The University of Texas at El Paso
Department of Criminal Justice and Security Studies

Syllabus

Selected Topics - Crim Justice (CRIJ-4300)
CRN: 25349
Term: Spring 2024
Delivery Method: Online
Zoom Link:

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION
Instructor: Lizeth Salinas Ramos
e-mail: lsalinasramos@utep.edu
Written Communication: Specify your preference of communication (e.g., email and Blackboard)
Phone Number: (915) 217.5697
Office Hours:
- Virtually via Zoom – Mondays 8-11 AM EST, Thursdays 8-11 AM EST, or by appointment. I aim to respond within 24 hours. However, over the weekend, I kindly request 48 hours for a response. A Zoom link will be emailed to you for our scheduled session.

Course Information: What this class is about and what we will do.

COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course is a study of substance abuse and crime. Topics include the history and classification of drug abuse, the impact of drugs on crime, and criminal justice strategies to manage the problem of drug abuse. Upon completion, students should be able to identify various types of drugs and their effect on human behavior and society, treatment modalities within the criminal justice system, and the impact of drug policy on society.

COURSE OBJECTIVES AND UNIVERSITY LEARNING OUTCOMES
By the end of the course, students will be able to:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student Learning Objective</th>
<th>Outcome</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Demonstrate the ability to consider different points of view and to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal</td>
<td>Teamwork Skills</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Draw on existing knowledge bases to create “new” or “transformed” knowledge</td>
<td>Critical Thinking Skills</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engage as a community of writers who dialogue across texts</td>
<td>Communication Skills</td>
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Updated 01/04/2024
Address the specific, immediate rhetorical situations of individual communicative acts

REQUIRED MATERIALS

ISBN: 9780137516674

Weekly assignments are based on this textbook. All the core text/readings assignments have to be read in their entirety prior to the class week.
Note: In addition to the required textbook, journal articles, videos and audios will be assigned for each class period. All the articles are electronically available on the Blackboard site.

* ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

Assignments for this course are assessed according to rubrics. You can find these rubrics by clicking on the appropriate assignment link in Blackboard and choosing “View Rubric” from the button beneath the Points Possible for the assignment.
Your grading will be based on the following point criteria:

Written Assignments:
Your grade in this class will be based on 4 Written Assignments. Written Assignments are to be taken on the week stated in the syllabus. Make-up Written Assignments may only be acceptable under extreme circumstances, such as a medical or personal emergency. I must warn you, however, that I base these decisions on a very narrow definition of extreme. The student must
provide me with proper documentation to qualify for a make-up (documentation does not, unfortunately, guarantee that a make-up will be given). Missed Written Assignments will be assigned a grade of zero (0). All makeup Written Assignments, if granted, must be completed within one week of the original exam date. Each Written Assignment is worth 100 points for a total of 400 points. Again, a grade of zero (0) will be assigned to each exam not submitted by the time the respective weekly module closes. Written Assignments will be available on Monday and will close on the following Saturday at 11:59PM (Mountain Standard Time).

**Discussion Board Question**

Students are required to make one post on the module's discussion board and respond to two students. To receive full credit, initial forum board posts should be at least 100 words and responses should be at least 50 words and should consist of the question being asked for the week. Please note that the specified numbers are intended as minimum requirements and should not be seen as limiting your responses. When responding to other students, please remember to be respectful. You do not have to agree with someone else's opinion; however, we are all adults and arguments/disrespectful comments will not be tolerated. Also, when responding, do not simply reply, “I agree,” puts some thought into your response.

Points will be deducted for lack of substantive interaction with comments and inadequate thoughtful analysis in your responses. The deadline for your initial discussion forum post is Wednesday, 11:59 PM (MST). Follow the provided guidelines, unless otherwise stated. This allows time for responses from your classmates. Your responses to classmates must be submitted by Saturday, 11:59 PM (Mountain Standard Time). Late responses will receive a grade of zero (0).

