TOPICS: Religion, Crime, and Public Policy
CRCJ 5394
Spring 2016
Thursdays 7:00-9:50 p.m. and via BlackBoard
University Hall Room 16

Professor: Dr. Kent Ryan Kerley
Office: 362 University Hall (main office suite)
Office Phone: 817-272-0478
Office Hours: Thursdays 5:45-6:45 p.m. and by appointment
E-Mail: kent.kerley@uta.edu
[Use this email address for all correspondence except specific questions about grades. You must include the subject line, “CRCJ 5394,” and send messages only from your UTA account.]
BlackBoard: https://elearn.uta.edu

COURSE DESCRIPTION:
This course is designed to introduce students to contemporary and classic research on the impact of religion on crime, deviance, corrections, and public policy.

REQUIRED RESOURCES:
Books:

Articles:
Students will read approximately two research articles per week, and those will be available in BlackBoard.
TENTATIVE TIMETABLE:

Jan. 21    Syllabus distribution and course overview

Jan. 28 & Feb. 4  Religion and crime/delinquency/deviance in free society
  ▪  Johnson (2012) - Chs. 1 & 5
  ▪  Kerley (2014) - Chs. 1 & 2

Feb. 11 & 18  Religion and public views on crime control

Feb. 25 & March 3  Religion and crime desistance

March 7-10    MID-TERM EXAM
  (Live at EOD on March 7 and due by EOD on March 10)

March 17    No class meeting – Spring Vacation

March 24-April 7  Religion in prison
  ▪  Kerley (2014)

April 14          Religion in halfway houses
April 21 & 28    Religion and drug abuse
May 5           Religion and politics
May 9-12        **FINAL EXAM**  
(Live at EOD on May 9 and due by EOD on May 12)
EXPLANATIONS OF COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Attendance – Students are expected to attend class daily, to participate in discussions, and to read all of the assigned materials. If you must miss class for a legitimate medical or other emergency situation, please let me know beforehand via e-mail or telephone or you will not be allowed to make-up any graded work. Students are also required to be ON TIME for every on-campus meeting. If you arrive late to class or leave early without a documented emergency, I will deduct points from your final grade. This penalty will increase with each additional occurrence. Thus, if you are not committed to being on time and to staying for the entire time, you should not enroll in this course. It is also your responsibility to obtain any notes, handouts, or announcements you miss while absent.

Exams – There will be two exams, and those will be completed via BlackBoard. The exams will be a combination of essay and multiple choice questions, and each is worth 30 percent of the total course grade (60 percent total). Only a dire emergency should prevent you from taking the exams when they are scheduled. If an emergency does arise and you contact me beforehand or on the day of the exam, a make-up exam may be discussed, but is not guaranteed. All make-up exams (taken before or after the scheduled date) will consist only of essay questions.

Quizzes/Assignments – In addition to the exams, several short quizzes/assignments will be given during the semester. All together, these will be worth 10 percent of the total course grade.

Discussion – Students will lead one class discussion of assigned readings with a partner. This discussion will be worth 15 percent of your course grade. Guidelines will be posted in BlackBoard. Partner assignments will be finalized during the second week of classes.

Presentation – Students will give one presentation of assigned readings with a partner. The presentation will involve the use of Power Point and will be worth 15 percent of the total course grade. Guidelines will be posted in BlackBoard. Partner assignments will be finalized during the second week of classes.

Late Policy – Students are expected to take exams and turn in all assigned work on dates specified. These set times will be strictly adhered to, and no student may make-up an exam, quiz, or complete a late assignment unless s/he contacts me prior to the due date (or contacts me within 24 hours of the due date in the event of a serious emergency). Keep in mind that simply missing class does not delay due dates.

Better Safe than Sorry – For all graded work, keep electronic and/or paper copies of your work.

Extra Credit – There will not be any formal extra credit assignments. Please do not ask for any. The final average you earn at the end of the semester is final and non-negotiable. I do not “round up” or give extra points to reach the next closest letter grade. Do not ask for any points that you have not earned.
Technology and Etiquette in the Classroom – I will use a variety of instructional technologies during the semester including e-mail, Internet, PowerPoint, and films. However, students CANNOT use cellular phones, iPhones, iPods, recorders, MP3 players, pagers, radios, CD players, or any other noise-making devices in class unless given special permission by the instructor. You are required to turn off all electronic devices listed above and place them out of sight before class begins each day. Points will be deducted from your final grade if any electronic devices go off during class or if you are seen using them. This penalty will increase with each additional occurrence and repeated violations of this policy will result in a referral for nonacademic misconduct. Laptops will be permitted to facilitate note-taking and completion of some in-class exercises. The audio on laptops should be muted before class begins. If laptops are used in class for any other reason (e.g., e-mail, games, Internet), student privileges will cease. I expect everyone to follow basic rules of etiquette and decorum in the classroom when addressing me and your fellow students. I reserve the right to ask students to leave, to reduce their grades, or to drop them from the course should they become abusive or disruptive.

