



## **Criminology Program, Course Syllabus**

Contemporary Issues in Criminal Justice, CRIM 6395 Section J01  
Fall Semester 2016, Wednesdays 7:00 – 9:45 pm, Room: TBA, Syllabus date: 6/21/2016

**I. Professor Contact Information:** Dr. O. Elmer Polk, Green Hall, Office #2.208, [elmer.polk@utdallas.edu](mailto:elmer.polk@utdallas.edu), telephone 972-883-2983. Students are required to use the course message tool located on the left side of the course homepage to send messages. Your professor checks messages several times per day and you can normally expect a response within 24 hours or sooner. Please do not send course related messages to my email address.

**Office Hours:** Students may contact the professor before or after class, at the above telephone number, via the message tool on eLearning or at the above email address, or at any other time available to both the student and the professor. Posted office hours for the Fall are 11 am-12 pm on MWF. Extended hours are available by appointment on Wednesday afternoons up to class time.

**II. Technical Support:** If you experience difficulties with your UTD account you may send an email to [assist@utdallas.edu](mailto:assist@utdallas.edu) or call the UTD Computer Helpdesk at 972-883-2911.

**III. Course Description:** CRIM 6395: Contemporary Issues in Justice Administration. This course explores and surveys classical and recent literature in criminal justice focused on various critical issues confronting the criminal justice system. The course studies the trends, contemporary topics, and reform movements currently prominent in the fields of policing, courts and corrections.

### **IV. Learning Outcomes:**

- A. Argue the impact of the criminal justice system on crime.
- B. Identify and critique issues confronting criminal justice system components.
- C. Identify and critique critical issues impacting police including use of force, corruption, and hazards of police work.
- D. Identify and critique critical issues currently impacting the courts including the erosion of Miranda, the effect of terrorism and the USA PATRIOT Act on Justice Administration, and DNA evidence exonerations.
- E. Identify and critique critical issues currently impacting corrections such as treatment versus societal retribution, the death penalty, creation of issue related courts, and offender treatment programming.
- F. Future trends and potential solutions to problems discussed.

### **V. Required Textbooks and course materials**

1. Required Text 1 (T1): *Critical Issues in Crime and Justice: Thought, Policy and Practice*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. (2015) by Maguire, Mary & Okada, Dan (ed's). Sage Publications, Inc. ISBN#: 978-1-4129-7057-0.
2. Required Text 2 (T2): *History and Crime* (2008) by Barry S. Godfrey, Paul Lawrence, & Chris A. Williams. Sage Publishing. ISBN #: 978-1-4129-2080-3

Additionally, students are required to read appropriate, current criminal justice journal articles and internet materials as assigned.

**VI. Grades** will be posted based on the following scale: 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 (due dates are in the course calendar and assignment schedule in Section VIII of this syllabus). **Please note that there is 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. **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. Discussion Board Forum 1(100 points) Answers to five questions must be posted on the eLearning discussion board by the due date in this syllabus in essay format of 350 words or more per answer with 3 references and the word count (references for all five questions must be in standard APA formatting). References must be listed for each individual essay in a bibliography and internal cites must be used to show where each of the three references was used in the narrative of the answer.
2. Discussion Board Forum 2(100 points) Same as Forum 1 except question are taken from those listed in Forum 2.
3. Topic paper (100 points). See details below.
4. Topic paper presentation (100 points). See details below.
5. Final Examination. (100 points). Essay questions from textbooks, lectures and internet sites.

All graded events have due dates as specified in Section VIII of this syllabus. There can be no make-up for the Final Examination. Due to the amount of time you have to complete each assignment, employment duties will not excuse late submission of required work. Students are required to plan accordingly to ensure they submit the exam by the due date/time or have made arrangements to take it early. All written assignments and the class topic paper discussion must be submitted within 10 calendar days of the original due date to receive a grade higher than zero. Grades will be reduced by 10% for each 24 hour period they are late.

**Incomplete Grade Policy: As per university policy, incomplete grades will be considered 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.

**Examination:** The final examination will be composed of essay questions taken from the materials in your assigned textbooks, required internet sites, and classroom lectures throughout the semester. Answers should be submitted to the professor through the assignment tool on the course eLearning homepage in the Exam and Assignment folder. Must be submitted by due date in section VIII– late exams will not be accepted but they may be submitted up to a week early.

**Discussion Questions:** Ten of the twenty essay items must be submitted on the discussion board during the semester pursuant to the due dates in Section VIII. Each item is worth 20 points for a cumulative score of 100 on each forum grade. Questions not submitted by the due dates will be reduced in grade 10 points per calendar day. Any questions not received within 10 days of the due date will receive a score of zero.

**Discussion question answers must be the student's own original work and must be 350 words or longer and each answer must be followed by the bibliographic information on three sources of information and the word count. Internal and bibliographic cites must be formatted pursuant to APA style of writing.** 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.

Each discussion question submission should answer one and only one question and must have the following format:

1. Essay # (should be numbered Essay 1 through Essay 10)
2. Repeat question verbatim.
3. Provide answer of 350 words or more

4. Include internal citations in your answer showing where each of your sources was used ( no footnotes permitted)
5. Bibliography containing three references (one of which may be your textbook) for each essay.
6. Word count = \_\_\_\_.

Attention to proper writing and correct spelling is expected in the essays and is a part of the grade received for the assignment. Use proper grammar and spelling and do not use any type of abbreviations or jargon not found in a commonly accepted, standardized English dictionary.

