CJ 4390:
Immigration & Crime

PROFESSOR

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REQUIRED READINGS

1. Miller, Holly Ventura and Anthony Peguero. 2018. Routledge Handbook on Immigration and Crime. New York: Routledge. ISBN 978-1-138-66841-6.
2. Various articles, etc. posted on Blackboard.

PLEASE READ ME!

Please read the syllabus carefully and in its entirety! I realize that my syllabus is approaching book-length (or at least that of a novella), but all of the information contained herein is vital. It is thus absolutely essential that you, the student, understand what is expected of you, how you will be graded, and how this course will be conducted. All of this information is here. It is up to you to read this syllabus, and to post any questions you have on Ted's Tavern.

WHAT IS A SYLLABUS?

A syllabus is a contract between students and professors that clearly identifies mutual expectations and obligations. A syllabus is also a commitment on the part of both the professor and each student to adhere to the dictates of the syllabus.

All features of this syllabus will be implemented equally and fairly for each student. In particular, do not expect accommodations for unsubmitted work regardless of reason. If you do not like, for whatever reason, any feature of this class, or stipulation or requirement in this syllabus, or anything else contained herein, then you should not take this class and, instead, drop it immediately. Likewise, if it becomes apparent during the course of the semester, perhaps for reasons you did not anticipate, that you cannot adhere to the dictates of the syllabus, then you should drop the class immediately.

DESCRIPTION & INTRODUCTION

This course is intended to provide students with a broad overview of issues pertaining to immigration and crime, an issue that carries great political weight in our society today and which receives considerable attention in the media. The course will focus on historical as well as current issues, including assimilation, policing and sanctuary cities. As these topics are addressed, the course will emphasize theory pertaining to immigration and crime as well as empirical research testing these theories.

GOALS & OBJECTIVES

The subject matter of this course is intended to provide essential knowledge for criminal justice students or for any student interested in crime and immigration. More specifically, upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to demonstrate a thorough knowledge of: (1) theory and empirical research on the relationship between immigration and crime, both historical and contemporary, and how immigrant generation and assimilation impact this relationship; (2) how nativism shapes public perception and political discourse on immigration and crime; and (3) how immigration impacts the criminal justice system.

ONLINE LEARNING

Online classes place greater responsibility for learning the material onto the student, compared to face-to-face classes. You will learn by reading the reading assignments, writing original discussion board posts, reading the posts of other

students and completing quizzes. I will help you learn the material by providing "mini-lectures" for each of our reading assignments that identify major themes, key terms, and convey other essential information. I will further help you by answering your questions and addressing your concerns through regular UTEP email or posts on Ted's Tavern (see below under "Communication").

FORMAT & OVERVIEW

This course is NOT self-paced. Instead, this course is based on **weekly modules that open each Sunday morning at 12:30am and close the following Saturday at 11:55pm (with a 24-hour grace period)**. Students are to have completed all work for the module by Saturday at midnight (save for the original post, mentioned below, which is due Thursday at midnight, with no grace period). As a convenience, students are given a 24-hour grace period (until Sunday at midnight) to complete and submit any unsubmitted work, other than the original post. The aim is for all students to have completed all work by Saturday at midnight, and to use the 24-hour grace period only in emergencies. Thus, any assignments not submitted before the expiration of the module's grace period will receive a grade of zero (0)—absolutely no exceptions.

Because this course is in a compressed (seven week) format, **the pace is very fast**. In fact, it is about double the pace of a typical 15-week class in terms of readings, papers, exams, quizzes, etc. It is thus easy to get behind and, if you do, it may be difficult if not impossible to catch back up. Again, **once the module completely closes (at the expiration of the grace period), there is no way to go back and submit work you failed to complete.** You must hit the ground running and not let up for seven weeks. If you do this, there is no reason you cannot earn an A in the course and learn (and retain) a great deal of knowledge. But, if you slack off, even for one week, you will set yourself up for a difficult struggle and severely hinder your ability to get a good grade in the course, or even pass it at all.

