

**CRIJ 4315- Homicide - Online  
Summer 2023 (CRN# 33177)**

**Professor:** Dr. Stacie Ordoñez  
Department of Criminal Justice  
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**Class Dates:** July 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023 - August 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023

**Office Hours:** I will meet with students virtually/in person by appointment. I can be reached through UTEP email. Please allow 24 hours to respond on weekdays and 48 hours over the weekend.

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**CATALOG DESCRIPTION:**

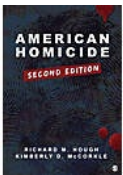
This course provides a description, discussion, and evaluation of the various types of homicide. Particular attention is given to examining the patterns and trends in homicide as well as the various theoretical explanations for why offenders engage in homicide. Topics to be covered include intimate partner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

Hough and McCorkle  
ISBN: 9781544356037

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

**SUMMARY OF COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**

Discussions	(25 pts x 2)	50 points
Written Assignments	(100 pts x 2)	200 points
Quizzes	(50 pts x 3)	150 points
Final exam	(100 pts)	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 get a B. You are responsible for obtaining the grade you want in this class.**

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**DETAILS OF COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

This is an accelerated 4-week course. You need to expect that there will be assessments due every week and multiple chapter reading requirements. This is not a self-paced class. Assessments not submitted on time will result in zero in the gradebook.

**I. Discussion Participation:** This semester you will have 5 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, responses to peers are due by Friday at midnight.** *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 2 and 4 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. 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. Assignments must be written using APA formatting guidelines, 12-point font, Times New Roman, double spaced. Use of in text citations and a reference page are required. See Blackboard for more details.

**III. Quizzes and Exams-** You have three quizzes and a comprehensive final exam in this class. Each quiz is worth 50 points and the final exam is worth 100 points each. **See syllabus for due dates.**

**V. Instructor’s Policies**

**Sensitive topics:** This class is about murder. During class you may be asked to watch a film or documentary, have discussions about, and/or make reference to news stories that are graphic portrayals of heinous crimes. If this type of material is upsetting to you, you should consider enrolling in a different class.

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

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**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:** 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, turning in an assignment that you used in 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. I will not initiate dropping any student from class. 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.**

### **CONTRACT**

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

<b><u>DATE:</u></b>	<b><u>TOPIC COVERAGE*</u></b>	<b><u>ASSIGNMENT*</u></b>
Week 1 7/11-7/16	What you think you know Murder by Numbers Theories of Homicide Medical Murder Read Ch. 1- 4 and Furbee Article	Introduction Discussion due 7/12 Discussion due by 7/12.  <b>Quiz due Sunday by 11:59pm</b>
Week 2 7/17 -7/23	Confrontational Homicide Intimate Partner Homicide All in the Family Read Ch. 5-7 and Langman Article	<b>Written assessment due 7/23/2023 by 11:55pm</b>  <b>Quiz due Sunday by 11:59pm</b>
Week 3 7/24-7/30	School Killings Mass Killings Serial Killing Read 8, 9, and 12, Fox & Levin Article Simons Article and Castle & Hensley Article	Discussion due by 7/25  <b>Quiz due Sunday by 11:59pm</b>
Week 4 7/31-8/7	Wrongful Convictions Solving Homicides and Murder in Court Read Ch 13-15 and Moffat and Hersey Article	<b>Written assessment due Sunday by 11:55pm 8/6/2023</b>

**Final Exam Due 8/6/2023 before 11:55pm. Exam will open on 7/31/2023.  
Final exam will cover the concepts learned over the entire course.**