

## **CRIJ 4314: Women in Criminal Justice**

CRN: 23852

Spring 2023

Professor: Dr. Melinda Tasca

mtasca@utep.edu

Office Hours: Virtually and in office (EDUC 111-Q) – By appointment

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

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course is designed to examine the challenges that women face as victims, perpetrators, and professionals within the criminal justice system. In addition, this course will discuss theories and sources of data collection for research on women and crime. Students are encouraged to consider the unique position of women in various roles and consider the way in which gender influences criminal justice practices.

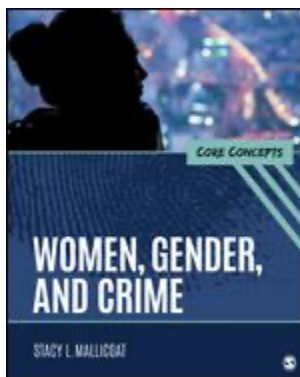
### **COURSE OBJECTIVES**

At the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Explain how women are viewed as victims, offenders, and professionals within the criminal justice system
- Describe how theories of crime relate to women
- Identify crime data sources and their strengths and weaknesses
- Think critically and be knowledgeable about research on the role of gender in criminal justice practice

### **REQUIRED MATERIALS**

Books:



## **COURSE ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING**

All assignments/exams are due electronically through BlackBoard. Your grade in this course will be determined by a variety of assignments, which include:

Exams (100 points each x 4): 400 points

Discussion Boards (30 points each x 9, then drop lowest score; 25 points for each post; 5 points for each response to a peer): 240 points

Paper (10 points for submission of media sources; 90 points for paper): 100 points

**TOTAL POINTS AVAILABLE: 740**

### Grade Distribution:

665 – 740 = A

592 – 664 = B

518 – 591 = C

444 – 517 = D

443 and below = F

Course Delivery: The content for this online course is divided into weekly folders. Only one weekly folder will be open at a time. A new weekly folder will open every Tuesday at 12:01am. Graded assignments are generally due by 10pm on the following Monday (see course schedule for due dates and exceptions). I will post announcements/send emails on a regular basis to keep the class informed on course-related issues.

Reading: I expect you to carefully read all assigned materials (see course schedule). I strongly recommend that you take detailed reading notes. These notes will prove helpful toward your discussion board activities, paper, and exams.

Lectures: To correspond with the readings, I provide PowerPoint lectures that cover key points. The lectures, however, are in no way a substitute for completing the readings. Rather, they serve to help you synthesize and understand content from each chapter.

Exams: There will be four exams administered through Blackboard. Each exam consists of 25 questions that include a combination of true/false and multiple-choice questions. Questions are worth 4 points each (100 points total per exam). Exams will cover material from the textbook and lectures. As noted in the course schedule, each exam covers three to four chapters of material. Important notices regarding exams:

- Exams require Lockdown Respondus Browser (no web cam required)
- Once you open and start an exam, you will have 45 minutes to finish it
- You have two attempts to complete each exam. The link to open the exam will close after 9:59pm on Monday evening, so you must start your exam prior to this deadline and plan your attempts accordingly. If you use your second attempt (optional), your highest score will count as your final score
- Importantly, you must contact the help desk right away if any technological issues arise

Discussion Boards: There will be nine discussion board assignments this semester (240 points total; drop your lowest score at the end of the semester). Each discussion board is worth 30 points (25 points for your original response and 5 points for responding to one classmate). Requirements are as follows:

- Posts should be roughly 2 to 3 paragraphs in length and must address all aspects of the questions completely and clearly
- Refrain from relying solely on opinion (connect your points to the textbook)
- Peer responses should be roughly 3 to 4 sentences
- Check for spelling/grammar
- Be respectful to one another
- Discussion board activities are intended to assess your knowledge in the course so be sure to keep this in mind as you draft your responses

Paper: The paper requirement in this course centers on women, criminal justice, and the media (100 points). You will use both the media and material from this course to evaluate and compare the images and realities of women's experiences with crime and justice. The paper will be completed in multiple steps. For the first step, you will identify three media sources to develop a clear image of how the media presents women and crime. For the final steps, you will reflect, assess, and write about these media in relation to course material in a formal essay. This paper must be submitted through the assigned link in Blackboard (which uses SafeAssign to check for plagiarism). Detailed instructions and formatting requirements for the paper can be found in Blackboard. Be sure to carefully follow all listed requirements.

### **EXTRA CREDIT**

Course Evaluation Response Rate of at Least 70% (15 points): 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 15 extra credit points. To let you know how this works, you will receive email reminders about evaluating the course at least twice. 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 the points. So, please complete the course evaluation when it becomes available and urge your classmates to do the same.

### **UTEP EDGE**

This course is designed with the UTEP Edge in mind. In our class, you will engage in activities during each week that involve critical thinking, applying knowledge to new situations, and solving complex problems. You will leave this course confident in your knowledge of women in criminal justice, with enhanced communication skills and a greater global awareness of crime and justice and how it is responded to by individuals, groups, and the larger society.

### **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. 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**

- **Office Hours:** I am available to meet virtually and in my office by appointment. Reach me by email to request an appointment.
- **Email:** 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 reference the course.
- **Announcements:** Check your UTEP email and Blackboard for announcements frequently for any updates, deadlines, or other important messages.