**Topic Paper and Presentation:** Each student must choose one topic from the assigned textbooks or lecture topics. You will write a library research paper on the topic discussing its history and evolution and any future implications for it. The paper must be in APA format with one inch margins in font 11 and must not contain more than one table and one figure. It should cover the topic comprehensively and must be a minimum of ten pages with a properly formatted list of eight or more references and must use properly formatted internal citations throughout the paper. Papers may be submitted in class in hard copy or uploaded to the eLearning course assignment tool found in the Exam and Assignments folder on the course eLearning homepage. **Topic must be approved by professor before beginning work on the paper.** Presentation requirements and schedule will be presented in class.

**VII.** 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, and Off-Campus Instruction and Course Activities: <http://go.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies>.

## **VIII. COURSE CALENDAR AND ASSIGNMENT SCHEDULE**

Please note that all chapter reading assignments made in this assignment schedule refer to readings in the required textbooks entitled, **(T1): *Critical Issues in Crime and Justice: Thought, Policy and Practice* (2011)** and **(T2): *History and Crime* (2008)**. Additional readings are required in the internet sites identified in the following assignment schedule. As per the UTD Academic Calendar, fall semester classes begin on August 22, 2016 and end on Dec.7, 2016 with a Final Exam due no later than 7:00 pm on December 9.

**First Week of Class (8/22-8/27):** Read the preface and chapters 1& 2 in T1 as well as 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. The topic this week is the differing paradigms of justice and the ethics of the criminal justice system.

**Week 2 (8/28-/1-9/3):** Read chapters 3 & 4 in T1 and required internet site #1. Topics: criminology and criminal justice theory and The Code of Hammurabi.

Required Internet Site #1: <http://www.ancienttexts.org/library/mesopotamian/hammurabi.html>. Read the narrative and the “Code of Laws”.

**Week 3 (9/4-9/10):** Read chapters 5 & 6 in T1 and chapter 1 in T2 in T2 and Beccaria’s essay. Topics: victimology, juvenile delinquency, crime and justice and the crime problem.

Required Internet Site #2: [http://www.constitution.org/cb/crim\\_pun.htm](http://www.constitution.org/cb/crim_pun.htm). Read the introduction and explore all chapters in *An Essay on Crimes and Punishments* (1764 original publication date). How has this small publication written during the Age of Enlightenment impacted life in the United States today?

**Week 4 (9/11-9/17):** Read chapters 7 & 8 in T1 and chapters 2 & 3 in T2. Topics: race and crime, gender issues, measuring crime, violent crime.

*Fisher v. University of Texas at Austin* – What is strict Scrutiny? What is affirmative action? Where did affirmative action originate and why?

**Week 5:** (9/18-9/24): Read chapters 9 & 10 in T1 and chapters 4 & 5 in T2. Topics: culture, media, economics, police governance & perceptions of criminality.

**Week 6** (9/25-10/1): Read chapters 11 & 12 in T1 & chapters 6 & 7 in T2. Topics: Gangs, race and ethnicity, surveillance.

**Week 7**(10/2-10/8): Read chapters 13 & 14 in T1 and chapter 8 in T2. Topics: terrorism and developments in cyber criminology & incarceration/decarceration.

**Forum 1 discussion answers** #1-5 due tonight (10/5) by 11:59 pm on the discussion board.

**Week 8** (10/9-10/15): Read chapters 15, 16 & 17 in T1 and chapter 9 in T2. Topics: comparative criminology and criminal justice, a history of American policing, and police theory.

Required Internet Site #3: Go to <http://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/1982/03/broken-windows/4465/1/> and read the original “Broken Windows” *Atlantic Magazine* article by Kelling and Wilson. Be sure to read all pages.

Required Internet Site #4: Go to “Broken Windows: New Evidence from New York City and a Five-City Social Experiment” at

[https://lawreview.uchicago.edu/sites/lawreview.uchicago.edu/files/uploads/73.1/73\\_1\\_Harcourt\\_Ludwig.pdf](https://lawreview.uchicago.edu/sites/lawreview.uchicago.edu/files/uploads/73.1/73_1_Harcourt_Ludwig.pdf) and read the study by Harcourt and Ludwig.

What do you think are the policy implications of the first article? Should those implications still be invoked given the findings in the second article?

**Week 9** (10/16-10/22): Read chapters 18 & 19 in T1 and chapter 10 in T2. Topics: contemporary police and society & police organization and administration, & pretrial procedures.

**Forum 2 discussion answers** #6-10 due tonight (10/19) by midnight on the discussion board.

**Week 10** (10/23-10/29): Read chapters 20 & 21 in T1 and chapters 11 & 12 in T2. Topics: public policy and American Courts, & punishments.

Required Internet site #5: Go to [http://www.tjcd.texas.gov/about/how\\_movethru.aspx](http://www.tjcd.texas.gov/about/how_movethru.aspx) and explore the menu on the homepage. Describe how most juvenile offenders in Texas move through juvenile state corrections.

**Week 11** (10/30-11/5): Read chapters 22 & 23 in T1. Topics: the juvenile justice system, detention centers, and the future of the juvenile court; corrections, community corrections.

**Week 12**(11/6-11/12): **All papers due tonight (11/9)** at the beginning of class. Read chapters 24, 25, & 26 in T1 on community corrections, restorative justice, and convict criminology. Begin student presentations.

**Presentations 1-5.**

**Week 13** (11/13-11/19): **Presentations 6-10.**

**Week 14** (11/20-11/26): Fall /break – no class meeting on Wednesday 11/25.

**Week 15** (11/27-12/3): **Remaining presentations. Access exam on course homepage.**

**Week 16** (12/4-12/10) **Final Examination.** All students must submit final exam question answers on or before 7 pm tonight (12/7) via the course exam/assignment tool on the eLearning homepage. No exams will be accepted after 10 pm on this date (12/7) and missing exams will receive a grade of zero. **Please do not procrastinate.**