**Discussion Boarding Grading Criteria:**

50 Points for Discussion Board:
- 25 Points = Meets minimum word count requirement.
- 15 Points = A comprehensive response with meaningful and accurate content addressing the question.
- 10 Points = Meets all criteria for responding to classmates.

**Quizzes:**

There will be eleven (11) quizzes, worth 20 points each (See our class schedule for quiz dates).
- Quizzes will consist of a combination of Multiple choice, True/False, and/or essay questions.
- Quizzes must be submitted on Blackboard by the due date listed on our class schedule.

**Make-up quiz policy:**

Each student is expected to take the quizzes as outlined in the syllabus. To make-up a quiz, students MUST email me (lsalinasramos@utep.edu) within 48 hours prior to the due date to confirm the new submission deadline to ensure it is graded after the due date. Students must have a verifiable excuse and it is the instructor’s discretion as to what is a valid excuse. Students are allowed one make-up quiz for the entire semester.
**FINAL GRADE CALCULATION:**

Your final grade in this class will be determined based on the exams taken.

- Written Assignments 1 100 Points
- Written Assignments 2 100 Points
- Written Assignments 3 100 Points
- Written Assignments 4 100 Points
- Quizzes (20 pts X 11) 220 Points
- Discussion Board Question 50 Points
- Syllabus Quiz 10 Points*

**Total Points** 680 Points

**Final Grade Distribution:**

- 680-612 Points=A
- 611-544 Points=B
- 543-476 Points=C
- 475-408 Points=D
- 407-0 Points=F

**EXTRA CREDIT OPPORTUNITIES**

**Course Evaluation Response Rate of at Least 70%**

If at least 70% of the students in the class complete the Course Evaluation which becomes available near the end of the semester, then all students will receive 10 extra credit points.

To let you know how this works, you will receive email reminders about evaluating the course at least twice from UTEP in your miners.utep.edu email account. If you don’t receive these emails, then contact UTEP’s HelpDesk.

After the course evaluation period is over, I will receive an email from UTEP stating what percentage of students in the class completed the course evaluation. If this figure is at or above 70% then all students in the class will receive 20 extra credit points.

Please make sure to complete the course evaluation when it becomes available and urge your classmates to do the same.

1. **Syllabus Quiz**

   Up to 10 extra credit points can be awarded for completing the syllabus quiz.

**Please note:**

I have the right to make any changes to the course or syllabus and any changes will be announced ahead of time in an announcement and/or email. There will be no curve used in grading, no grades will be dropped. Extra credit will be awarded solely for completing the course evaluation, and the syllabus quiz. No other extra credit opportunities will be available for this course. Do not contact me at the end of the semester regarding extra points for a particular letter grade. Your grade is an accomplishment, not a gift!

**IMPORTANT REMINDERS**

Updated 01/04/2024
The quizzes are timed, meaning that once you begin the quizzes you will have a limited amount of time to complete and submit your work. The quizzes will automatically close and be submitted at the end of the time limit if you haven’t already submitted it yourself. Do not wait until the last minute to begin quizzes. This way, if you do experience any difficulties with submissions, they can be corrected before the module closes.

Genre Analysis: To deepen our understanding of discourse community concepts, students will be asked to analyze both traditional and multimedia documents as genres.

Literature Review/Primary Research Report: Students will conduct primary and secondary research on a social, political, or ethical issue and will then write a literature review that synthesizes the arguments as they pertain to the questions of inquiry.

Community Engagement: Students will identify and participate in a community engagement opportunity (preferably related to their research topic) and write a reflection essay.

Website/E-Portfolio: Students will create, design, and maintain a website that presents their work from the semester.

**Participation:** For this online course, students will be required to participate in weekly discussion boards – both an initial post and responses to your peers. Students will also have a collection of smaller assignments throughout the week that will work to build toward the larger projects. These points cannot be made up, so students are expected to stay active in the course by logging in at least three times a week.

**TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS**

Course content is delivered via the Internet through the Blackboard learning management system. Ensure your UTEP e-mail account is working and that you have access to the Web and a stable web browser. Google Chrome and Mozilla Firefox are the best browsers for Blackboard; other browsers may cause complications. When having technical difficulties, update your browser, clear your cache, or try switching to another browser.

You will need to have access to a computer/laptop, scanner, a webcam, and a microphone. You will need to download or update the following software: Microsoft Office, Adobe Acrobat Reader, Windows Media Player, QuickTime, and Java. Check that your computer hardware and software are up-to-date and able to access all parts of the course.

If you do not have a word-processing software, you can download Word and other Microsoft Office programs (including Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook and more) for free via UTEP’s Microsoft Office Portal. Click the following link for more information about [Microsoft Office 365](#) and follow the instructions.

**IMPORTANT:** If you encounter technical difficulties beyond your scope of troubleshooting, please contact the UTEP Help Desk as they are trained specifically in assisting with technological
needs of students. Please do not contact me for this type of assistance. The Help Desk is much better equipped than I am to assist you!

**Course Communication: How we will stay in contact with each other**

Because this is an online class, we won’t see each other in the ways you may be accustomed to: during class time, small group meetings, and office hours. However, there are a number of ways we can keep the communication channels open:

- **Office Hours:** We will not be able to meet on campus, but I will still have office hours for your questions and comments about the course. My office hours will be held on Blackboard Collaborate using this link: [insert link] and during the following times:
  - Mondays: 9-11 a.m. Mountain Time
  - Tuesdays: 9-11 a.m. Mountain Time
  - Thursdays: 9-111 p.m. Mountain Time
- **Email:** UTEP e-mail is the best way to contact me. I will make every attempt to respond to your e-mail within 24-48 hours of receipt. When e-mailing me, be sure to email from your UTEP student account and please put the course number in the subject line. In the body of your e-mail, clearly state your question. At the end of your e-mail, be sure to put your first and last name, and your university identification number.
- **Discussion Board:** If you have a question that you believe other students may also have, please post it in the Help Board of the discussion boards inside of Blackboard. Please respond to other students’ questions if you have a helpful response.
- **Announcements:** Check the Blackboard announcements frequently for any updates, deadlines, or other important messages.

**NETIQUETTE**

As we know, sometimes communication online can be challenging. It’s possible to miscommunicate what we mean or to misunderstand what our classmates mean given the lack of body language and immediate feedback. Therefore, please keep these netiquette (network etiquette) guidelines in mind. Failure to observe them may result in disciplinary action.

- Always consider audience. This is a college-level course; therefore, all communication should reflect polite consideration of other’s ideas.
- Respect and courtesy must be provided to classmates and to the instructor at all times. No harassment or inappropriate postings will be tolerated.
- When reacting to someone else’s message, address the ideas, not the person. Post only what anyone would comfortably state in a face-to-face situation.
- Blackboard is not a public internet venue; all postings to it should be considered private and confidential. Whatever is posted on in 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.

**Course Policies: What do you need to do to be successful in the course**

**ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION**

Attendance in the course is determined by participation in the learning activities of the course. Your participation in the course is important not only for your learning and success but also to create a community of learners. Participation is determined by completion of the following activities:

- Reading/Viewing all course materials to ensure understanding of assignment requirements
- Participating in engaging discussion with your peers on the discussion boards (grading rubric provided in the “grading information” area of each forum)
- Participating in scheduled Blackboard Collaborate sessions
- Other activities as indicated in the weekly modules

Because these activities are designed to contribute to your learning each week, they cannot be made up after their due date has passed.

