

CRIJ 4315- Homicide Fall 2021 (CRN# 15398)

Professor: Dr. Stacie Ordoñez
Department of Criminal Justice
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Class Dates: August 23, 2021- December 3rd 2021
Tues/Thursday 1:30pm-2:50pm
Education Bldg. Room 114

Office Hours: Education Bldg. Rm 111
915-747-7674
Tuesday/Thursday 8:00am -8:45am, 12:30-1:15pm, 3:00pm-4:30pm
Or by appointment.

CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

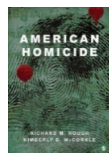
This course provides a description, discussion, and evaluation of the various types of homicide. Particular attention is given to examining the patterns and trends in homicide as well as the various theoretical explanations for why offenders engage in homicide. Topics to be covered include intimate partner 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 readings.

SUMMARY OF COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

In Class Activities		100 Points
Group Presentation		100 Points
Exams	(50 pts X 3)	150 points
Written Assignments	(50 pts x 2)	100 Points

Points	Percentage	Letter Grade
405-450	90-100	A
360-404	80-89	B
315-359	70-79	C
270-314	60-69	D
0-269	0-59	F

GRADING SCALE:

450 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 404 points, you will receive a B. You are responsible for obtaining the grade you want in this class.

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DETAILS OF COURSE REQUIREMENTS

I. In Class Activities: Activities will be completed in class that are not scheduled but attendance is required to obtain the points. If you are absent, you can't make up missed class activities. This also includes any assignment given in the first or last few minutes of class. If you are late or leave early, you will not get the points

II. Written Assignment: In week 7 and week 14, 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 this assignment, I expect to see that you can apply material. **Refer to Blackboard for more information regarding your writing assignments.**

III. Serial Killer Presentation: In week 10 and 11 you will have a group presentation to review an assigned serial killer. Power Point presentation is required. More instruction with presentation expectations will be provided in week 8. **If you are absent for group/topic assignments, you will not be assigned later. You will receive a zero for group presentations.**

IV. EXAMS: You will have 3 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. **Missed Exams CANNOT be made up.**

IV. Instructor's Policies

COVID-19-The CDC is recommending that people wear masks when inside public spaces where the spread of the virus is "substantial" or "high." You are encouraged to wear a mask, but you are not required to. Please do not come to class if you are ill. To be excused from class activities, you must email me *before* the missed class date(s). Documentation may be requested. Communication is important.

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

Use of cell phones is strictly prohibited during class. Should your phone ring during class, you will be asked to leave. Should you take phone call or be observed texting, you will be asked to leave class. Cell phones should be appropriately stored away during exams. If a student is found to have their phone out while taking an exam, they will fail that exam and be asked to leave.

Taking pictures in class is Prohibited. You are not allowed to take pictures of Lecture slides or materials. Plan on bringing a notebook and writing utensil to take notes in this class.

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.

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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 all classes, 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.

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*I reserve the right to add assignments if necessary and amend the schedule to suit the needs of the class. *

<u>DATE:</u>	<u>TOPIC COVERAGE*</u>	<u>ASSIGNMENT*</u>
Week 1 8/23-8/29	What you think you know	Read Ch 1
Week 2 8/30-9/5	Who's killing Whom and how Much	Read Ch. 2
Week 3 9/6-9/12	Murder by Numbers	Read Ch. 3
Week 4 9/13-9/19	Theories of Homicide	Read Ch. 4 and Furbee Article
Week 5 9/20-9/26	Confrontational Homicide	Read Ch. 5 Exam 1 due in BB by 11:55pm 9/26/2021 Ch 1-4
Week 6 9/27-10/3	Intimate Partner Homicide	Read Ch. 6
Week 7 10/4-10/10	All in the Family Read Ch. 7	Written assessment due 10/10/2021 by 11:55pm
Week 8 10/11-10/17	School Killings	Group Selection Read Ch. 8, Langman Article and Phillips Article
Week 9 10/18-10/24	Mass Killings	Read Ch. 9, Read Fox & Levin Article
Week 10 10/25-10/31	Serial Killing Read Ch. 11, Castle & Hensley and Simons Articles	Group presentations Exam 2 due in Bb by 11:55pm 10/31/2021 Ch 5-9 Submit Presentation in Bb by 10/27/2021
Week 11 11/1-11/7	Serial Killing cont...	Group presentations
Week 12 11/8-11/14	Cults and Gangs	Read Ch. 12
Week 13 11/15-11/21	Solving Homicides	Read Ch. 13, Moffatt & Hersey Article Written assessment due Sunday by 11:55pm 11/21/2021
Week 14 11/22-11/28	Murder in Court (No class on 11/25) Read Ch. 14 & 15	
Week 15 11/29-12/3	Future of Homicide/Homicide in Review	

Final Exam Due in BB by Tuesday 12/7 at 11:55pm. Exam will open on 12/3. Exam will cover 11-15

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