

Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology
Problem Analysis in Victim Studies Spring 2018

**CRIJ 4398 – Tuesday &
Thursday 11:00 – 12:20
A209**

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Preferred Communication:

*All email communication relating to this course should maintain a high level of professionalism and respect. This includes grammar, spelling, punctuation, complete sentence structures, and no abbreviations or “text talk.”

Required Textbooks:

Victimology: Crime Victimization and Victim Services. (2017). Bostaph, Lisa Growette and Danielle D. Swerin (Eds). Aspen College Series, Wolters Kluwer, Publishing, NY, NY.

Supplemental Books:

Victim Services: Serving Victims of Crime and Other Traumatizing Events. (2014). Lorrie Wnuk. Crisis Education Systems LLC.

Ethics in Victim Services. (2005). Melissa Hook. Siaran Press.

*** Please note that not all chapters in the main textbook will be the focus of a session. Check the Class Schedule closely for the weekly reading assignments. ***

Course Description:

Students in this senior seminar style capstone course will synthesize and integrate topics within

victim's studies to include: family violence, child abuse and neglect, elder abuse, stalking, human trafficking, other violent crime victims, victim services delivery, and evaluation. Capstone courses are designed to allow the student to "pull it all together" and apply what they have learned in the victim studies program to a real problem or agency. Students will have the opportunity to apply concepts and theories in a hands-on setting within a local victim service program. This experience will culminate in a research paper and class presentation at the end of the semester.

Classroom Demeanor:

Issues surrounding victimology involve many sensitive topics. For example, estimates of the prevalence of family violence suggest that the vast majority of college students have either directly experienced some form of family violence or have a close friend or family member who has been a victim of family violence. It is imperative that we are mindful of these facts in discussing topics across the semester. It is my policy that I will not allow any form of joking, sarcasm, or otherwise insensitive remarks about violence during this course. Students found to be in violation of this policy will be immediately dropped from the class.

In addition, some topics may be disturbing to students. If a student experiences distress or discomfort during the semester they are encouraged to contact a counseling professional such as the SHSU Counseling Center 936-294-1720 (<http://www.shsu.edu/~counsel/>). Additional resources include: the SAAFE House (for sexual assault and family violence) 24-hour crisis hotline 936-291-3369 or 936-327- 2513; the Montgomery County Women's Center 24-hour crisis hotline 936-441-7273; the 24 –hour national crisis hotline 1-800-659-6994; or the national suicide hotline 1-800-273-8255. Students may also schedule an appointment with the SHSU Psychological Services Center 936-294-1210 (<http://www.shsu.edu/~clinpsy/psc/>).

Course Objectives

1. To gain *factual knowledge* (terminology, trends, and concepts) of the estimates of prevalence, severity, and types of violence.
2. To *analyze and critically evaluate* an area and agency in victim services.
3. To learn to *apply course materials to improve thinking and problem solving* abilities regarding issues in victim services.

Student Learning Outcomes:

1. Learn to synthesize various types of information regarding victim studies and victim services.
2. Understand how victim service providers operate within an agency/organizational structure
3. Improve oral and written communication skills
4. Develop professionally in preparation for entering the job market in victim services.

Course Requirements (See Class Schedule for Due Dates for all Required Work)

Exams: (3 X 20 Points Each = 60 Total Points): SLO #1

Each student is required to take three 20-point examinations, for a total of 60 points. These exams will consist of multiple choice and true/false questions. Some questions requiring short written responses may also be included. Questions will be composed of information from the textbook. In the event of an *extenuating circumstance* and with *prior notice* to the Professor, students may make up **ONE** exam during the semester. All make-up exams will be given during the **week before finals (final presentations) week (Week 15: April 30-May6)**.

Seminar facilitation: (5 Points): SLO #1 - 4

As this is a senior seminar course, students will be paired up to facilitate a topic discussion for each week. I will make the schedule after the first class session. This means that one or two students will have researched the topic more in-depth and will bring hand outs and materials to discuss with the class for 30 minutes at the beginning of the class period. There will be NO Make Up opportunities for this required activity. This serves as an important component for any senior capstone experience. Please be sure to complete this requirement.

Agency Research Project SLO #1-4

Students will have the opportunity to engage in a “hands on” project this semester. This can happen two ways:

- 1) Locate a local victim service agency and research everything you can about them. Visit the agency several times during the semester. Observe. Collect data and information. Conduct interviews with the heads and directors. Learn about their challenges and successes. Understand their financial and funding systems. Synthesize their services and programs. Gather data on the number of clients served in a year, the number of programs run, shelter statistics, court information, law enforcement issues, etc. All things that are relevant to your particular agency.
- 2) For students who cannot physically visit an agency for any reason, complete all of the activities above but via telephone, email, internet searches, etc.

Students will submit a 20 page (15 page hard minimum but no longer than 25 pages) capstone paper at the end of their hands-on experience. The paper will be typed, double spaced, Times New Roman, 12-point font, one inch margins all around, with a cover page. Full references must be included in the paper and in a reference page. Use APA format for citation style. The other paper formatting can reflect other styles but should have major heading and sub-headings. The rubric for grading this paper is attached.

*****Agency selection is due to me no later than January 25. You can email it to me or give it to me in class on the 25th.