Drop Policy – Students may drop or swap (adding and dropping a class concurrently) classes through self-service in MyMav from the beginning of the registration period through the late registration period. After the late registration period, students must see their academic advisor to drop a class or withdraw. Undeclared students must see an advisor in the University Advising Center. Drops can continue through a point two-thirds of the way through the term or session. It is the student’s responsibility to officially withdraw if they do not plan to attend after registering. Students will not be automatically dropped for non-attendance. Repayment of certain types of financial aid administered through the University may be required as the result of dropping classes or withdrawing. For more information, contact the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships (http://wweb.uta.edu/aaofao/).

Academic Integrity – Students enrolled in this course are expected to adhere to the UT Arlington Honor Code:

I pledge, on my honor, to uphold UT Arlington’s tradition of academic integrity, a tradition that values hard work and honest effort in the pursuit of academic excellence.

I promise that I will submit only work that I personally create or contribute to group collaborations, and I will appropriately reference any work from other sources. I will follow the highest standards of integrity and uphold the spirit of the Honor Code.

UT Arlington faculty members may employ the Honor Code as they see fit in their courses, including (but not limited to) having students acknowledge the honor code as part of an examination or requiring students to incorporate the honor code into any work submitted. Per UT System Regents’ Rule 50101, §2.2, suspected violations of university’s standards for academic integrity (including the Honor Code) will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. Violators will be disciplined in accordance
with University policy, which may result in the student’s suspension or expulsion from the University.

**Student Support Services Available** – UT Arlington provides a variety of resources and programs designed to help students develop academic skills, deal with personal situations, and better understand concepts and information related to their courses. Resources include tutoring, major-based learning centers, developmental education, advising and mentoring, personal counseling, and federally funded programs. For individualized referrals, students may visit the reception desk at University College (Ransom Hall), call the Maverick Resource Hotline at 817-272-6107, send a message to resources@uta.edu, or view the information at www.uta.edu/resources.

**Electronic Communication** – UT Arlington has adopted MavMail as its official means to communicate with students about important deadlines and events, as well as to transact university-related business regarding financial aid, tuition, grades, graduation, etc. All students are assigned a MavMail account and are responsible for checking the inbox regularly. There is no additional charge to students for using this account, which remains active even after graduation. Information about activating and using MavMail is available at http://www.uta.edu/oit/cs/email/mavmail.php.

**Student Feedback Survey** – At the end of each term, students enrolled in classes categorized as “lecture,” “seminar,” or “laboratory” shall be directed to complete an online Student Feedback Survey (SFS). Instructions on how to access the SFS for this course will be sent directly to each student through MavMail approximately 10 days before the end of the term. Each student’s feedback enters the SFS database anonymously and is aggregated with that of other students enrolled in the course. UT Arlington’s effort to solicit, gather, tabulate, and publish student feedback is required by state law; students are strongly urged to participate. For more information, visit http://www.uta.edu/sfs.

**Final Review Week** – A period of five class days prior to the first day of final examinations in the long sessions shall be designated as Final Review Week. The purpose of this week is to allow students sufficient time to prepare for final examinations. During this week, there shall be no scheduled activities such as required field trips or performances; and no instructor shall assign any themes, research problems or exercises of similar scope that have a completion date during or following this week unless specified in the class syllabus. During Final Review Week, an instructor shall not give any examinations constituting 10% or more of the final grade, except makeup tests and laboratory examinations. In addition, no instructor shall give any portion of the final examination during Final Review Week. During this week, classes are held as scheduled. In addition, instructors are not required to limit content to topics that have been previously covered; they may introduce new concepts as appropriate.

**Americans with Disabilities Act** – The University of Texas at Arlington is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of all federal equal opportunity legislation, including the *Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)*. All instructors at UT Arlington are required by law to provide “reasonable accommodations” to students with disabilities, so
as not to discriminate on the basis of that disability. Any student requiring an accommodation for this course must provide the instructor with official documentation in the form of a letter certified by the staff in the Office for Students with Disabilities, University Hall 102. Only those students who have officially documented a need for an accommodation will have their request honored. Information regarding diagnostic criteria and policies for obtaining disability-based academic accommodations can be found at www.uta.edu/disability or by calling the Office for Students with Disabilities at (817) 272-3364.

**Emergency Exit Procedures** – Should we experience an emergency event that requires us to vacate the building, students should exit the room and move toward the nearest exit. When exiting the building during an emergency, one should never take an elevator but should use the stairwells. Faculty members and instructional staff will assist students in selecting the safest route for evacuation and will make arrangements to assist handicapped individuals.

**Librarian to Contact** – John Dilliard is the Criminology and Criminal Justice Librarian. He can be reached at (817) 272-7517.

**Obligatory Disclaimer** – This syllabus represents my plan for the semester and will be followed as closely as possible. However, all assignments, dates, and point distributions are subject to change at the instructor’s discretion.

**Grading** – See below for point allotments and the final grading scale.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Point Allotments</th>
<th>Grading Scale</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exam 1 25 percent</td>
<td>90% and above</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exam 2 25 percent</td>
<td>80% to 89.99%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Review Essay 20 percent</td>
<td>70% to 79.99%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Discussion 15 percent</td>
<td>60% to 69.99%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Presentation 15 percent</td>
<td>59.99% and below</td>
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