Victimology
CRIJ 4317
CRN 35578
Summer 2023
Jun 12, 2023 - Jul 07, 2023

Instructor: Dr. Caitlyn Muniz
Office Hours: By appointment only (Zoom)
Email: cnmuniz@utep.edu

Course Overview and Objectives
This course examines the role of victims in crimes, their treatment by the criminal justice system, their decisions to report crimes and help prosecute offenders, victim assistance, and victim compensation. This course will cover three general inter-related areas. One is research and theory on victimization. You will learn about rates of victimization and how they differ according to social categories (race, ethnicity, age, class, gender, etc.), theories that explain victimization, and empirical tests of these theories. The second area is the consequences of victimization. You will learn mostly about the impact of criminal victimization upon individuals’ mental (and physical) health, but also the macro-social costs of victimization. The third area is practical responses to victimization. You will learn about the history and development of the “victims’ rights movement,” as well as social policy and services aimed at restoring victims.

Required Textbook

Course Requirements and Grading
1. Discussion Boards – 30%
2. Written Reflection – 20%
3. Chapter Quizzes – 50%

Discussion Boards
These prompts will be related to course material and will entail you drawing on what you’ve learned and formulating opinions. Although the majority of these are asking for your opinion, you will be expected to support your opinion with your readings and lecture notes. Along with facilitating class engagement, these are designed to be critical thinking activities, not regurgitation of class material or a forum for personal anecdotes. In order to receive full credit, you must post your own response. You will be required to post an original post before you are able to see any of your classmates’ posts. Students should be courteous in their posts, although you are encouraged to express your personal opinions. Students are encouraged to post more than the minimum required posts; it will only help improve your grade.
If you miss a post, you will not be allowed to make it up and you will lose points (the full amount) unless it is due to a reasonable excuse as outlined in your university handbook. The only exception to this is Blackboard system failure; technical difficulties on your end will not account for a reposting. There is to be no collaboration of any sort on discussion boards – this is to be your own original work.

**Note:** The success of these conversations hinges on students having posts to respond to. Please be courteous to your fellow students and post early. Waiting until the last minute to post prevents students from responding as they are required to do.

**Written Reflections**

Students will be required to write a reflective essay during the semester. Students must submit the reflection about the material in the module they choose and the reflection must be submitted before the module closes. The student should reflect on all the material learned over the entire module (not just one chapter). **The reflection must be about the material covered in the module that the student submits the reflection.** For example, if the student reflects on module 1, the reflection must be submitted by the end of module 1. Reflections about module 1 will not be accepted after module 1 closes (you will earn a ZERO).

Requirements:

1) What did you learn in the material? Summarize what you learned succinctly (do not spend more than a paragraph here).

2) How does what you learned change or affect your understanding of victimization?

3) In light of what you learned in this module, what do you think the justice system should do differently regarding victimization?

4) What changes should be made in society/the community regarding victimization?

4) What was the most important thing you learned this module?

Paper must:

1) Use proper spelling and grammar

2) Be a minimum of two FULL pages double-spaced. No weird/excessive spacing. No five lines of your name, my name, the class number, etc. (don’t include any of this information on your submission). Two full pages of content.

3) Answer all prompts above thoughtfully and completely.
4. Chapter Quizzes

Students will be required to do reading checks for each chapter. These will be multiple choice, true/false, short answer, etc. **Reading checks will be due at 5pm.**

Extra Credit

Extra credit opportunities may be provided so that students can improve their grades. **All interested students have these opportunities—NO OTHER OPPORTUNITIES WILL BE PROVIDED. There will be no end-of-the-semester adjustments made to your grade.**

Student Expectations

To ensure learning outcomes are met, students are expected to:

**Participate.** Students are expected to contribute to all class discussions and are responsible for all material presented in each module, including course-related announcements.

**Check Email & Blackboard Regularly for Course Correspondence.** Valuable information regarding the course schedule, assignments, and grades will be posted to Blackboard.

**Be Respectful.** This includes directing full attention to discussions. When participating in discussion and in email exchanges with the instructor and other classmates, students are expected to use respectful language. Do not communicate with others via the Internet in a way you would not interact with them in person. Disrespectful language, and/or disrespectful classroom behavior will not be tolerated. In instances of serious or repeated infractions, students will be subject to University disciplinary action.

