

# CRIJ 4315- Homicide

## Fall 2020 (CRN# 25696)

**Professor:** Dr. Stacie Ordoñez  
Department of Criminal Justice  
E-mail: [saordonez@utep.edu](mailto:saordonez@utep.edu)

**Class Dates:** January 21, 2020 to May 7, 2020  
Tues/Thursday 12pm-1:20pm  
Liberal Arts Room 106

**Office Hours:** Education Bldg. Rm 111  
915-747-7674  
Tues/Thurs 9-10am and 2pm-4pm; or by appointment

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### **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:**

Castle, Tammy and Hensley, Christopher. 2002. Serial Killers with Military Experience: Applying Learning Theory to Serial Murder. *International Journal of Offender Therapy and Comparative Criminology*.

Fox, James Alan and Levin, Jack. 2003. Mass Murder: An Analysis of Extreme Violence. *Journal of Applied Psychoanalytic Studies*.

Furbee, R. Brent. 2006. Criminal Poisoning: Medical Murderers. *Clinics in Laboratory Medicine*.

Langman, Peter. 2009. Rampage School Shooters: A Typology. *Aggression and Violent Behavior*.

Moffatt, Gregory K., and Nicholas W. Hersey. 2010. Typical and Atypical Homicide: Investigative Differences and Cold Case Profiling. *The Forensic Examiner*.

Simons, Cassandra L. 2001. Antisocial Personality Disorder in Serial Killers: The Thrill of the Kill. *The Justice Professional*.

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## SUMMARY OF COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

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

**GRADING SCALE:** **400 points possible**

Points	Percentage	Letter Grade
360-400	90-100	A
320-359	80-89	B
280-319	70-79	C
240-279	60-69	D
0-239	0-59	F

**NOTE:** Grades are assigned according to the total points earned. I do not curve grades or round up. If you end the class with an 89, you will receive a B. You are responsible for obtaining the grade you want in this class.

## DETAILS OF COURSE REQUIREMENTS

**I. 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.**

**LATE ASSIGNMENTS:** Due dates are posted in Blackboard. Plan accordingly. **I do not accept late assignments.** I understand that life happens and sometimes things come up that we don't expect, don't wait until the last minute to submit assignments. Exceptions can be made at my discretion.

**II. 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.

**III. Group 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 10. **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.**

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### IV. Instructor's Policies

**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](mailto: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>

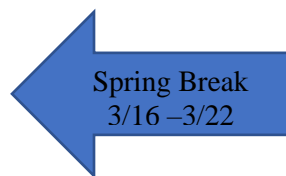
#### **UTEP Drop Policy**

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 all classes, kindly notify Dr. Ordonez at [saordonez@utep.edu](mailto:saordonez@utep.edu).

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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	What you think you know	Read Ch 1
Week 2	Who's killing Whom and how Much	Read Ch. 2
Week 3	Murder by Numbers	Read Ch. 3
Week 4	Theories of Homicide Read Furbee Article	Read Ch. 4
Week 5	Confrontational Homicide <b>Exam 1 due Sunday in BB by 11:55pm on 2/23/2020 Ch 1-4</b>	Read Ch. 5
Week 6	Intimate Partner Homicide	Read Ch. 6
Week 7	All in the Family <b>Written assessment due Sunday by 11:55pm on 3/8/2020</b>	Read Ch. 7
Week 8	School Killings Read Langman Article and Phillips Article	Read Ch. 8
Week 9	Mass Killings Read Fox & Levin Article	Read Ch. 9
Week 10	Serial Killing Read Castle & Hensley and Simons Articles <b>Group presentations</b> <b>Exam 2 due Sunday in Bb by 11:55pm on 4/5/2020 Ch 5-9</b>	Read Ch. 11
Week 11	Serial Killing cont.. <b>Group presentations</b>	Read Ch. 11
Week 12	Cults and Gangs	Read Ch. 12
Week 13	Solving Homicides Read Moffatt & Hersey Article	Read Ch. 13
Week 14	Murder in Court <b>Written assessment due Sunday by 11:55pm on 5/3/2020</b>	Read Ch. 14
Week 15	Victims, Society, and the Future <b>Final Exam Due in BB by 11:55pm on 5/10/2020 Chapter 11-15</b>	Read Ch. 15



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