

Crim 438: Victimology

Socl 538: Victimology

Online Course – Monday January 4, 2016 to Monday, January 25, 2016

Contact Information:

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- Please note: if you leave me a voice mail at either number, I will receive your message in my email

Course Website: <https://blackboard.wku.edu>

Office Location: Grise Hall 119 or Tate Page Hall Room 353 (please call or email so we can coordinate a location for our meeting)

Course Objectives:

This course provides an overview of the criminological subfield of victimology, or the study of the victim and victimization in our society. Upon completion of the course, students will be able to:

- Describe the societal response to victims and the development of the field of victimology using a historical perspective
- Describe the data sources used to measure victimization in the United States and in other countries
- Identify the major theoretical perspectives of victimization and to recognize how these theories are used to conduct empirical research
- Explain the consequences of victimization in our society
- Describe the victims' rights movement and recognize its impact within the criminal justice system
- Demonstrate knowledge of patterns of victimization, the characteristics of victims, risk factors for victimization, and the societal response to victimization for several types of criminal incidents, including sexual assault, intimate partner violence, child abuse, elder abuse, property crime, identify theft, hate crimes, human trafficking, terrorism, victimization of vulnerable populations, and victimization in workplaces and at schools.
- Examine empirical studies conducted in the field of victimization, and evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of this research as it relates to understanding of victimization in society
- Identify, describe, and apply core concepts, theories, and empirical research from the field of victimology to contemporary issues reported in the news media and to personal experiences and relationships in society

Victimology can be a difficult course to teach within a university setting, most especially online. Unfortunately, many college students have been victims of violent and property crimes. In this course, we focus on the study of victimology as a body of knowledge – an academic sub-field within the discipline of criminology. If you have personally been victimized, or if you have a close friend or relative who has been the victim of a crime, it is possible that our coverage of topics in this course will generate a variety of unwelcome emotions. Please know that I am available if you would like to speak with me, and I would be happy to refer you to individuals on campus and/or in the community who provide support and resources for crime victims. While you may feel it is appropriate to discuss your personal victimization experiences using the discussion board and/or in essay responses, please avoid this practice. As a social science course, our objective is to learn about the field of victimology as a body of knowledge, and I would encourage you to focus your coursework on the field itself and not on direct and/or indirect experiences with criminal victimization.

Structure of the Course:

This course is being offered to undergraduate students (enrolled in Crim 438) and graduate students (enrolled in Socl 538) during the winter term of 2016. The undergraduate and graduate students will be enrolled in one Blackboard course site, and the topics and course content will be similar for both groups. However, the graduate students enrolled in the Socl 538 course will be required to complete some different tasks to justify the receipt of graduate credit. These different tasks are outlined in *italics* within the section of the syllabus outlining how each student's final grade will be calculated.

Required Text:

Daigle, Leah. (2013) **Victimology: a Text/Reader**. Sage Publications (ISBN: 978-1412987325)

Final Grade

Your final grade in the course will be based on the following components. Points are summed to determine final letter grades (A = 900-1,000 points; B = 800-899 points; C = 700-799 points; D = 600-699 points; F = less than 600 points). Undergraduate and graduate students will be responsible for all of the items listed below; however, items in *italics* represent changes/additions that only apply to the graduate students enrolled in Socl 538.

Exam # 1 (150 points). Exam 1 will be based on Lessons 1 through 6, and it will include multiple choice and essay questions drawn from my recorded lectures, required reading, online videos & content, and from the chapter quizzes. This exam will have a "take-home" format, which means you may use your notes and the text. However, you will only have 1 attempt over a period of 75 minutes to complete this first take home exam.

Exam # 2 (150 points). Exam 2 will be based on Lessons 7 through 11, and it will include multiple choice and essay questions drawn from my recorded lectures, required reading,

online videos & content, and from the chapter quizzes. This exam will also have a “take-home” format, which means you may use your notes and the text. However, you will only have 1 attempt over a period of 75 minutes to complete this second home exam.

Final Exam (200 points). The final exam will be comprehensive and must be taken in a proctored setting. The final exam will only be completed by undergraduate students (those enrolled in Crim 438; graduate students enrolled in Socl 538 will complete an alternative assignment described in italics below). You may NOT use your notes/text (or any other supporting materials) to complete the final exam in the proctored setting. You will have 1 attempt over a period of 90 minutes to complete the final exam, which will be comprised of 75 multiple choice questions and one essay. The multiple choice questions will be pulled from the same pools of questions used for your take home examinations. You will receive an email from the WKU Distance Learning Testing Center with instructions for the scheduling of your final exam in the course. The final exam will be available on Blackboard **between 8:00am on Wednesday, January 20 and 4:30pm on Monday, January 25**. The final exam may only be scheduled/taken at a proctored location within this range of dates. I realize that **Monday, January 25** is the first day of classes for the spring semester at WKU; however, I’m allowing undergraduate students to complete the final exam on this date should they wish to take the final exam at WKU’s Distance Learning Testing Center (Garrett Conference Center – Main Lobby) after returning to campus for the start of the spring semester.

