forum. Five of the discussion questions must be posted from Forum 1 and five more must be posted from Forum 2 by the due dates in the course calendar & assignment section of this syllabus. Discussion Board items may be posted early and this is highly encouraged to avoid last minute problems. Questions not posted by the due dates will be reduced in grade 10 percent per calendar day. Any questions not received by the last day of regular class will receive a score of zero. Do not post your answers as an attached file because attached files will not receive a grade ultimately resulting in a zero. **Discussion question answers must be the student's own original work and must be 350 words or longer. Post the question number and repeat the question you are answering before writing your answer. Each answer must be followed by the bibliographic information on three sources of information including your textbook and the posting must be followed by a word count. The word count does not include the bibliographic information nor the question. Be sure to indicate through internal citations where you use each source in your posting.** The bibliographic information and word count must be repeated for each and every answer and you should strive to use as many different sources as possible other than your textbook. In other words, please treat each discussion question as a mini-paper with three references including your textbook and two additional sources. Answers that are simply blocked and moved from any other site that are not the original work of the student posting the answer will receive a grade of zero unless properly cited and the student will be referred for disciplinary action by the university.

Responses: Students are required to briefly and respectfully comment in five responses to other students' discussion questions. There is no length requirement for the responses to other student answers. Your responses should be based on the substantive content of their posting and must address the content of their answer. **DO NOT** criticize the other student or make negative references about the student. **Be sure you are responding to another student's posting rather than to my posting of the question.**

Attention to proper writing and correct spelling when posting the discussion questions and responses is expected and is a part of the grade received for the assignment. Use proper grammar and spelling and do not use any type of abbreviations

not found in a commonly accepted, standardized English dictionary. All comments posted by students must be in formal language with no intolerant, rude, abusive, or obscene language. Violations of this policy will be referred for disciplinary action with the recommendation that the student be expelled from the class!

Library Research Paper 1: Pick a **criminology theory** of your choice. Get permission to proceed with that topic from the professor via course messages. You may request such permission any time **after** 8 am on the first day of class and only one or two students (depending on the size of the class) will be permitted to write on any one individual topic. Topics will be assigned in the order in which the request is received by the professor. Proceed to write an 8 to 10 page paper on your topic in APA format, double spaced, in font 11 or 12, with one inch margins. Must have eight or more references with a minimum of three scholarly articles. Submit paper on the course assignment link in the Syl Quiz, Exams, & Assignments folder on the course homepage by clicking on the folder and then on Paper 1 and following the on screen instructions to upload and submit your paper.

Library Research Paper 2: Pick a **criminal justice topic** of your choice. Get permission to proceed with that topic from the professor via course messages. You may request such permission any time **after** 8 am on the first day of class and only one or two students (depending on the size of the class) will be permitted to write on any one topic. Topics will be assigned in the order in which the request is received by the professor. Proceed to write an 8 to 10 page paper on your topic in APA format, double spaced, in font 11 or 12, with one inch margins. Must have eight or more references with a minimum of three scholarly articles. Submit paper on the course assignment link in the Syl Quiz, Exams, & Assignments folder on the course homepage by clicking on the folder and then on Paper 2 and following the on screen instructions to upload and submit your paper. Be sure to include a discussion of prior research methods and statistics used to research your topic.

Introductions: Students should go to the discussion board and post a brief introduction about themselves during the **first week of class**. Please do not post addresses or other personal contact information on the discussion board. Give a brief summary about yourself including what year you are in, your major, and any future career goals if you have formulated them.

Course Calendar & Assignment Schedule

Please note that all chapter reading assignments made in this assignment schedule refer to readings in the required textbooks. Text 1 (T1) is *Crime and Punishment: History of CJ System* by Roth. Text 2 (T2) is Reddington, Francis P. & Gene Bonham, Jr. *Flawed Criminal Justice Policies* (21012), Carolina Academic Press.

