

Criminal Justice (CRIJ) 4317 Victimology Fall 2021

Professor: **Dr. Olivia Garcia**

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Phone: 202-891-8483 (please keep in mind that I am on Eastern time)

Virtual Office hours: **Tuesdays 6:30 – 8:30 pm & Fridays by appointment**

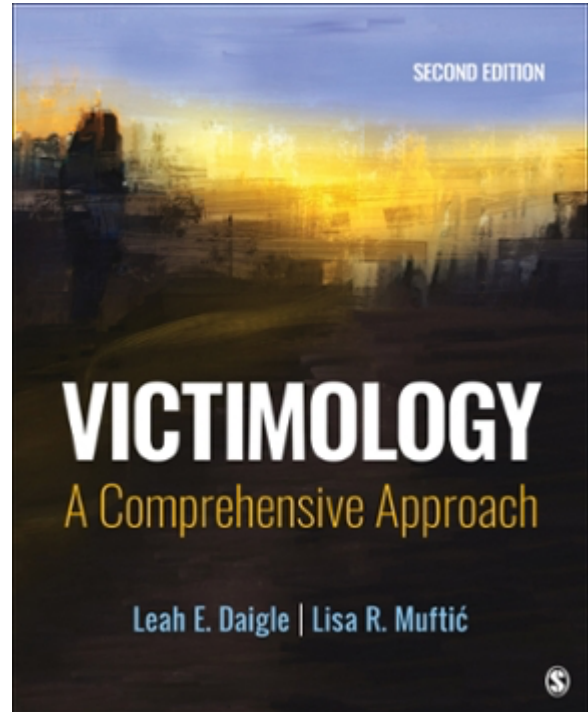
Required Textbook:

Daigle, Leah E., & Lisa R. Muftic. (2015). *Victimology*. Thousands Oak, CA: Sage.

ISBN-13: 978-1483359014

ISBN-10: 9781483359014

Second edition preferred



Course Description

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 two 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, and/or socioeconomic indicators) and theories that explain victimization. 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. You will learn about the history and development of the "victims' rights movement," as well as social policy and services aimed at victims.

Course Objectives

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

- Understand the history of victimology
- Describe the social movements that contributed to victim rights
- Point to international, federal and state laws that provide resources for crime victims

- Draw on existing criminal justice knowledge to better understand the multifaceted experiences of crime victims
- Provide a victim-centered understanding within the criminal legal system
- Be equipped with tools to navigate the use within the field of victimology

Class Format

Learning Modules

This course is **NOT** self-paced. Instead, this course is based on modules that open and close at specific times. Each module is “packaged” and has all the materials, lecture notes, submission areas, discussion posts are in one area for a given timeframe.

Required Assignments

Exams: Students will complete 2 exams consisting of multiple-choice and open-ended questions that require a written response. Students will have 180 minutes (3 hours) to complete the exam once they begin (this already takes into consideration additional time for accessibility needs). Exams will be open and closed as indicated in the syllabus. Students may take exams up to 2 times. The most recent attempt will be graded and recorded.

Chapter Quizzes: Students will be asked to complete a quiz to ensure they are keeping up with the course material. Students will have 120 minutes (this already takes into consideration additional time for accessibility needs). Students have 2 attempts for quizzes. The most recent attempt will be graded and recorded. The quizzes are a combination of multiple choice and written responses.

Written work within the quizzes and exams should specifically reference the course material to show that students are keeping up with the readings and lectures.

Discussion Board: These assignments are an opportunity for students to share a little bit about themselves with their classmates and foster a positive learning environment. There are two of these kinds of assignments, at the beginning and end of the course.

Writing Assignment: This assignment consists of critical thinking, analysis and writing skills. Students will have approximately 4 weeks to complete two writing prompts. Students have one attempt to upload their writing.

Final Grade Calculation

Your final grade in this class will be determined based on the 2 exams, chapter quizzes and participation assignments. A list of all assignments is provided below.

<u>Assignment</u>	<u>Points per assignment</u>	<u>Total for all assignments</u>
Introduction – Discussion Board		5
Quizzes	5	4 * 5 = 20
Midterm		30
Writing Assignment		10

Reflection – Discussion Board		5
Final		30
Total		100

Final Grade Distribution:

100 – 90 Points = A

89-80 Points=B

79-70 Points=C

69-60 Points=D

59 and below Points=F

Please note: *There will be no curve used in grading and no grades will be dropped. It is best not contact me at the end of the semester regarding extra points for a particular letter grade. Your grade is your accomplishment and mastery of the course material.*

All exams, written assignments, and quizzes are “open book” and “open notes,” meaning that students can use any class materials they wish when completing these assignments. However, they cannot “collaborate” in any way with any person when completing the assignments. Doing so constitutes cheating and will be dealt with per the policy on academic dishonesty specified later in the syllabus.

