

Professor: Dr. Stacie Ordoñez
Department of Criminal Justice
E-mail: saordonez@utep.edu

Class Dates: May 17, 2021- July 2, 2021

Office Hours: Virtual office hours by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

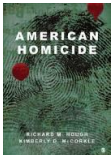
This course provides a description, discussion, and evaluation of the various types of homicide. Particular attention is given to examining the patterns and trends in homicide as well as the various theoretical explanations for why offenders engage in homicide. This course will begin by exploring the legal aspects of homicide, how to measure homicide, and considerable attention will be given to the unique circumstances of different types of homicide. Topics to be covered include intimate partner homicide, children who kill, infanticide, mass and spree murder, and serial murder. The course will also focus on the process of solving homicides including investigation techniques, evidence, interrogation, investigative profiling, and cold case squads.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

Following the successful completion of this course, students should be able to:

1. Describe the historical trends of homicide and the definitions of homicide
2. Define and distinguish between the different forms of confrontational and intimate homicide
3. Compare and contrast mass and spree murder and the typologies of motive.

REQUIRED TEXT:



American Homicide
Hough and McCorkle 2017
ISBN: 9781483384146

Supplemental Required readings can be found in Blackboard. See schedule for required reading assignments.

SUMMARY OF COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Discussions (25 pts x 8) 200 Points
Quizzes (50 pts X 2) 100 points
Serial Killer Presentation 100 Points
Written Assignments 100 Points

| Points | Letter Grade |
|---------|--------------|
| 450-500 | A |
| 400-449 | B |
| 350-399 | C |
| 300-349 | D |
| 0-299 | F |

GRADING SCALE: 500 points possible

NOTE: Grades are assigned according to the total points earned. I do not curve grades or round up. If you end the class with 449 points, you will receive a B. You are responsible for obtaining the grade you want in this class.

DETAILS OF COURSE REQUIREMENTS

This course is designed using learning modules with each learning module covering one week of the semester. In each learning module, students will be required to complete a variety of tasks to facilitate learning and comprehension of the module's material. Students will be required to read the required readings and complete the tasks required.

I. Written Assignment: In weeks 3 and 6, you will have a writing assignment due. The assignment will require you use to analyze and apply concepts we have covered in this class. In these assignments, I expect to see that you can apply material. Refer to Blackboard for more information regarding your writing assignments.

II. Discussion Participation: Each week there will be a discussion that must be answered completely. Your response to the discussion question should be scholarly and thorough. In your response, you must demonstrate your understanding of Textbook readings and the application of the covered theory or theories. **You must have your original post that is due Tuesday of each week.** You must respond to two peers by Friday of each week. You need to check back to your post as well to make sure you have responded to anyone who may have asked you anything, more so if I have asked you something.

You must respond with more than "Good job," or "I agree." Your response to your peer's discussion post should provide your understanding or an alternative to your peers' opinion and the application of concepts. Simply submitting the discussion post does not mean you will earn all points.

Netiquette: You must maintain an academic attitude and uphold UTEP policies. Being disrespectful, using profanity or unprofessional behavior will not be tolerated. All your online communications must be composed with fairness, honesty, and tact.

III. Serial Killer presentation: In week 5 you will have to conduct research of a serial killer. See Blackboard for instructions

IV. Exams: You will have 2 exams in this class. Each exam is worth 50 points each (**SEE schedule for exam dates**). The exams will likely be structured with some combination of Multiple choice, True/False, and/or Essay questions.

V. Late Work

Late assignments/discussions/exams will not be accepted. Due dates are posted. Plan accordingly. You can submit all assignments early.

Disability:

Students with a disability that affects their academic performance are expected to arrange a meeting with the instructor so that appropriate strategies can be considered to ensure that participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired. Students with disabilities are required to notify the Center for Accommodations and Support Services for accommodations, cass@utep.edu; 915-747-5148; Union East Rm 106.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY:

Academic dishonesty includes cheating on an exam, turning in someone else's assignment from a previous class, or plagiarism: "(1) use by paraphrase or direct quotation of the published or unpublished work of another person without fully and properly crediting the author with citations or biographical reference; (2) unacknowledged use of work/materials prepared by another person or agency engaged in the selling of term papers or other academic materials; (3) unacknowledged use of original work/material that has been produced through collaboration with others without release in writing from collaborators."