As outlined in the course calendar, each weekly module will focus on two or three chapters from our textbook, and any other specified readings. For each of these readings, your professor has prepared a brief written "mini-lecture" that is

intended to provide guidance and structure to students as they complete a given reading. Students should read this mini-lecture <u>before</u> starting the readings.

After finishing the week's readings, students will complete a weekly essay, weekly discussion board postings and, when scheduled, a research paper. All assignments are only available to access and complete during the module for which they are scheduled**. A failure to submit any work before the time the module's grace period expires will result in a grade of zero (0) for all unsubmitted assignments**.

All assignments are "open book," meaning that students can use any class materials they wish when completing these assignments. However, they cannot "collaborate" in any way with any person (whether they are a fellow student or not) when completing the assignments. Doing so constitutes cheating and will be dealt with per the policy on academic dishonesty specified later in the syllabus.

<mark>COMMUNICATION</mark>

Students will be able to access the professor and each other to ask questions, share concerns, raise ideas, etc. through "<mark>Ted's Tavern</mark>," which is an open forum discussion board where students can post general questions, comments, and ideas for each other and for the professor. The professor will access Ted's Tavern at least once each business day and post any needed responses. The postings on Ted's Tavern will be continuously available to students throughout the semester. <u>Students are required to read all postings on Ted's Tavern</u>.

Students can also access the professor via <mark>UTEP email</mark>. The professor will check his UTEP email at least once each business day and respond as soon as possible. <u>Students are required to read all emails from their professor</u>. When emailing the professor, please specify the class you are in, as well as which section.

<mark>REQUIREMENTS</mark>

1. **<mark>Syllabus Quiz:</mark>** Listed under "assignments" on the Week 1 module, students will complete a <u>10 question</u> quiz on the information contained in this syllabus. This quiz is worth 20 points. Students will have <u>10 minutes</u> to complete the

quiz. If you haven't done so already, the quiz will automatically submit once time expires, whether you are finished or not.

2. **Weekly Essays:** Listed under "assignments" on each week's module, students are required to complete a short writing assignment that will address an assigned topic from the readings. The essay will be 500-600 words in length, double spaced, and must be submitted as an attachment in MS-WORD. Each essay is worth 50 points. Students who fail to complete the weekly essay for any two modules will have to drop the course.

3. **Weekly Quizzes:** Listed under "assignments" on each week's module, students are required to complete a multiple-choice quiz (20 or 30 questions depending on whether we are reading two or three chapters that week). Each question is worth 5 points. If you haven't done so already, the quiz will automatically submit once time expires, whether you are finished or not.

4. **Weekly Required Posts on Module Discussion Board:** Listed under "assignments" on each week's module, students are required to make one thoughtful "original post" on the weekly module's discussion board and make two thoughtful "response posts" to other students' posts. The original posts will be worth up to 10 points and each response post is worth up to 5 points for a total of 20 points per week (and 140 points for the semester). Spelling and grammar count, and posts over the word count limit will lose credit. Students who fail to complete the required posts for any two modules will have to drop the course.

A. **Original posts** will consist of thoughtful and insightful comments, observations, applications of theories or ideas, and/or questions that directly connect to the readings and/or mini-lectures. Do not simply offer a summary, and do not raise issues that have no relation to the readings. When thinking about topics for your original post, let your inspiration be your guide. What issues in the readings grabbed your attention or got you thinking, or raised questions or concerns? Feel free to critique and criticize information and ideas in the readings.

   o Original posts are worth up to 10 points, must be 100-150 words in length and be completed each week by Thursday at midnight.

- o Late posts will receive a grade of zero (0), and there is no grace period for original posts.
- o Make sure to create a new "thread" when making your original post.
- o Do not use quotations or citations or outside sources. Make only one original post for each module.
- o Posts that are poorly written (including spelling and grammar), will lose points.

