

Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology
CRIJ 3350.10: VICTIMOLOGY
UPDATED
Fall 2017

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REQUIRED TEXT(S)

Wallace, H., & Roberson, C. (2014). *Victimology: Legal, Psychological, and Social Perspectives* (4th ed.). Pearson Publishing.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Victimology is the scientific study of crime victims and the physical and mental health impact of their trauma. This course is designed to survey the study of victimization, including theories, types of victimization, and criminal justice/social service responses to crime victimization. In addressing these main topics, we will examine research, policy, and legislation related to victimization.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

This semester we will focus on accomplishing a few particular goals:

1. You should have a good understanding of the factual knowledge of victimology
2. You should have learned about the fundamental principles and theories of victimology
3. You should also have learned how to use and apply course material as you think about crime victims and justice responses in the “real world.”
4. Finally, you should have learned how to think critically about current ideas and other points of view.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Students are expected to read the required reading prior to each class as outlined in the schedule section of this syllabus. Students are also expected to ask questions and participate in class discussions. Your grade is based on one introductory discussion (worth 10 points), four exams (each worth 100 points) and five writing assignments (worth 30 points each) that are spaced throughout the sessions during the Fall 2017 semester. Each exam and discussion is weighted equally in the final calculation of your grade. The course is worth a total of 560 points

GRADING SCALE

Exams: 100 points (4 exams worth 100 points each)

Writing Assignments: 150 points (5 assignments worth 30 points each)

Discussions: 10 points (1 discussions worth 10 points)

Total Possible: 560 points

A = 89.5 – 100%

B = 79.5 – 89.4 %

C = 69.5 – 79.4%

D = 59.5 – 69.4%

F = 59.4 % or less

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

This course requires regular, dependable access to the Internet as well as Microsoft Word, and Adobe PDF files. If you do not know how to use Blackboard or if you encounter technical difficulties with the course website, contact the SHSU technical team ASAP. They are staffed Monday through Saturday (except for Holidays) from 7am to Midnight. They can be reached by email (delta@shsu.edu) or phone (936-294-2780). Updated information can be found in the “Need Help” link on the left navigation bar on Blackboard.

TRIGGER WARNING

It is important to keep in mind that victimization is something that affects millions of people nationwide. It is likely that students in this classroom may have had experiences with or know someone who has experienced some form of victimization. As we discuss and explore the etiology of victimization, the definitions, illustrations, and examples of victimization we talk about may illicit discomfort and/or emotional responses. We call these “triggers.” Please note that this course is made up of readings, discussions, and exercises that involve extraordinarily sensitive material being presented in lecture or film. Please plan accordingly.

SHSU, I am under federal obligation to relay information regarding victimization disclosure to our University’s Title IX Coordinator for the purpose of ensuring appropriate services and accommodations are provided to anyone who has disclosed victimization. It is important that you know, should you disclose ongoing or past victimization in writing assignments, during class, or to me personally, I am legally obliged to relay this information to the Dean of Students’ Office.

MANDATORY REPORTING OF KNOWN OR SUSPECTED ABUSE OF OTHERS

Texas law* says anyone who thinks a child, or person 65 years or older, or an adult with disabilities is being abused, neglected, or exploited must report it to DFPS. A person who reports abuse in good faith is immune from civil or criminal liability. The Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) keeps the name of the person making the report confidential. Anyone who does not report suspected abuse can be held liable for a misdemeanor or felony. Time frames for investigating reports are based on the severity of the allegations. Reporting suspected abuse makes it possible for a family to get help. Here is a link to allow for such reporting and for further information:

http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/Contact_Us/report_abuse.asp

ATTENDANCE POLICY

It is important to understand that this is not an entirely self-paced class. There are set deadlines and students are expected to make routine progress. It will be likely MORE difficult to learn the material in this class if you have only devoted a short time to the class and try to cram a week’s worth of material into a single day. Please make a strong attempt to work on the class material and log into the class throughout the semester. You will probably learn the material more effectively and you may have a more enjoyable experience with the class.