Student Research Project Presentation: SLO # 3 - 4

Students will make a 10 minute presentation to the class at the end of the semester. A sign-up sheet

with presentation dates will be distributed in class during the second week. Look at your calendars now:

Presentation dates:

April 24

April 26

May 1

May 3

Thursday May 10 12:00-2:00 Final Exam Scheduled Date (Note time change)

It is expected that ALL students will attend ALL presentations out of respect and professional courtesy to your colleagues. **Missing more than one presentation date without approval from the Professor will result in a one letter grade reduction on your own paper.**

Plagiarism and Written Assignments

Please be advised that all written materials turned in throughout the semester will be run through a plagiarism detection software package. Plagiarism will not be tolerated in this course and will result in sanctions such as a zero for the assignment, an “F” for the course grade, or expulsion from the University. Read, learn, enjoy, synthesize materials, and do your own original work. Please read the SHSU Academic Dishonesty policy via the link at the end of this syllabus. Students who remain in this class after the first week of the semester are presumed to have read the Academic Dishonesty policy and agree to abide by the policy. “Not knowing” what plagiarism is and how to avoid is an unacceptable defense. Cite your sources all of the time and use quotation marks and citations for direct quotes. The Writing Center provides handouts for citing various sources. The links to these handouts may be found at the end of the syllabus.

Requirements:

Test One - 2/15	20
Test Two - 3/22	20
Test Three - 4/19	20
Facilitate class discussion Date TBA	5
Agency Research Presentation Date TBA	10
Agency Research Paper/Project Due April 26	25
Total	100

Grading Policy:

Grades will not be curved.

90 - 100 points = A

80 - 89 points = B

70 - 79 points = C

60 - 69 points = D

Below 60 points = F

Student Academic Policies

Make-Up Exams:

In the event of an extenuating circumstance and with prior notice to the Professor, students may make up **ONE Exam**. All make-up exams will be given during the **week before finals week**.

Cell phones and laptops:

All cell phones are to be silenced and put out of sight for the duration of the class. Students with emergencies who need to have their phone visible for some reason must have them silenced. Please let the Professor know before class begins about any pending emergencies requiring access to your cell phone. Students who violate the cell phone policy once will be reminded and then terminated from the class for the second violation. You are preparing to enter the professional job market where private cell phone use will not likely be part of your job description. Get used to it now.

Student's use of laptops to take notes is permitted. Any other use e.g.; games, email, surfing the internet, etc. will result in loss of laptop privileges for the rest of the semester.

Guest Speakers:

We will have four professionals visit our class to discuss a variety of topics. These are very busy people who are taking time out of their schedules for **you**. Do not miss these presentations. Each presentation missed will result in a 2 point deduction from your final score at the end of the semester. In the event of an extenuating circumstance and with prior notice to the Professor - missing one presentation may be approved without penalty.

Class Attendance and Participation:

As a senior seminar capstone course, it is assumed that you will attend every class session. The University policy allows 3 hours of unexcused absence in the semester. Anyone missing more than two class sessions will be ineligible for a bump up when I round up final class scores. For example, if your score is _8.5 or higher, you will be bumped up to the next grade if you have not missed more than two classes. Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each class session, don't be late!!

Important University Policies to Read

Academic Dishonesty:

See http://www.shsu.edu/~vaf_www/aps/810213.html

Disabled Student Policy:

See http://www.shsu.edu/~vaf_www/aps/documents/811006.pdf

Services for Disabled Students:

See <http://www.shsu.edu/~counsel/sswd.html>

Student Absences on Religious Holy Day Policy:

See http://www.shsu.edu/~vaf_www/aps/documents/861001.pdf

Writing Center Links

For in-text citations see:

<http://www.shsu.edu/~wctr/Handouts/Citations/APA/APA.-.3.-.In-Text.Citations.pdf>

For print sources see:

<http://www.shsu.edu/~wctr/Handouts/Citations/APA/APA.-.1.-.Print.Sources.pdf>

For electronic sources, see:

<http://www.shsu.edu/~wctr/Handouts/Citations/APA/APA.-.2.-.Electronic.Sources.pdf>

For all other Writing Center handouts see:

<http://www.shsu.edu/~wctr/Handouts.html>

Grading Rubric

Points possible	Expectations for Written Assignments
0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The paper did not meet the minimum page requirement or did not write a paper at all • The paper did not include a proper cover sheet and/or references page • There was no organization in the paper • The writer did not write about the topic assigned • The paper did not demonstrate proper grammar, spelling, and/or punctuation • The paper did not follow the APA citation
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The paper did not meet the minimum page requirement • The paper did not include a proper cover sheet and/or references page • There was very little organization of the paper • The writer did not write about the topic assigned • The paper demonstrated minimal grammar, spelling, and punctuation • The paper demonstrated minimal APA citation errors
10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The paper did not meet the minimum page requirement • The paper did not include a proper cover sheet and/or references page • There was minimal organization in the paper • The writer often strayed from the topic • The paper demonstrated minimal grammar, spelling, and punctuation • The paper demonstrated minimal APA citation errors
15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The paper did not meet the minimum page requirement • The paper did not include a proper cover sheet and/or references page • There is room to make improvements on organization of paper • The writer strayed from the topic • The writer can make improvements on grammar, spelling, and punctuation • The writer can make improvements on APA citation
20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The paper met or exceeded minimum page requirement • There is room for minor improvements on organization of paper • The writer strayed minimally from the topic • The writer can make minor improvements on grammar, spelling, and punctuation • The writer can make minor improvements on APA citation errors
25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The paper met or exceeded minimum page requirement • The writer demonstrated thoughts in an organized manner • The writer stayed on topic • The writer demonstrated correct grammar, spelling, and punctuation • The paper followed APA citation