B. **Response posts** will consist of thoughtful and insightful comments that respond to another student's original post. These comments might consist of an answer to another student's question(s), a reaction to another student's observations, or an effort to clarify or extend another student's ideas. Please, when disagreeing with or otherwise critiquing another student's ideas, you must state your disagreement or objections clearly, but respectfully. Inappropriate responses will not be tolerated and will receive no credit. Response posts are worth up to 5 points each (10 points total), must each be 50-100 words in length, and be completed by Saturday at midnight.
- o Make sure to respond to an existing thread when making a response post.
- o Do not use quotations or citations or outside sources.
- o Make only two response posts for each module.

C. **Rationale**: The chief goal behind the graded discussion posts is to generate a wide-ranging thoughtful, intellectual, and informative discussion that generates learning above and beyond the readings and allows students to connect with one another and share ideas. To achieve this I do not provide a list of questions or issues for students to address, as I feel that is unnecessarily limiting. I feel my approach is especially fair for a large class like ours as there are a limited number of responses students can make when I provide topics, whereas the sky is the limit when I open it up to each student's creativity, interests and ability. And I have word limits on the posts so that I can make fair and consistent comparisons among students when assigning grades.

EXTRA CREDIT OPPORTUNITY

1. **Course Evaluation Response Rate of at Least 70%**
- If at least 70% of the students in the class complete the Course Evaluation which becomes available near the end of the semester, then all students will receive 20 extra credit points.
- To let you know how this works, you will receive email reminders about evaluating the course at least twice from UTEP in your miners.utep.edu email account. If you don't receive these emails, then contact UTEP's HelpDesk.
- After the course evaluation period is over, I will receive an email from UTEP stating <u>what percentage</u> of students in the class completed the course evaluation. If this figure is at or above 70% then all students in the class will receive 20 extra credit points.
- So…please make sure to complete the course evaluation when it becomes available and urge your classmates to do the same.

GRADES

Grades are based on the following requirements:

Syllabus Quiz	20 points
Weekly Essays	350 points
Weekly Quizzes	190 points
Posts on Weekly Discussion Board	140 points
Total	700 points

Letter grades are assigned according to the following scale:

A	=	89% and above
B	=	79% - 88%
C	=	69% - 78%
D	=	59% - 68%
F	=	Below 59%

- **Notice** that my grading scale is "curved" 1% in your favor. For example, in most courses a 79% is a C, whereas in my class it is a B. This is to avoid the

situation where someone misses receiving a higher grade by a very small margin – because in my class you miss receiving a higher grade by a full percentage point, plus the "very small margin."

- o I apply the grading scale uniformly to all students.
- o I do not "give" grades, but rather I <u>assign</u> grades based exclusively on the points each student earns in the class.
- o <u>Remember, your grade is an accomplishment, not a gift</u>.
- No (additional) extra credit assignments will be offered – please do not ask.
- There will be no incompletes (grade of I) offered in this course.
- **Assignments will be receive a grade of zero (0) if they are not submitted by the time the grace period expires for each weekly module.**

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

1. This course is based on weekly modules that open each Sunday morning at 12:30am and close the following Saturday at 11:55pm, mountain time (with a 24-hour grace period). Students must submit all work for their assignments <u>before</u> the grace period of the module expires. **Any missing work will receive a grade of zero (0). No exceptions**.

2. <u>The 24-hour grace period is to be used only in emergencies, not as a general practice </u>(please see "A Recipe for Disaster," below).

3. Do not wait until the last minute to submit assignments. This way, if you do experience any difficulties with submissions, they can be corrected before the module closes (see "technology issues" below).

4. Do not email me after the module's grace period expired to say that you had technology problems on Sunday (or got sick or had a family emergency) and want me to reopen a quiz or exam for you, because that will not happen.

COMMITMENTS FROM YOUR PROFESSOR

1. I will provide you clear instructions on class expectations.
2. I will check my regular UTEP email at least once each business day and will answer back to you as soon as possible.
3. I will check "Ted's Tavern" at least once each business day and make any needed responses at that time.
4. I will provide graded feedback on your performance in a timely manner.
5. I will make time to discuss your concerns when needed.
6. I am open to suggestions about improvement of the class and class related activities.
7. I will do all I can to ensure your learning and success in this class
8. If any changes in the course are to be implemented, I will ensure that the class is notified in a timely manner.