As per the UTD Academic Calendar, fall semester classes begin on August 22 and end on Dec. 7 with a final exam due no later than Dec. 9 by 11:59 pm. **Early submission of Exams and writing assignments is highly encouraged.**

Please be aware that the exams are open book and will be accessible for a period of one week prior to the due date. Because of this large amount of time, make-up tests are not permitted. Early completion of all graded events is highly encouraged to avoid late penalties. Only the dates in this syllabus are official and if they conflict with a date anywhere else in the course or on eLearning, only the syllabus dates will be honored.

Week 1 of Class (8/22-8/27): Read the entire class syllabus available on the course website. Welcome to the class! These readings will introduce you to the course, the professor, and the expectations of you in the course. Please feel free to message me at the eLearning message tool on the course homepage and ask any questions you may have. Read chapter 1 in T1

Required internet site #1: <http://www.ancienttexts.org/library/mesopotamian/hammurabi.html>. Read the narrative and the "Code of Laws".

8/29 Monday by 11:50 pm. SYLLABUS QUIZ: ALL STUDENTS MUST COMPLETE THE POSTED QUIZ.

8/29 Monday by 11:59 pm. INTRODUCTIONS: ALL STUDENTS SHOULD GO TO THE DISCUSSION BOARD UNDER INTRODUCTIONS and post a brief introduction of themselves. Please do not post any personal addresses or contact information. Just tell us a little bit about yourself such as what year you are in, your major, your interests, and future career plans if you have formulated any at this time.

Week 2 (8/28-9/3): Read chapter 2 in T1. Topic: English Criminal Justice Antecedents. Crime and punishment in the Colonies.

Required internet site #2: <http://autocww2.colorado.edu/~toldy3/E64ContentFiles/LawAndCourts/Criminology.html>

Week 3 (9/4-9/10): Read chapter 3 in T1 and chapter 2 in T2. Topics: Criminal Justice in Early America and fighting the war on drugs in contemporary U.S.

Required Internet site #3: Go to <http://law2.umkc.edu/faculty/projects/ftrials/salem/salem.htm>, click on procedure in witchcraft cases in the menu at left and review the steps.

Week 4 (9/11-9/17): Read chapter 4 in T1 and chapter 3 in T2. Topics: Criminal Justice in Revolutionary Times and immigration issues.

Week 5 (9/18-9/24): Read chapter 5 in T1 and chapter 4 in T2. Topics: Criminal Justice in the New Nation, *Miranda* rule, and balancing liberty and security.

Week 6 (9/25-10/1): Read chapter 6 in T1 and chapter 5 in T2. Topics: Criminal Justice in Antebellum America and the evolution and development of sentencing practices.

Week 7 (10/2-10/8): Read chapter 7 in T1. Topic: Criminal Justice in the Civil War Era.

Required Internet site #4: Go to <http://www.civilwarhome.com/prisons.htm>. Read the narrative on the page and the six links at the bottom of the page.

Week 8 (10/9-10/15): Read chapter 8 in T1 and chapter 6 in T2. Topics: Criminal Justice in Victorian America and three strikes laws.

10/14 Friday → MID-TERM (EXAMINATION 1) ON CHAPTERS 1-8 in T1; CHAPTERS 1-6 in T2, and required internet sites 1-4 by 11:59 pm.

Week 9 (10/16-10/22): Read chapter 9 in T1 and chapter 7 in T2 & T3. Topics: Criminal Justice in the Progressive Era and the death penalty.

10/21 Friday → MUST POST THE FIRST FIVE DISCUSSION ISSUE ANSWERS FOR FORUM 1 PLUS TWO RESPONSES TO YOUR CLASSMATES' ANSWERS BY 11:59 pm.

Required Internet site #5: Go to <https://ncjrs.gov> and familiarize yourself with the homepage. You must use at least three articles from this database in writing your discussion issue responses. You may use more if you wish as you will find thousands of valid articles at this site.

Week 10 (10/23-10/29): Read chapter 10 in T1 and chapter 8 in T2. Topics: Criminal Justice in the Crisis Decades and sex offenders.

