

CRIJ 4315- Homicide Fall 2023 (CRN# 12811)

Professor: Dr. Stacie Ordoñez
Department of Criminal Justice
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Class Dates: August 29th-Decemeber 7th, 2023
Tues & Thurs 9:00am-10:20am
Education Bldg. Room 114

Office Hours: Office Hours are available by appointment. I am available to meet with students before and after class or by appointment. I can be reached through UTEP email. Please allow 24 hours to respond on weekdays and 72 hours over the weekend.

CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

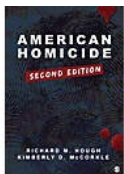
This course provides a description, discussion, and evaluation of the various types of homicide. Particular attention is given to examining the patterns and trends in homicide as well as the various theoretical explanations for why offenders engage in homicide. Topics to be covered include intimate partner 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, 2nd Ed. 2020

Hough and McCorkle
ISBN: 9781544356037

Supplemental Required Readings can be found in Blackboard. See Schedule for required readings.

SUMMARY OF COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

In Class Activities		100 Points
Written Assignments	(50 pts x 2)	100 points
Final Writing Assignment		100 Points
Exams	(50 pts x 4)	200 points

Points	Percentage	Letter Grade
450-500	90-100	A
400-449	80-89	B
370-399	70-79	C
300-369	60-69	D
0-299	0-59	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 earning the grade you want in this class. I do not give grades.

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DETAILS OF COURSE REQUIREMENTS

I. In Class Activities- This is a face-to-face class. Attendance is expected. Activities will be completed in class that are not scheduled but attendance is required to obtain the points. If you are absent, regardless of the reason, 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. PowerPoint presentations- In weeks 7 and 11 you will prepare a 4 slide PowerPoint presentation, examining homicide typologies that have been covered. The PowerPoint will need to be submitted in Blackboard. Assignments must be submitted as a PowerPoint or a pdf. Assignments submitted as a comment, submission text or .pages, will not be accepted and will receive a zero. If I am not able to open your attachment you will receive a zero. See Blackboard for more details.

III. Final Assignment-Infographic: In Week 14 you will have a final assignment due. This assignment requires you to create an Infographic that depicts a current homicidal issue in society. Assignment must be submitted as PDF. Links or images will not be accepted. If I am not able to open your attachment you will receive a zero. See Blackboard for more details.

IV. EXAMS: You will have 4 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

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

Absences and Late comers: Class begins promptly at the start time, please be on time. If you miss class, **you will not** be able to make up any activities completed in class. It is your responsibility to reach out to a classmate for missed notes.

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.

Absences and Late comers: Class begins promptly at the start time, please be on time. If you miss class, **you will not** be able to make up any activities completed in class. If you ill, please do not come to class. It is your responsibility to reach out to a classmate for missed notes.

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

Students are not allowed to submit assignments that were used in another class. Regardless of whether they authored them or not, students are not allowed to repurpose their own assignments. In these cases, students will receive a zero on the assignment and will not get the opportunity to resubmit.

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.

Civility Statement: My promise to my students is to always provide a learning environment appropriate for academic knowledge, discussion, and debate. For this to occur, each learner will respect what others say and avoid insults, interruptions, and disrespect. We will avoid becoming politically charged when discussing sensitive topics.

We all come to the table with a variety of experiences and viewpoints, which means that we have so much to learn from each other! To get the most out of this opportunity, it is important that we do not shy away from differences. Rather, we should show respect for differences by seeking to understand, asking questions, clarifying our understanding, and/or respectfully explaining our own perspective. This way, everybody comes away with new perspectives on the issue and respecting others with different values or beliefs. If someone says something that bothers you for any reason, assume that your peer did not mean to be offensive and ask your peer to clarify what he or she meant. Then explain the impact it had on you. If your classmates tell you that something you said or wrote bothered them, assume that they are not attacking you, but that they are sharing something that might be important for you to know.

And a final note: Any discussion that becomes violent (emotional, mental, physical) or becomes personal in nature, students will be asked to leave the classroom and the behavior will be reported as a violent incident to the University to review. Your presence in the classroom will not be allowed until the university reviews the incident and considers you safe to return to the classroom.

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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 8/28 - 9/3	Welcome to Class Homicide intro	Syllabus/Lecture Ch 1-2
Week 2 9/4 - 9/10	What you think you know Theories of Homicide/Medical Murder	Read Ch 3 Read Ch. 4 and Furbee Article
Week 3 9/11- 9/17	Confrontational Homicide	Read Ch. 5
Week 4 9/18 - 9/24	Open Discussion Exam 1 covers Ch 1-5 and lecture material. Exam opens 9/18/23 at midnight and is due 9/24/23 by 11:55pm.	
Week 5 9/25 - 10/1	Intimate Partner Homicide	Read Ch. 6
Week 6 10/2 - 10/8	All in the Family	Read Ch. 7
Week 7 10/9 - 10/15	Children who Kill Written assessment due Sunday by 11:55pm on 10/15/23.	Lecture
Week 8 10/16 - 10/22	Open Discussions Exam 2 covers Ch 6-7 and lecture material. Exam opens 10/16/23 at midnight and is due 10/22/23 by 11:55pm	
Week 9 10/23 - 10/29	School Killings	Read Ch. 8, and Langman Article
Week 10 10/30 - 11/5	Mass Killings	Read Ch. 9, Read Fox & Levin Article
Week 11 11/6-11/12	Serial Killings	Read Ch 12, Castle & Hensley and Simons Articles
Week 12 11/13 - 11/19	Open Discussion Exam 3 covers Ch 8-9, 12, and lecture materials. Exam opens 11/13/23 at midnight and is due 11/19/2023 by 11:55pm.	
Week 13 11/20 - 11/26	Discussion	Happy Thanksgiving
Week 14 11/27 -12/3	Wrongful Convictions/False Confessions Written assessment due Sunday by 11:55pm 12/3/23.	Lecture
Week 15 12/4 - 12/7	Solving Homicide, Murder in Court., and Homicide in Review	Read Ch. 13-15

Final exam covers Ch 13-15 and lecture materials. Exam opens on 12/7/23 at noon and is due 12/12/23 before noon.