Course Communication: How we will stay in touch

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:

- **Students should communicate with the instructor via Blackboard only.**
 1. Be on the look-out for **Announcements**. When I need to communicate with all students, I will post in the Announcements section, and this will automatically send a UTEP email to all students. You should be on the look-out for those, but **do not reply** to a course announcement.
 2. **Blackboard Messages** – this is an email system for our course only which is the best way to communicate with me.
 3. **Discussion Board:** Students may also ask questions through Dr. Garcia’s Open Forum in the Discussion Board and at office hours.
 4. **Office Hours:** We will not be able to meet on campus because this is an online course. 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](#). I am available by chat or voice on times: Tuesdays: 4:30-6:30 pm Mountain Time or Fridays by appointment.
- **UTEP Email is for emergencies:** You should only contact me at: ogarcia10@utep.edu for emergencies like: *a family member that you take care of is very ill, you are having a medical emergency, or there has been a death in your immediate family.* Keep in mind that I will ask for documentation with regards to your unique situation.
- This is a last resort. You may also call me at: 202-891-8483 for emergencies only. Leave a message (this is a secure line) and I will get back to you as soon as I can. Remember to provide

your full name, the course you are enrolled in and the purpose of your call. This should be a last resort. Keep in mind that I am on Eastern time, and I have other professional obligations outside of my UTEP faculty responsibilities.

Netiquette = Network Etiquette

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 and experiences.
- 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.

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 (for office hours). 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!

Class and University Policies

Disclosures

Because of the name of the material in this course, students sometimes share sensitive information with me. I get a lot of disclosures from students of being a crime victim which is completely understandable. Keep in mind, however, according to Texas law SB 212 ([Senate Bill 212](#)) that requires **all employees** of Texas universities **to report** incidents of sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating violence, or stalking allegedly committed by or against a student or employee to a Title IX Coordinator or Deputy Title IX Coordinator. Under this new law, an employee who fails to report or falsely reports such an incident will also be subject to criminal liability (misdemeanor) and termination of employment. So please keep this in mind as you share sensitive information with me.

Excused Absences and Course Drop Policy

According to UTEP Curriculum and Classroom Policies, “When, in the judgment of the instructor, a student has been absent to such a degree as to impair his or her status relative to credit for the course, the instructor may drop the student from the class with a grade of “W” before the course drop deadline and with a grade of “F” after the course drop deadline.” See academic regulations in the UTEP Undergraduate Catalog for a list of excuse absences. 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.

Deadlines, Late Work and Absence Policy

All deadlines are clearly labeled on the last page of the syllabus. Deadlines are firm. Late work is not accepted.

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. You can also take a screen shot (just make sure your name and the time are visible on the screenshot. This is another great way to back up your work). 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 send me a Course Message through Blackboard as back-up but it is preferred that you

submit assignments in the proper black within Blackboard. **Do NOT send an email to ogarcia10@utep.edu.** I do not accept work through that method unless previously arranged and I will not grade the work.

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, or apply for accommodations online via the [CASS portal](#).

Academic 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](#).

Class Recordings

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.

Copyright Statement for Course Material

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.

COVID-19 PRECAUTIONS

Please stay home if you have been diagnosed with COVID-19 or are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms. If you are feeling unwell, please let me know as soon as possible, so that we can work on appropriate accommodations. If you have tested positive for COVID-19, you are encouraged to report your results to covidaction@utep.edu, so that the Dean of Students Office can provide you with support and help with communication with your professors. The Student Health Center is equipped to provide COVID 19 testing.

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that people in areas of substantial or high COVID-19 transmission wear face masks when indoors in groups of people. The best way that Miners can take care of Miners is to get the vaccine. If you still need the vaccine, it is widely available in the El Paso area, and will be available at no charge on campus during the first week of classes. For more information about the current rates, testing, and vaccinations, please visit epstrong.org

UTEP Resources to help you succeed

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.

Important Dates

<u>Date Opens/Available on Blackboard Home Page</u>	<u>Chapters</u>	<u>Assignment</u>	<u>Due Date at 11:59:00 pm (Mountain)</u>
Jan 18	1, 2, 3	Introduction slide in Discussion Board	Jan 29
Feb 6		Quiz 1	Feb 13
Feb 13	4, 6, 7		
Feb 20		Quiz 2	Feb 26
Feb 27	6	Writing Assignment	April 2
March 6	Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4, 6 & 7	Midterm	March 12
<i>March 14-18</i>	<i>Spring Break – No assignments due during this time</i>		
March 20	12, 13, 8		
<i>April 1</i>	<i>Spring Drop/Withdrawal Deadline Note: Student-initiated drops are permitted after this date, but the student is not guaranteed a grade of W.</i>		
April 3		Quiz 3	April 9
April 10	9, 10, 11		
April 24		Quiz 4	April 30
May 1	Reflection Assignment		May 7
May 1	Final Exam		May 10 th

<u>Chapter Number</u>	<u>Chapter Title/Topic</u>
1	Introduction to Victimology
2	Extent, Theories and Factors of Victimization
3	The Victim-Offender Overlap
4	Consequences of Victimization
6	Victims' Rights and Remedies
7	Homicide Victimization
12	Victimization at School and Work
13	Contemporary Issues
8	Sexual Victimization
9	Intimate Partner Violence
10	Victimization at the Beginning and End of Life: Child and Elder Abuse
11	Victimization of Special Populations