*** EXCUSED ABSENCES AND/OR COURSE DROP POLICY**

According to UTEP Catalog, “At the discretion of the instructor, a student can be dropped from a course because of excessive absences or lack of effort. A grade of “W” will be assigned before the course drop deadline and a grade of “F” after the course drop deadline.” See Policies and Regulations in the UTEP Undergraduate Catalog for a list of excuse absences. Therefore, if I find that, due to non-performance in the course, you are at risk of failing, I will drop you from the course. I will provide 24 hours advance notice via email.

**OR**

I will not drop you from the course. However, if you feel that you are unable to complete the course successfully, please let me know and then contact the Registrar’s Office to initiate the drop process. If you do not, you are at risk of receiving an “F” for the course.

**ZOOM SESSIONS**

This class requires that you participate in scheduled Zoom sessions. The purpose of these sessions are for you to view live demonstrations of the course material and/or to participate in small discussion groups with your classmates. These sessions will be held at the following dates from 10:30 am-11:50 am.

- Group A: August 28, September 24, October 15, November 12

Updated 01/04/2024
Group B: September 3, October 1, October 22, November 19

Students are expected to, at least occasionally, participate in these sessions with a webcam and microphone. The sessions will be recorded and provided so that they can be reviewed by classmates at a later time. Students should not record the sessions and post them to any sites outside of Blackboard.

If you are unable to attend a Zoom session, please let me know as soon as possible so that accommodations can be made when appropriate.

DEADLINES, LATE WORK, AND ABSENCE POLICY

Major Writing Assignments
- Major writing assignments will be due on Saturday at midnight (11:59 PM). No late work will be accepted if the reason is not considered excusable.

Quiz and Blog/Discussion Assignments
- All quiz, blog, and discussion board assignments will be due on Saturday at midnight (11:59 PM). No late work will be accepted if the reason is not considered excusable.

MAKE-UP WORK

Make-up work will be given only in the case of a documented emergency. Note that make-up work may be in a different format than the original work, may require more intensive preparation, and may be graded with penalty points. If you miss an assignment and the reason is not considered excusable, you will receive a zero. It is therefore important to reach out to me—in advance if at all possible—and explain with proper documentation why you missed a given course requirement. Once a deadline has been established for make-up work, no further extensions or exceptions will be granted.

ALTERNATIVE MEANS OF SUBMITTING WORK IN CASE OF TECHNICAL ISSUES

I strongly suggest that you submit your work with plenty of time to spare in the event that you have a technical issue with the course website, network, and/or your computer. I also suggest you save all your work (answers to discussion points, quizzes, exams, and essays) in a separate Word document as a back-up. This way, you will have evidence that you completed the work and will not lose credit. If you are experiencing difficulties submitting your work through the course website, please contact the UTEP Help Desk. You can email me your back-up document as a last resort.

INCOMPLETE GRADE POLICY
Incomplete grades may be requested only in exceptional circumstances after you have completed at least half of the course requirements. Talk to me immediately if you believe an incomplete is warranted. If granted, we will establish a contract of work to be completed with deadlines.

**ACCOMMODATIONS POLICY**

The University is committed to providing reasonable accommodations to students with documented disabilities. Students who become pregnant may also request reasonable accommodations, in accordance with state and federal laws and regulations and University policy. Accommodations that constitute undue hardship are not reasonable. To make a request, please register with the UTEP Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS). Contact CASS at 915-747-5148, email them at cass@utep.edu, or apply for accommodations online via the CASS portal.

**SCHOLASTIC INTEGRITY**

Academic dishonesty is prohibited and is considered a violation of the UTEP Handbook of Operating Procedures. 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 laboratory 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, please visit HOOP: Student Conduct and Discipline.

**GUIDANCE ON ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE**

* AI prohibited
Use of AI technologies or automated tools, particularly generative AI such as ChatGPT or DALL-E, is **not allowed** for assignments in this class. Each student is expected to use critical and creative thinking skills to complete tasks and not rely on computer-generated ideas. Any direct use of AI-generated materials submitted as your own work will be treated as plagiarism and reported to the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution (OSCCR).