**Complete Quizzes and Assignments When Scheduled.** Students are informed in writing (this syllabus) of the due dates of exams and assignments for the entire semester on the first day of class. You will have ample time to complete all work. For this reason:

**LATE WORK IS NOT ACCEPTED & MAKE UP EXAMS ARE NOT AN OPTION***

* Exception: Emergencies, Religious Observances, & University Excused Absences. Students are expected to notify their instructors at the beginning of each academic term if they intend to be absent for an announced examination. Students absent for religious reasons, as noticed to the instructor at the beginning of each academic term, will be given reasonable opportunities to make up any work missed.

**Blackboard**

Because this is an online class, access to the internet is required. Therefore, students need reliable access to the internet to complete this class successfully.
Grading Scale

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>90%-100%</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>80%-89.9%</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>70%-79.9%</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>60%-69.9%</td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>below 60%</td>
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Course Organization
The course is organized by modules. You will access each week’s assignments and materials by accessing the current module.

Attendance Policy
Attendance is required. Classes are run on the basis of class interaction. Because this is an online course, attendance is determined by class participation online. Students must be prepared, participate in online individual/group discussions, and complete the course modules in order to understand and incorporate the rhetorical strategies and processes used to complete the projects.

Netiquette

All students are expected to communicate with me in a professional and respectful manner. **Emails that are not written respectfully and professionally will be met with no response.** As adults preparing to enter the professional or academic world, you are expected to conduct yourself as an academic or professional. This skill is necessary for success in all realms of your life.

When communicating electronically, many of the feelings or impressions that are transmitted via body language in face-to-face communications are lost. Consequently, interpreting emotions and innuendos is much more difficult. Only what is written, or drawn, carries the message. Often, excitement can be misinterpreted as anger or insult. It is important to keep this in mind as we communicate online. Words in print may seem harmless, but they could emotionally injure when working at a distance. Hence, it is vitally important that we are conscious of how we communicate while working at a distance. For example, avoid the use of caps in your electronic messages, as wording in caps comes across as shouting. The standard practice ("Netiquette") for participation in networked discussion requires that all participation be focused on the topic at hand, not become personalized, and be substantive in nature. A person may certainly disagree with someone else’s view, but you must do so respectfully; you may express strong beliefs but you must allow for differing opinions.
It is important to keep netiquette in mind as we communicate online.

Please observe the following:

• You are required to check the Blackboard course shell daily for messages, updates and assignments.
• Always consider audience. Remember that members of the class and the instructor will be reading any postings.
• Respect and courtesy must be provided to fellow classmates and the instructor at all times, in all contexts. No harassment or inappropriate postings will be tolerated.
• Be professional and careful in what you say about others.
• When reacting to someone else’s message, address and focus on the ideas, not the person who posted them.
• Be careful when using sarcasm and humor. Without face-to-face communications your joke may be viewed as criticism.
• Blackboard is not a public internet venue; all postings to it should be considered private and confidential. Whatever is posted on these online spaces is intended for classmates and professor only. Please do not copy documents and paste them to a publicly accessible website, blog, or other space. If students wish to do so, they have the ethical obligation to first request the permission of the writer(s).
• The obstruction or disruption of any group activity, discussion board or any other course activity is prohibited and will subject the student or group of students to disciplinary action.
• An instructor may deny a student access to participate in class activity for up to two individual classes (or course related activity periods) for behavior that is disruptive to the learning or teaching environment. Individuals so denied may be immediately referred to the Office of the Dean of Students for additional disciplinary intervention including withdrawal from the course.

Policy for withdrawing or dropping the course
Students are responsible for seeing they are withdrawn from the course by the drop deadline. Please contact the Registrar’s Office to initiate the drop process. Students that are withdrawn by the drop deadline will automatically receive a grade of “W”. After the student drop deadline, students will receive a grade of “F” except under extraordinary circumstances and only with the approval of the instructor and academic dean.

Scholastic Integrity
UTEP prides itself on its standards of academic excellence. In all matters of intellectual pursuit, UTEP faculty and students must strive to achieve based on the quality of the work produced by the individual. Students are expected to uphold the highest standards of academic integrity. Any form of scholastic dishonesty is an affront to the pursuit of knowledge and jeopardizes the quality of the degree awarded to all graduates of UTEP. Any student who commits an act of scholastic dishonesty is subject to discipline. Academic dishonesty is prohibited and is
considered a violation of the UTEP Handbook of Operating Procedures (HOOP). It includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, and collusion. Cheating may involve copying from or providing information to another student, possessing unauthorized materials during a test, or falsifying research data on reports. Plagiarism occurs when someone intentionally or knowingly represents the words or ideas of another as ones' own. Collusion involves collaborating with another person to commit any academically dishonest act. Any act of academic dishonesty attempted by a UTEP student is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. All suspected violations of academic integrity at The University of Texas at El Paso must be reported to the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution (OSCCR) for possible disciplinary action. To learn more [HOOP: Student Conduct and Discipline](#).