DISTANCE LEARNING ESSENTIALS

1. Read all postings on Ted's Tavern and all emails from your professor.
2. Needed Technology: It is your responsibility to ensure that you have all necessary technology to access the course. Please read "Check Your Technology" in Student Resources page in Blackboard. Do not use a cell phone to submit assignments, as they are not compatible with Blackboard.
3. Technology Help: UTEP's Helpdesk is your key resource for technology help. Your professor cannot help you resolve technology problems, but please inform him if the technological help you receive is unsatisfactory.
4. Technology Proficiency: It is your responsibility to learn how to access and utilize Blackboard. There are some basic training videos and PowerPoints in the Student Resources page in Blackboard.
5. Course Schedule Changes: As course instructor, I reserve the right to adjust the course syllabus or change assignments as needed. I will be sure to give you plenty of notice prior to any changes. Remember that our course syllabus and class schedule are living documents and can change.
6. Class Participation: I strongly recommend that you check the course at least three times a week at minimum to keep up, and preferably each business day.

7. <u>Being Successful in an Online Class:</u> Online learning is not a spectator sport. It is everyone's responsibility to participate as fully as they can so everyone can get the most from the experience. Here are some simple rules to follow to ensure your participation and engagement in the learning process:

- Ask questions: If you do not know the answer, someone else likely will.
- Reach out to others: Offer a fact, article, link or other item that can help others learn.
- Be appropriate: The online classroom is not the place for insulting or insensitive comments, attacks, or venting. Inappropriate behavior will be subject to disciplinary action and will be reported to the Dean of Students and other appropriate authorities.
- Be diplomatic: When sending messages on emotionally charged topics, make sure you write the message and then walk away for at least an hour before re-reading the message and then sending it. Re-reading emotionally charged messages ensures that they are constructive instead of destructive. Think of the person at the other end.
- Stay focused: Stay on topic to increase the efficiency of your learning.
- Take advantage of all the resources given to you to succeed in the class.

8. <u>Effective Electronic Communication:</u> It is also important to share a word of caution, so we can become wiser about interpersonal distance learning communications. As you may know, when communicating electronically, many of the feelings or impressions that are transmitted via body language in face-to-face communication are lost. Consequently, interpreting emotions and innuendoes is far more difficult. Only what is written, or drawn, carries the message. Often excitement can easily be misinterpreted as anger or an insult. It is important that everyone keep this in mind when communicating electronically. Words in print may appear harmless; however, they can emotionally injure the person reading them. More information can be found at <u>http://www.albion.com/netiquette</u>.

9. <u>Time Management:</u> A good standard for time planning for a compressed course such as this is **at least 12 hours per week** (reading, writing papers, completing assignments, watching movies, communicating, taking quizzes,

etc.). If you are not prepared to make this type of time commitment, I recommend you delay taking this class until you are.

CLASS AND UNIVERSITY POLICIES

1. You will have to drop the course if you do <u>any</u> of the following:
   - o Fail to complete the required posts for any two modules.
   - o Fail to complete the weekly essay for any two modules.
2. <u>Academic Dishonesty Statement:</u> Academic dishonesty is prohibited and is considered a violation of the UTEP Handbook of Operating Procedures. It includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, and collusion. Cheating may involve copying from or providing information to another student, possessing unauthorized materials during a test, or falsifying research data on laboratory reports. Plagiarism occurs when someone intentionally or knowingly represents the words or ideas of another person's as ones' own. And, collusion involves collaborating with another person to commit any academically dishonest act. Any act of academic dishonesty attempted by a UTEP student is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Violations will be taken seriously and will be referred to the Dean of Students Office for possible disciplinary action. Students may be suspended or expelled from UTEP for such actions.
   - Academic dishonesty is an assault upon the basic integrity and meaning of a University. Cheating, plagiarism, and collusion in dishonest activities are serious acts which erode the University's educational and research roles and cheapen the learning experience not only for the perpetrators, but also for the entire community. It is expected that UTEP students will understand and subscribe to the ideal of academic integrity and that they will be willing to bear individual responsibility for their work. Materials (written or otherwise) submitted to fulfill academic requirements must represent a student's own efforts.
   - Any act of academic dishonesty attempted or completed by a UTEP student is unacceptable and will not be tolerated.