I take cases of alleged academic dishonesty seriously. For students who are found to have allegedly engaged in any form of academic dishonesty, the case will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution (OSCCR). While the case is being investigated by OSCCR, an "I" (Incomplete) will be assigned until the case is resolved. If the student is found by OSCCR to have engaged in misconduct, sanctions may include a failing grade on the assignment or exam in question, a failing grade in the course, suspension, or dismissal from the University. See <http://www.utep.edu/dos>

UTEP Drop Policy

If unforeseen circumstances happen where a drop is necessary, *students* are responsible for initiating any course drop. It is the student's responsibility to determine how dropping courses may affect financial aid. **Students are limited to dropping no more than 6 courses over their entire academic career of all courses taken at any public college or University in Texas.** If a student withdraws completely from this class kindly notify Dr. Ordonez at saordonez@utep.edu.

CONTRACT

By reading this syllabus and remaining enrolled in the class, you are agreeing to the terms of the contract. If you have any questions, please email Dr. Ordonez (saordonez@utep.edu).

RECORDING OF CLASS & COPYRIGHT STATEMENT

The materials used in this course are copyrighted. This includes, but is not limited to, syllabi, exams, in class activities, review sheets, homework, solutions, class notes, supplemental materials. You do not have the right to copy or distribute these items unless I specifically grant you permission.

University of Texas El Paso
Department of Criminal Justice
CRIJ 4315-Homicide
Summer 2021 CRN: 33452

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| **ALL TIMES ARE MOUNTAIN STANDARD TIME** | | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| CRIJ 4315: Homicide | | | |
| Dates for Topics | | Topic or Activity | Activity Due Dates and Times |
| Begin | End | | |
| Week 1 | | | |
| 5/17 | 5/23 | Course Info-Start Here | |
| | | Discussion Activity-Introduce Yourself to the Class | Due Tuesday 11:55pm |
| Week 1- Homicide: The Basics | | | |
| | | Read Chapters 1, 2, and 3 | |
| | | W1 Presentation- The Basics of Homicide | |
| | | W1 Discussion Post | Due Tuesday 11:55pm |
| | | W1 Discussion Activity-Reply | Due Friday 11:55pm |
| Week 2 | | | |
| 5/24 | 5/30 | Week 2-Theories of Homicide & Medical Murder | |
| | | Read Chapters 4 & Furbee Article | |
| | | Lecture Presentation- Theory and Medical Murder | |
| | | W2 Discussion Post | Due Tuesday 11:55pm |
| | | W2 Discussion Activity-Reply | Due Friday 11:55pm |
| Week 3 | | | |
| 5/31 | 6/6 | Week 3- Confrontational Homicide & Family Homicide | |
| | | Read Chapters 5 -7 | |
| | | Lecture Presentation- Confrontational, Intimate Partner, Family Violence | |
| | | W3 Discussion Post | Due Tuesday 11:55pm |
| | | W3 Discussion Activity-Reply | Due Friday 11:55pm |
| | | W3 Assignment- Family Homicide | Due Sunday 11:55pm |
| Week 4 | | | |
| 6/7 | 6/13 | Week 4- School Shootings and Mass Murder | |
| | | Read Chapter 8-9; Langman Article, Phillips Article, and Fox and Levin Article (see Blackboard) | |
| | | Lecture Presentations | |
| | | W4 Discussion Post | Due Tuesday 11:55pm |
| | | W4 Discussion Activity-Reply | Due Friday 11:55pm |
| | | W4 Exam-Chapters 1-7 and Medical murder | Due Sunday 11:55pm |
| Week 5 | | | |
| 6/14 | 6/20 | Week 5- Serial Murder & Gangs | |
| | | Read Chapter 11-12; Castle & Hensley Article, and Simmons Article (see Blackboard) | |
| | | W5 Lecture Presentation- Serial Murder | |
| | | W5 Discussion Post | Due Tuesday 11:55pm |
| | | W5 Discussion Activity-Reply | Due Friday 11:55pm |
| | | W5 Serial Killer Power Point Presentation | Due Sunday 11:55pm |
| Week 6 | | | |
| 6/21 | 6/27 | Week 6- Investigating Homicide | |
| | | Read Ch 13 -15; Moffatt & Hersey Article | |
| | | W6 Discussion Post | Due Tuesday 11:55pm |
| | | W6 Discussion Activity-Reply | Due Friday 11:55pm |
| | | W6 Assignment-Reducing Homicide | Due Sunday 11:55pm |
| Week 7 | | | |
| 6/28 | 7/2 | Finals Week | |
| | | W7 Discussion Post | Due Tuesday 11:55pm |
| | | W7 Discussion Activity-Reply | Due Thursday 11:55pm |
| Final Exam covers Chapters 8-9, 11-15. Exam will open on 6/28 at 12am and is due 7/2 at 5pm You can't make up this exam if you miss it. NO EXCEPTIONS | | | |

I reserve the right to amend the schedule and/or add assignments to suit the needs of the class
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