**Copyright Infringement and Plagiarism**

Copying a textbook, or any other copyrighted material is a violation of U. S. copyright law. Violation of U. S. copyright law can result in civil damages up to $100,000 for each work copied. Copying of textbooks or any other copyrighted material is not “fair use” under the Copyright Act. The “fair use doctrine” only permits non-commercial copying of part (in general, not more than 10%) of a copyrighted work. Do not take credit for work that is not your own by copying and pasting from the internet, failing to cite sources of information, failing to attribute direct quotes to their original author, or submitting your work from another course without prior permission.

**Accommodations Policy**

Students requesting an accommodation based on a disability must register with the [UTEP Center for Accommodations and Support Services](#). If you have or believe you have a disability that may impact your ability to succeed in a class, whether it be online or face-to-face, you may wish to contact the Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS) to show documentation of a disability or to register for testing and services. Students who have been designated as disabled must reactivate their standing with the CASS yearly. If you feel that you may have a disability requiring accommodations and/or modifications, contact CASS at (915) 747-5148.

You also can visit the CASS website at [http://sa.utep.edu/cass/](http://sa.utep.edu/cass/) or the CASS office in Room 108 East Union Building.

**Student Resources**

UTEP provides a variety of student services and support:

- **UTEP Library**: Access a wide range of resources including online, full-text access to thousands of journals and eBooks plus reference service and librarian assistance for enrolled students.
- **Help Desk**: Students experiencing technological challenges (email, Blackboard, software, etc.) can submit a ticket to the UTEP Helpdesk for assistance. Contact the Helpdesk via phone, email, chat, website, or in person if on campus.
• **University Writing Center (UWC):** Submit papers here for assistance with writing style and formatting, ask a tutor for help and explore other writing resources.

• **Military Student Success Center:** UTEP welcomes military-affiliated students to its degree programs, and the Military Student Success Center and its dedicated staff (many of whom are veterans and students themselves) are here to help personnel in any branch of service to reach their educational goals.

**Mandatory Reporting**
As mandatory reporters, faculty can no longer have confidential conversations with students or other reporting persons about their experiences with sexual misconduct, sexual harassment, or sexual assault. If a topic in class leads to a discussion of experiences of sexual harassment, sexual misconduct, or sexual assault I must share the information with the University so that the student can receive care, support and resources and learn about the options for having the situation addressed and resolved within the University. Even though I am obligated to share the information with University officials specially trained to respond, students’ privacy will be respected; identities and details will be shared only with those who need to know to support the reporting person and to address the situation through the University’s processes.

**Calendar and Modules Subject to Modification**
The calendar provided for the course is a "best estimate" schedule for the class. Unexpected scheduling problems may result in a modification of the schedule. Current events may also cause the elimination or substitution of other material that may become more relevant. You may rely on this course schedule as a BASIC outline for the course. The schedule is not a contractual agreement and is subject to change. Students will receive guidance concerning alterations to the schedule through announcements. Regardless of the ordering of material covered, stay up with the scheduled reading assignments. Because of the nature of the material and texts, course requirements are designed to aid in developing an integrated understanding of the material with the full semester in mind. Discussion boards, quizzes and assignments are designed with the assumption that you have read relative materials prior to participation.
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<tr>
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<th>Class Lecture</th>
<th>Readings and Notes</th>
<th>Assignment Due</th>
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<td></td>
<td>Chapter 1</td>
<td>Introduction to Victimology</td>
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<td>Chapter 2</td>
<td>Extent, Theories, and Factors of Victimization</td>
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<td>The Victim-Offender Overlap</td>
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<td>6/16/2023</td>
<td>Chapters 1, 2 and 3 Quizzes and Discussion Post Due</td>
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<td>Chapter 4</td>
<td>Consequences of Victimization</td>
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<td>Chapter 6</td>
<td>Homicide Victimization</td>
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<td>Chapter 7</td>
<td>Homicide Victimization</td>
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<td>Chapter 8</td>
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<td>Chapter 9</td>
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<td>Victimization at the Beginning</td>
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<td>6/30/2023</td>
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<td>Chapter 11</td>
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<td>Chapter 12</td>
<td>Victimization at School and Work</td>
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<td>Chapter 13</td>
<td>Contemporary Issues in Victimology</td>
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<td>7/07/2023</td>
<td>Chapters 11, 12, and 13 Quizzes and Discussion Post Due</td>
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