* AI allowed only with prior permission from instructor
Use of AI technologies or automated tools, particularly generative AI such as ChatGPT or DALL-E, is **only allowed with approval from the instructor BEFORE being used**. Without permission, you will be expected to think creatively and critically to complete assignments without assistance from these tools.
If given permission to use any of these tools, students must properly cite and give full credit to the program used upon submission of every relevant assignment. For example, text generated using ChatGPT must be cited:

Chat-GPT(version). Date of query (year/month/day). “Text of your query.”
Generated using OpenAI. https://chat.openai.com/

A short paragraph describing how the tool(s) was/were used for the assignment must be included.

AI allowed with proper acknowledgement
Use of AI technologies or automated tools, particularly generative AI such as ChatGPT or DALL-E, is *only allowed with proper attribution given for its use.*

Students must properly cite and give full credit to the program used upon submission of every relevant assignment. For example, text generated using ChatGPT must be cited:

Chat-GPT(version). Date of query (year/month/day). “Text of your query.”
Generated using OpenAI. https://chat.openai.com/

A short paragraph describing how the tool(s) was/were used for the assignment must be included.

**Using AI for brainstorming**
Some AI technologies or automated tools, particularly generative AI such as ChatGPT or DALL-E, can be beneficial during the early brainstorming stages of an activity, and you are welcome to explore them for that purpose. However, keep in mind that AI-generated ideas are not your own and may hinder your ability to think critically and creatively about a problem. It is also important to remember that these technologies often “hallucinate” or produce materials and information that are inaccurate or incomplete—even providing false citations for use.

That said, you are not allowed to submit any AI-generated work in this course as your own. If you use any information or materials created by AI technology, you are required to cite it like you would any other source. Consider how this will affect your credibility as a writer and scholar before doing so. Any direct use of AI-generated materials submitted as your own work will be treated as plagiarism and reported to the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution (OSCCR).

**Free use of AI without acknowledgement**
Use of AI technologies or automated tools, including generative AI such as ChatGPT or DALL-E, is permitted in this class. Students must include a short paragraph, with each relevant assignment, explaining how the tool was used.

* CLASS RECORDINGS

Updated 01/04/2024
The use of recordings will enable you to have access to class lectures, group discussions, and so on in the event you miss a synchronous or in-person class meeting due to illness or other extenuating circumstance. Our use of such technology is governed by the Federal Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and UTEP’s acceptable-use policy. A recording of class sessions will be kept and stored by UTEP, in accordance with FERPA and UTEP policies. Your instructor will not share the recordings of your class activities outside of course participants, which include your fellow students, teaching assistants, or graduate assistants, and any guest faculty or community-based learning partners with whom we may engage during a class session. You may not share recordings outside of this course. Doing so may result in disciplinary action.

TEST PROCTORING SOFTWARE

Two course assessments (the midterm and final exams) will make use of Respondus Lock Down Browser and Respondus Monitor inside of Blackboard to promote academic integrity. You are encouraged to learn more about how to use these programs prior to the first test.

Please review the following guidelines:

- The assessments will only be available at the times identified on the course calendar.
- You may take the test at any time during the 24-hour window.
- A reliable Internet connection is essential to completing the exam. If you must go to a location to take the exam (such as the library), be sure to follow their health and safety requirements.
- You have 2 attempts to take the test. Once the window closes, your answers will be saved, and no changes can be made. The higher score will be recorded.
- Respondus Lockdown Browser will require that all internet tabs are closed prior to the start of the test.
- Respondus Monitor requires a webcam and microphone.
- You will be required to show the webcam your student ID prior to the start of the test.
- Your face should be completely visible during the test. Blocking the camera will disable the test.
- No notes or textbook materials are permitted during the test. Respondus Monitor requires you to take a video of your surrounding area (desk, chair, walls, etc.)
- You should not have conversations with other people and/or leave and return to the area during the test.

