

**CRIJ 4315- Homicide - Online
Fall 2023 (CRN# 14193)**

Professor: Dr. Stacie Ordoñez
Department of Criminal Justice
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Class Dates: August 28th- December 7th, 2023

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:

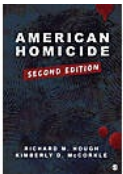
This course provides a description, discussion, and evaluation of the various types of homicide. Particular attention is given to examining the patterns and trends in homicide as well as the various theoretical explanations for why offenders engage in homicide. Topics to be covered include intimate partner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

Discussions	(5 x 25 pts)	125 points
Exams	(4 x 50 pts)	200 points
Assignments	(3 x 25 pts)	75 points
Serial Killer Presentation		50 points
Final Assignment		50 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 get a B. You are responsible for obtaining the grade you want in this class.

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DETAILS OF COURSE REQUIREMENTS

I. Discussion Participation: This semester you will have 10 discussion questions that require your response. 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 materials. **Initial posts are due by Tuesday before 11:59pm, responses to peers are due by Friday before 11:59pm.** *Original posts entered after Tuesday will not be accepted and a zero will be entered regardless of participation in the discussion.* See Late work policy. 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 are required to respond to two students/peers that provokes thought. You must respond with more than “Good job,” or “I agree.” Your response to your peers during discussion posts should provide your understanding or an alternative to their opinion and the application of concepts.

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.

II. Written Assessments- In weeks 3, 7, 9, and 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. Assignments must be submitted as a word document or a pdf. Assignments submitted as a comment, submission text or .pages, will not be accepted and will receive a zero. See Blackboard for more details.

III. EXAMS: You have 4 exams in this class. Each exam is worth 50 points each (**SEE schedule for exam dates**). **The exact format of exams is to be determined.** However, the exams will likely be structured with some combination of Multiple choice, True/False, and/or Essay questions.

IV. Serial Killer Presentation- In week 11 create a PowerPoint presentation describing a serial killer of your choice. The PowerPoint will 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. See Blackboard for more details.

V. 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.

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 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.

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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	Introduction Discussion due 8/29 Read Ch 1-3
Week 2 9/4-9/10	Theories of Homicide Medical Murder	Discussion due by 9/5 Read Ch. 4 and Furbee Article
Week 3 9/11-9/17	Confrontational Homicide	Written Assignment Due 9/17 Read Ch 5
Week 4 9/18 - 9/24	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	Discussion due by 9/26 Read Ch. 6
Week 6 10/2 - 10/8	All in the Family	Written Assignment Due 10/8 Read Ch 7
Week 7 10/9 -10/15	Children who Kill	Discussion Due by 10/10 Supplemental Reading
Week 8 10/16 -10/22	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 -10/27	School Killings	Written Assignment Due 10/27 Read Ch. 8, Langman Article and Phillips Article
Week 10 10/30 - 11/5	Mass Killings	Discussion due by 10/31 Read Ch. 9, Read Fox & Levin Article
Week 11 11/6 - 11/12	Serial Killing Serial Killer Presentations due 11/12/23	Read Ch. 11, Castle & Hensley and Simons Articles
Week 12 11/13-11/19	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	Happy Thanksgiving	Discussion due by 11/21
Week 14 11/27 -12/3	Wrongful Convictions/False Confessions	Supplemental Reading Written Assignment Due 12/3
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.

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