Regular and ongoing participation is required in this course. You are expected to check the course throughout each week. Among other things, this means that exams **MUST** be completed during the schedule time and that assignments/discussion board posts must be completed within the specified time. Make up exams and assignments will **NOT** be given unless the student notifies the professor *prior to* the absence. Rare situations arise when it is impossible to notify the professor in advance. If this occurs, the student must provide the professor with a typed description of the reason for the absence. This must be provided to the professor within five

school days of the absence. Verbal excuses will not be accepted. The professor may request documentation (e.g., a doctor's note, police report, etc.) to excuse an absence that has conflicted with a scheduled test or assignment/discussion post. Attendance is required and critical to your performance in this class. Class attendance requirements will be followed in accordance with Academic Policy Statement 8004001 <http://www.shsu.edu/dept/academic-affairs/aps/aps-students.html>

EXAM POLICY

There are four exams in this course. Each exam is worth 100 points and will include multiple choice and true/false questions. The exams will close at 11:59pm on the day that it is due (see schedule below). There is a time limit for each exam. The clock starts once you begin the test. The exams are set to force completion so if you log out or lose your Internet connection, the clock keeps ticking and will submit your test when the time is up. Make sure to have a dependable, hard-wired Internet connection when taking exams. There will be NO make-up exams unless there is an extreme documented medical or personal emergency. In the case of such an emergency, the instructor must be notified *prior to* the absence. If early notification is not possible, students must make sure that they contact the professor as soon as they are safely able to do so. Students must notify the professor within 5 calendar days from the date the exam is due to be eligible for a make-up exam. Early notification and/or proper documentation will not necessarily guarantee that a make-up exam will be granted. *If the student misses the make-up exam, they will receive a zero for that exam without exception.*

RELIGIOUS HOLY DAY POLICY

In accordance with SHSU policy 861001, students who wish to be absent from class on a religious holy day may provide a written statement to the professor concerning their absence. For a complete list of the university policy, see: <http://www.shsu.edu/dept/academic-affairs/aps/aps-students.html>

ACADEMIC (ONLINE) ETIQUETTE

In this class, you are required to conduct yourself in an appropriate, responsible, and professional manner. The objective in an online discussion is to be collaborative, *not* combative. Be sure to proofread your responses carefully before you post them to make sure that they will not be offensive to others. Use discussions to develop your skills in collaboration and teamwork. Treat the discussion areas as a creative environment where you and your classmates can ask questions, express opinions, revise opinions, and take positions just as you would in a more "traditional" classroom setting. Do not use "text" shorthand or any other inappropriate abbreviations – as stated earlier, I expect properly composed, grammatically correct discussion posts.

DISABILITY ACCOMMODATION

SHSU adheres to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. For a complete listing of the University policy, see: <http://www.shsu.edu/dept/academic-affairs/aps/aps-students.html>

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY/HONESTY

Academic dishonesty in the form of cheating, falsification, fabrication, multiple submissions, plagiarism, and abuse of academic materials will not be tolerated. Students caught exhibiting such behavior will receive a **failing grade in the course**. If you have any questions with regard to what constitutes academic dishonesty (e.g., what is plagiarism/cheating?), please see me.

For a complete listing of the university policy, see: <http://www.shsu.edu/dept/academic-affairs/aps/aps-students.html>

ADDITIONAL POLICIES

1. **ALL** emails to the professor must be written in a formal style to receive a response. This means that you must include a greeting and sign the email.
2. Class grades are **NOT** negotiable. Any attempt to negotiate grades (e.g., coaxing, bargaining, cajoling) will be considered a violation of academic integrity and will be forwarded to the Dean of the College.
3. I am available via email, but if you contact me electronically after 5:00pm, on the weekend or a University holiday, except a response the next working business day after 8:00am.

COURSE SCHEDULE

SESSION 1

8/23-9/8

Introduction to and History of Victimology

Readings:

Syllabus and Professor Information; Wallace & Robertson, Ch. 1

Assignment: “Meet and Greet” - Discussion 1 (Opens Wednesday, 8/23 and closes Friday, 9/8 at 11:59p).

Due Dates:

Self-introduction post for Discussion 1 due by Wednesday, 9/6 at 11:59p.

Two Response posts for Discussion 1 due by Friday, 9/8 at 11:59p.

SESSION 2

9/11-9/17

Measurement of Crime and Its Effects

Readings: Wallace & Robertson, Ch. 3;
Department of Justice UCR/NCVS Report

EXAM 1 (Opens Friday, 9/15 and closes Sunday, 9/17 at 11:59p)

Due Dates: Exam 1 due Sunday, 9/17 at 11:59p.