PLAGIARISM DETECTING SOFTWARE
Some of your course work and assessments may be submitted to SafeAssign, a plagiarism detecting software. SafeAssign is used to review assignment submissions for originality and will help you learn how to properly attribute sources rather than paraphrase.

COPYRIGHT STATEMENT FOR COURSE MATERIALS

All materials used in this course are protected by copyright law. The course materials are only for the use of students currently enrolled in this course and only for the purpose of this course. They may not be further disseminated.

*COURSE RESOURCES: Where you can go for assistance

UTEP provides a variety of student services and support. Please refer to the QR code below for a listing of campus resources.
**CRIJ 4300 Special Topics in CJ Drugs, Crime, and Criminal Justice  Spring 2024**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>WEEK</th>
<th>DATES</th>
<th>TOPIC</th>
<th>READINGS AND NOTES</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 1</td>
<td>01/16/24 - 01/20/24</td>
<td><strong>Chapter 1</strong>  Understanding the Drug Problem in America</td>
<td>Discussion Board Question #1: Time to introduce yourself!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 2</td>
<td>01/22/24 - 01/27/24</td>
<td><strong>Chapter 2</strong>  Understanding the Drug Problem in Global Perspective</td>
<td>Chapter 2 Quiz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 3</td>
<td>01/29/24 - 02/03/24</td>
<td><strong>Chapter 3</strong>  Drug-Control Policy in America</td>
<td>Chapter 3 Quiz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 4</td>
<td>02/05/24 - 02/10/24</td>
<td><strong>Written Assignment 1</strong></td>
<td>Chapters 1, 2, 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 5</td>
<td>02/12/24 - 02/17/24</td>
<td><strong>Chapter 4</strong>  Drugs and Crime</td>
<td>Chapter 4 Quiz</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 6</td>
<td>02/19/24 - 02/24/24</td>
<td><strong>Chapter 5</strong>  Drug-Law Penalties</td>
<td>Chapter 5 Quiz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 7</td>
<td>02/26/24 - 03/02/24</td>
<td><strong>Chapter 6</strong>  Drugs and Law Enforcement</td>
<td>Chapter 6 Quiz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 8</td>
<td>03/04/24 - 03/09/24</td>
<td><strong>Written Assignment 2</strong></td>
<td>Chapters 4, 5, 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week XX</td>
<td>03/11/24 - 03/16/24</td>
<td>No Class—Spring Break!</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 9</td>
<td>03/18/24 - 03/23/24</td>
<td><strong>Chapter 7</strong>  Drugs and Correctional Interventions</td>
<td>Chapter 7 Quiz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 10</td>
<td>03/25/24 - 03/30/24</td>
<td><strong>Chapter 9</strong>  Opioids</td>
<td>Chapter 9 Quiz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 11</td>
<td>04/01/24 - 04/06/24</td>
<td><strong>Chapter 10</strong> Cocaine and Methamphetamine</td>
<td>Chapter 10 Quiz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 12</td>
<td>04/08/24 - 04/13/24</td>
<td><strong>Written Assignment 3</strong></td>
<td>Chapters 7, 9, 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 13</td>
<td>04/15/24 - 04/20/24</td>
<td><strong>Chapter 11</strong> Marijuana</td>
<td>Chapter 11 Quiz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 14</td>
<td>04/22/24 - 04/27/24</td>
<td><strong>Chapter 12</strong>  Hallucinogens and Depressants</td>
<td>Chapter 12 Quiz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 15</td>
<td>04/29/24 - 05/04/24</td>
<td><strong>Chapter 14</strong>  Prevention and Strategies for Change</td>
<td>Chapter 14 Quiz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 16</td>
<td>05/06/24 - 05/11/24</td>
<td><strong>Written Assignment 4</strong></td>
<td>Chapters 11, 12, 14</td>
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I would like to emphasize that I hold the right to add supplementary assignments if they are considered crucial and to make schedule adjustments as necessary to better accommodate the class’s requirements.

Updated 01/04/2024