10/28 Friday → PAPER 1 DUE 11:59 pm. Early submission is highly encouraged. Late penalties commence apply. Go to Syl Quiz, Exams, & Assignments folder on course homepage and click on Paper 1 link and follow onscreen instructions to upload paper.

Week 11 (10/30-11/5): Read chapter 11 in T1 and chapter 9 in T2. Topics: Criminal Justice at Mid-century and juvenile justice issues.

Week 12 (11/6-11/12): Read chapter 12 in T1 and chapter 10 in T2. Topics: Nationalization of Criminal Justice and school policies.

11/11 Friday → PAPER 2 DUE 11:59 pm. Early submission is highly encouraged. Late penalties apply. Go to Syl Quiz, Exams, & Assignments folder on course homepage and click on Paper 2 link and follow onscreen instructions to upload paper.

Week 13 (11/13-11/19): Read chapter 13 in T1 and chapter 11 in T2. Topics: Contemporary Criminal Justice and mental illness issues.

Week 14 (11/20-11/26): **Fall Break/Holiday**

Week 15 (11/27-12/3): Read chapter 14 in T1 and chapter 12 in T2. Topics: The age of terrorism and prosecution issues of

pregnant women.

11/30 Wednesday → MUST POST FIVE ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION QUESTION ANSWERS FOR FORUM 2 PLUS THREE ADDITIONAL RESPONSES TO YOUR CLASSMATES' ANSWERS BY 11:59 pm.

Week 16 (12/4-12/12/7): Review all course materials for Final Exam. Semester officially ends on Wednesday, December 7

12/9 Friday → EXAMINATION 2 (FINAL EXAM) on all material covered in course. DUE BY 11:59 pm. Go to Syl Quiz, Exams, & Assignments folder on course homepage and click on Exam 2 link and follow onscreen instructions to upload answers. No time extension permissible.

Scholastic Honesty

The University has policies and discipline procedures regarding scholastic dishonesty. Detailed information is available on the [UTD Judicial Affairs](#) web page. All students are expected to maintain a high level of responsibility with respect to academic honesty. Students who violate University rules on scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and/or dismissal from the University. Since such dishonesty harms the individual, all students and the integrity of the University, policies on scholastic dishonesty will be strictly enforced.

Course Evaluation

As required by UTD academic regulations, every student must complete an evaluation for each enrolled course at the end of the semester. An online instructional assessment form will be made available for your confidential use. A link to your end of course evaluation will be sent to your UT Dallas email account toward the end of the semester.

University Policies

Students wishing information on the following topics and policies should visit the website following the list. Student Conduct & Discipline, Student Grievance Procedures, Incomplete Grade Policy, Disability Services, Religious Holy Days, Academic Integrity, Copyright Notice, Email Use, Withdrawal from Class, Technical Support, Class Attendance, Avoiding Plagiarism, Resources to help you succeed, and Off-Campus Instruction and Course Activities: <http://go.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies>.

Course Policies

Make-up exams

Due to the fact that you will have one week to submit each exam, **make-up exams are not permitted** and failure to complete an exam will result in a posted grade of zero.

Extra Credit

There is no extra credit work available in this class for any reason. Please be concerned with your final course grade throughout the semester maximizing your performance on each graded event and minimizing your need for extra credit at the end of the course.

Late Work

Discussion board requirements and written assignments will be reduced in grade by 10 percent for each 24 hour period after the due date and time. Please calendar effectively and submit work early to avoid this penalty.

Comet Creed

This creed was voted on by the UT Dallas student body in 2014. It is a standard that Comets choose to live by and encourage others to do the same:

"As a Comet, I pledge honesty, integrity, and service in all that I do."

UT Dallas Syllabus Policies and Procedures

The information contained in the following link constitutes the University's policies and procedures segment of the course syllabus.

Please go to <http://go.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies> for these policies.

The descriptions and timelines contained in this syllabus are subject to change at the discretion of the Professor.