



Course Crim 3301, Section 1
Course Title Theories of Justice
Professor Amny Shuraydi
Term Fall 2016
Meetings Mondays and Wednesdays, 11:00 am- 12:15 pm,
JSOM 2.106

Professor's Contact Information

Office Location GR 2.105
Email Address amny.shuraydi@utdallas.edu
Office Hours Mondays 12:30-2:00 pm, or by appointment

Course and General Core Area Descriptions:

Description: This course is a survey of the basic theoretical rationales and perspectives concerning the concept of justice with selected readings from classical and contemporary theorists.

Courses in this category focus on the application of empirical and scientific methods that contribute to the understanding of what makes us human. Courses involve the exploration of behavior and interactions among individuals, groups, institutions, and events, examining their impact on the individual, society, and culture.

Objectives: **Critical Thinking**—to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation, and synthesis of information

Communication—to include effective development, interpretation, and expression of ideas through written, oral, and visual communication

Social Responsibility—to include intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities

This course is designed to provide an introduction to basic moral philosophy and social justice, particularly how they pertain to issues in the field of criminal justice. We will examine different aspects of what “social justice” is and explore several questions such as: What is a crime? What is justice? In addition, we will examine issues relevant to political economy, culture, critique, and cross-cultural engagement, to the advancements of justice. We will discuss the limits of the justice system, and issues such as globalization, capitalism, and reform. This class will be conducted using a discussion format so students will learn to identify, articulate and defend different ethical positions.

Suggested Textbook and Materials:

Capeheart, Loretta, and Dragan Milovanovic. *Social Justice: Theories, Issues, and Movements*. New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers UP, 2007.

Note: In addition to the required text, handouts, journal articles, video documentaries, movies, and other sources of reference may be used to further enhance students' learning. These will be assigned throughout the semester.

Assignments & Academic Calendar

Course Calendar

August 22 - September 21	Explorations in Social Justice
September 25 - October 24	Issues in Social Justice
October 26 – December 7	Struggles for Social Justice

Midterm Exam: Monday, October 10

Final Exam: Subject to university scheduling, TBD

Note: These dates are left in general terms in order to ensure that students are engaging and learning at a reasonable pace and absorbing the material well. Some topics may take longer to discuss than others, and therefore will require more time. Focusing on sections, rather than topics, will ensure that students are prepared by the time of the midterm and final exams, and will allot for flexibility in scheduling potential guest speakers, media screenings, and/or discussions.

Exams. There will be two in-class exams this semester. Each exam will be worth 50 points.

Makeup Exam Policy

Makeup exams will be provided for students who have a university recognized excused absence. Excused absences include (but are not limited to): illnesses with a doctor's note, serious family emergencies, special curricular requirements (e.g., field trips, conferences), and participation in official university activities. The final decision to excuse absences is left to the discretion of the professor. In most instances, students will be required to provide written documentation for their absence. They must notify the instructor as soon as possible, in order to schedule a makeup within one week of the absence.

Assignments and Quizzes

There will be random in-class and take home assignments and quizzes throughout the semester. Students will be notified of quizzes a minimum of one class period in advance.

These assignments and quizzes will be to ensure that students are learning and understanding the material properly before the exams.

Term Papers

Two papers will be assigned as part of the midterm and final exams. Each paper will be worth 100 points. These papers will require the students to synthesize what they have learned in classes and apply it to a given prompt. They will test how well students can “connect the dots” to the information they have learned.

Extra Credit

Opportunities for extra credit may arise throughout the semester, and will be announced. These opportunities will be offered to the class at the discretion of the instructor.

Late Work

Late work will be penalized by 10% each day, and will require valid proof of an illness or emergency.

Class Attendance

Students are strongly encouraged to attend class, as most of the material required in order to succeed will be presented during class time. It is the job of the student to obtain information that he or she missed due to an absence. Additional help from the instructor will only be granted to students who miss class for a documented emergency. Failure to attend will negatively impact the student’s participation grade and chances at success on exams and assignments.

Classroom Citizenship

Students are expected to actively participate in class discussions. Laptops are allowed for the purposes of note-taking or in the context of class relevancy.

Grading Criteria

Grades by Percentage

A	95-100
A-	90-94
B+	88-89
B	83-87
B-	80-82
C+	77-79
C	73-76
C-	70-72

D+	68-69
D	63-67
D-	60-62
F	<59

Exams: 100 points total

Term Papers: 200 points total

Quizzes and Assignments: 75 points total

Participation: Up to 10% of final grade

Technical Support

If you experience any problems with your UTD account you may send an email to: assist@utdallas.edu or call the UTD Computer Helpdesk at 972-883-2911. For further information on rules and regulations regarding student conduct, discipline, academic integrity, disability services, etc. please go to <http://go.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies>. Students should pay careful attention to the policies regarding Academic Integrity a portion of which is included below.

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

Plagiarism, especially from the web, from portions of papers for other classes, and from any other source is unacceptable and will be dealt with under the university's policy on plagiarism (see general catalog for details).

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.”

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