SESSION 3

9/18-9/21

Consequences of Victimization

Readings: Wallace & Robertson, Ch. 4

Presentation Materials:

Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) “Victim Impact: Listen and Learn”

SESSION 4
9/22-9/27

Victim Blaming

Presentation Materials: Victim Blaming Lecture;
Victim Precipitation: “Draw the Victim”

Assignment (TW): “Victim Precipitation” - Writing Assignment 1
(opens Friday, 9/22 and closes Wednesday, 9/27 at 11:59p)

Due Dates: Writing Assignment 1 due Wednesday, 9/17 by 11:59p.

SESSION 5
9/28-10/2

Homicide Victims

Readings: Roberson & Wallace, Ch. 6

SESSION 6
10/3-10/8

Sexual Victimization (TW)

Readings: Wallace & Roberson, Ch. 7; Franklin & Garza, 2017 (BB link)
Olga Trujillo’s Dissociative Identity Disorder Article (BB link)

Presentation Materials: Olga Trujillo’s “A Survivor’s Story”

SESSION 7
10/9-10/15

Intimate Partner Violence

Readings: Wallace & Robertson, Ch. 8

Presentation Materials: Leslie Morgan Steiner’s Ted Talk

Assignment (TW): Intimate Partner Violence” - Writing Assignment 2
(opens Monday, 10/9 and closes Friday, 10/13 by 11:59p)

EXAM 2 (opens Friday, 10/13 and closes Sunday, 10/15 at 11:59p)

Due Dates: Writing Assignment 2 due Friday, 10/13 by 11:59p.
Exam 2 due Sunday, 10/15 by 11:59p.

SESSION 8
10/16-10/20

Stalking

Readings: (BB Links) Fox’s Stalking Article;
Wilkes & Bouffard, 2014: Stalking in Texas

Presentation Materials:
Stalking Lecture

SESSION 9
10/21-10/26

Corporal Punishment

Readings: Straus, 2001 (BB Link)

Presentation Materials:

Corporal Punishment Lecture

Robbyn Peters Bennet's Ted Talk: "Violence: A Family Tradition"

Assignment: "Corporal Punishment" – Writing Assignment 3
(opens Saturday, 10/21 and closes Thursday, 10/26 by 11:59p)

Due Dates:

Writing Assignment 3 due Thursday, 10/26 by 11:59p.

SESSION 10
10/27-11/1

Child Maltreatment: Abuse and Neglect

Readings: Wallace & Roberson, Ch. 9;

Understanding the Effects of Maltreatment on Brain Development (2015)

Presentation Materials:

Trauma, Brain, and Relationship: Helping Children Heal

SESSION 11
11/2-11/8

Elder Victims

Readings: Wallace & Roberson, Ch. 10

Presentation Materials:

An Age for Justice: Confronting Elder Abuse in America

Assignment: "Reporting Elder Abuse" – Writing Assignment 4
(opens Thursday, 11/2 and closes Wednesday, 11/8 by 11:59p)

Due Dates:

Writing Assignment 4 due Wednesday, 11/8 by 11:59p.

SESSION 12
11/9-11/17

Hate Crime

Readings: Wallace & Roberson, Ch. 11

Presentation Materials: "The Murder of Matthew Shepard"

EXAM 3 (Opens Wednesday, 11/15 and closes Friday, 11/17 at 11:59p)

Due Dates: Exam 3 due Friday, 11/17 by 11:59p.

SESSION 13

11/18-11/26

Special Victim Populations

Readings: Wallace & Roberson, Ch. 12; Jin & Franklin, 2016

Presentation Materials:

Jackson Katz's Ted Talk: "Violence Against Women: It's a Men's Issue"

Joel Burns' "A Message to Gay Teens: It Gets Better"

Ted Talks: "Standing Up To Bullying" playlist

SESSION 14

11/27-12/1

Compensation/Restitution

Readings: Wallace & Roberson, Ch. 15

Presentation Materials: DOJ Restitution: "A Victim's Rights"

THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY: 11/22 to 11/24

SESSION 15

12/2-12/7

Victim Impact Statements (VIS)

Readings: Wallace & Roberson, Ch. 16

Nicole Martingano's VIS

Matthew Shepard's Father's VIS

Ronnie Sue and Dominic's VIS

Jane Mosher's Mother's VIS

Jen's VIS

Assignment: "Victim Impact Statements" - Writing Assignment 5
(opens Saturday, 12/2 and closes Tuesday, 12/5 by 11:59p.)

EXAM 4 (Opens Tuesday, 12/5 and closes Thursday, 12/7 at 11:59p.)

Due Dates: Writing Assignment 5 due Tuesday, 12/5 by 11:59p.
Exam 4 due Thursday, 12/7 by 11:59p.