### **NETIQUETTE AND SEMINAR DISCUSSION GUIDELINES**

As we know, sometimes when discussing hotly debated topics, whether in-person or online, it is possible to miscommunicate what we mean or to misunderstand what our classmates mean. Therefore, please keep these ground rules in mind. Failure to observe them may result in disciplinary action.

- Always consider audience. All communication should reflect polite consideration of other ideas.
- Respect and courtesy must be provided to classmates and to the instructor at all times. No harassment or inappropriate comments will be tolerated.
- When reacting to someone else, address the ideas, not the person.
- Blackboard is not a public internet venue; all discussions and postings to it should be considered private and confidential. Whatever is posted in these online spaces is intended for classmates and the 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**

Course requirements are due on a weekly basis (e.g., discussion boards, paper, or exam). Students should be actively engaged in the course every week. If you have a documented emergency that will cause you to miss a deadline, please contact me as soon as possible to discuss arrangements.

#### **COURSE DROP POLICY**

I will not drop you from the course. However, if you feel that you are unable to complete the course successfully, please first 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.

## **EXTENSIONS AND MAKE-UP WORK**

Requests for extensions and make-up work will be granted only in the case of a *documented* event/circumstance. 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—if you require an extension/make-up assignment. 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 in a separate file 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 site in Blackboard, please contact the UTEP Help Desk.

## **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 and auxiliary services to students, staff, faculty, job applicants, applicants for admissions, and other beneficiaries of University programs, services and activities with documented disabilities in order to provide them with equal opportunities to participate in programs, services, and activities in compliance with sections 503 and 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 and the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADAAA) of 2008. Reasonable accommodations will be made unless it is determined that doing so would cause undue hardship on the University. Students requesting an accommodation based on a disability must register with the [UTEP Center for Accommodations and Support Services](#) (CASS). Contact the Center for Accommodations and Support Services at 915-747-5148, or email them at [cass@utep.edu](mailto: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](#).

## PLAGIARISM DETECTING SOFTWARE

Your course work will be submitted to SafeAssign, a plagiarism detecting software. Links to Scholastic Integrity policies are provided above.

## 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:

#### Technology Resources

- [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.

#### Academic Resources

- [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.
- [University Writing Center \(UWC\)](#): Submit papers here for assistance with writing style and formatting, ask a tutor for help and explore other writing resources.
- [Math Tutoring Center \(MaRCS\)](#): Ask a tutor for help and explore other available math resources.
- [History Tutoring Center \(HTC\)](#): Receive assistance with writing history papers, get help from a tutor and explore other history resources.
- [RefWorks](#): A bibliographic citation tool; check out the RefWorks tutorial and Fact Sheet and Quick-Start Guide.

#### Individual Resources

- [Military Student Success Center](#): Assists personnel in any branch of service to reach their educational goals.
- [Center for Accommodations and Support Services](#): Assists students with ADA-related accommodations for coursework, housing, and internships.
- [Counseling and Psychological Services](#): Provides a variety of counseling services including individual, couples, and group sessions as well as career and disability assessments.

### Weekly Calendar (Subject to Change)

\*Note: This is an online course. Weekly modules open on Tuesdays at 12:01am. Requirements are **due Mondays by 10:00pm** (\*\*with adjusted schedules over spring break).

	Topic	Readings/Lectures	Assignments Due
Week 1 1/17 – 1/23	Getting Started	Review syllabus and familiarize yourself with the course	<b>Discussion Board (Introductions)</b>
Week 2 1/24 - 1/30	Introduction to Women, Gender & Crime	Chapter 1	<b>Discussion Board (Ch. 1)</b>
Week 3 1/31 – 2/6	Theories of Victimization	Chapter 2	<b>Discussion Board (Ch. 2)</b>
Week 4 2/7 – 2/13	Victimization: Sexual Assault	Chapter 3	<b>Discussion Board (Ch. 3)</b>
Week 5 2/14 – 2/20	Victimization: IPA & Stalking	Chapter 4	<b>Exam 1 (Chapters 1 – 4)</b>
Week 6 2/21 – 2/27	International Issues	Chapter 5	<b>Discussion Board (Ch. 5)</b>
Week 7 2/28 – 3/6	Female Offending	Chapter 6	<b>List of three media sources due for paper on Women, CJ, and the Media</b>
Week 8 3/7 – 3/13**	Juvenile Delinquency	Chapter 7	<b>Exam 2 (Chapters 5 – 7)</b>  **Due <u>Sunday</u> 3/12 by 10pm

Week 9 3/14 – 3/20	<b>SPRING BREAK</b>		
Week 10 3/21 – 3/27	Female Offenders & Their Crimes	Chapter 8	<b>Discussion Board (Ch. 8)</b>
Week 11 3/28 – 4/3	Processing & Sentencing	Chapter 9	<b>Discussion Board (Ch. 9)</b>
Week 12 4/4 – 4/10	Supervision of Women	Chapter 10	<b>Exam 3 (Chapters 8 – 10)</b>
Week 13 4/11 – 4/17	Incarceration	Chapter 11	<b>Discussion Board (Ch. 11)</b>
Week 14 4/18 – 4/24	Professionals: Police, Corrections, & Offender Services	Chapter 12	<b>Paper due on Women, CJ, and the Media</b>
Week 15 4/25 – 5/1	Professionals: Courts & Victim Services	Chapter 13	<b>Exam 4 (Chapters 11 – 13)</b>
Week 16 5/2 – 5/8	Wrapping Up	No readings	<b>Discussion Board (Wrapping up)</b>