- Violations will be referred to the Dean of Students for possible disciplinary action. Students may be suspended or expelled from UTEP for such actions.
3. <mark>Notice of Safe Assign:</mark> This course will utilize third party software that has the ability to automatically detect plagiarism on documents submitted for grading.
4. <mark>Copyright Notice:</mark> Many of the materials that are posted within this course are protected by copyright law. These materials are only for the use of students enrolled in this course and only for the purpose of this course. They may not be further retained or disseminated.
5. <mark>Disabled Student Statement</mark>: In Section 504 of the Vocational Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990, if a student needs an accommodation then The Center for Accommodations and Support Services located at UTEP need to be contacted. [http://sa.utep.edu/cass/.] If you have a condition, which may affect your ability to perform successfully in this course, you are encouraged to discuss this in confidence with the instructor and/or the director of the Disabled Student Services.
- You may call 1.915.747.5148 for general information about the American with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the rights that you have as a UTEP student with a disability.
- Individuals with disabilities have the right to equal access and opportunity. It is the student's responsibility to contact the instructor and The Disabled Student Services Office at The University of Texas at El Paso.

STUDENT RESOURCES

University Counseling Center
- Located at 202 Union West. Phone: 747-5302.
- Web: http://sa.utep.edu/counsel/
- Call or come by the University Counseling Center (UCC) so we can assist you as you decide on a career or work through personal concerns. We offer confidential counseling services in English or in Spanish. Distance learners are invited to contact the University Counseling center for a one time consultation regarding their specific needs. The UCC provides group and

individual counseling for currently enrolled UTEP students and consultation services for faculty and staff. [Click here to learn more.](#)

Military Student Success Center

- Located in Library 205A. Phone 747-5342.
- Web: http://academics.utep.edu/Default.aspx?alias=academics.utep.edu/mssc
- The Military Student Success Center will be a central point of coordination for support services, with a goal of easing transition to campus life, increasing retention, enhancing achievement of educational and career goals, and improving quality of life by augmenting pre-existing services and support with newly-created programming specifically developed to meet the needs of military-affiliated students.

University Writing Center

- Located in Library 227.
- Web: http://uwc.utep.edu/
- We offer free, drop-in writing consultations. Can't make it to the Library? We offer live, online consultations that allow you to work from home or anywhere you have access to a computer and the Internet.

Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution (OSCCR)

- Located at 303 Union East. Phone: 747-8694. Email: studentconduct@utep.edu
- Web: http://sa.utep.edu/osccr/
- The Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution (OSCCR) will guide students in their ethical development, foster life skills to civilly manage interpersonal conflicts, and strengthen students' commitment to the campus community while promoting honesty and integrity.

Equal Opportunity Office (EO)

- Located at 302 Kelly Hall. Phone 747-5662. Email: eoaa@utep.edu
- Web: www.utep.edu/eoaa
- For complaints and questions about sexual harassment from faculty or staff or other types of complaints regarding fair and equal treatment from faculty or staff.

A RECIPE FOR DISASTER

1. Don't take seriously the warning that each module closes Saturday at 11:59pm (with a 24-hour grace period).
2. Wait until Sunday to begin work on the week's module.
3. Come down with a stomach virus or other illness or experience some type of emergency that prevents you from submitting all or some of your work. Or experience a technology problem with your computer or internet connection.
4. Receive zeros (0s) for all unsubmitted work.
5. Watch your course average go from an A or B to a D or F.
6. Finally (and sadly) realize that each module closes Saturday at 11:59pm and that the grace period is only for emergencies that happen before Sunday.