Literature Review (200 points): Graduate Students enrolled in Socl 538: In place of the final exam, you will submit a piece of autonomous research, specifically a literature review on a topic of your choosing. As you will see in the course outline below, we will cover 11 unique topics during the three week winter term. You will select one of these topics and find 8 peer-reviewed journal articles which present the results of quantitative or qualitative research on the topic you have selected. WKU Libraries has access to numerous online databases where you will be able to search for peer-reviewed journal articles and download them to read and evaluate for this project. Journals central to the study of victimization (and those that are available electronically through WKU Libraries) include: (1) Criminology, (2) International Review of Victimology, (3) Journal of Family Violence, (4) Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency, (5) Homicide Studies, (6) Criminology and Criminal Justice, (7) Journal of Injury and Violence Research, (8) Journal of Interpersonal Violence, (9) Trauma, Violence and Abuse, (10) Child Abuse and Neglect, (11) Child Abuse Review, and (12) Violence Against Women. To access any of these journals and identify articles for your literature review – simply visit the WKU Libraries website –<http://www.wku.edu/library/> - click on “e-Journals” from the left menu on the main library website – and type in the name of any of the journals listed above. Once you have identified and read these 8 journal articles, you will submit a literature review (5-7 pages, typed and double spaced) where you will discuss what researchers have learned about the

*topic you have selected through empirical investigation. This literature review must be sent to me via email no later than **noon on Sunday, January 24.***

Chapter Quizzes (165 points). Students will complete a short, 15 question, multiple-choice quiz (posted within lesson folders on Blackboard) that focuses on the main reading within each chapter of the textbook (which corresponds to a lesson folder in the course). Students will have 1 attempt over 20 minutes to complete each quiz. These quizzes serve one simple, but important purpose: to ensure that every student is reading the material in the chapters of the textbook.

Article Analysis Assignments (250 points). Each chapter in the textbook has excerpts of academic journal articles discussing research in the field of victimology. While students will read one or two articles in each lesson, there will be five “article” analysis assignments - specifically as part of Lessons 2, 5, 6, 7 and 9. Students will respond to two or three questions (posted within their respective lesson folders on Blackboard) based on the articles assigned for these 5 lessons in the course. Each essay response will be graded on a scale of: 0 points = no work submitted; 10 points= poor; 30 points = acceptable; and 50 points = excellent. I expect students to put some thought and effort into these essay responses; short, incomplete answers will result in VERY low scores. A score of 50 points / excellent will be awarded to students who (1) summarize the articles under evaluation, (2) completely answer the questions posted for each article on Blackboard, and (3) use information from each article (direct or indirect quotes; statistics; etc) to support one’s answer. Points are deducted when students do not address each of these three items.

Discussion Board (85 points). Throughout our three-week winter term, graduate students enrolled in the Socl 538 course will post questions for discussion on Blackboard. These questions are designed to stimulate some discussion/debate among students. All students (graduate and undergraduate) will respond to the questions posted on Blackboard; students will be graded based on the thoughtfulness of their responses to these questions and the thoughtfulness of their responses to other students’ comments.

There are currently 8 graduate students enrolled in my Socl 538 course this winter term. Each graduate student will post one question for discussion during each week of the course. You will be required to respond to 6 of the 8 discussion board thread questions during the three week semester – which means you will respond to 18 separate discussion board threads (6 threads per week x 3 weeks). The graduate students will post one question each week no later than Wednesday – and you will have until noon on Sunday to offer a response to six of the eight questions posted for the week (you may choose any 6 of the 8 threads you wish). Specific lessons will serve as the foundation for discussion each week:

- **Week 1 (Monday January 4 to Sunday January 10)** – Discussions/questions should focus on topics derived from Lessons 1 through 4

- **Week 2 (Monday January 11 to Sunday January 17)** – Discussions/questions should focus on topics derived from Lessons 5 through 7
- **Week 3 (Monday January 18 to Sunday January 24)** – Discussion/questions should focus on topics derived from Lessons 8 through 11

Graduate students and undergraduate students will be required to offer at least one response to six of the eight discussion board threads posted on Blackboard each week. I will remind you that this is an upper-division and graduate level course, and therefore, discussions should be respectful, academic and professional in their orientation. Students who do not meet this expectation will not receive these discussion points and will be removed from the discussion board participation. Students' discussion board participation will be graded on the following scale at the end of the semester: 0 points = no discussion board posts; 15 points = poor participation; 45 points = acceptable participation; 85 points = excellent participation.

*Graduate Students: obviously – in addition to responding to the discussion board questions/postings of your colleagues, your grade for this part of the course will also be based on your ability to offer one good question for discussion during each week of the course. Remember – for week 1 – you will have to draft a question derived from the material presented in Lessons 1-4; for week 2, discussion questions should be derived from the material presented in Lessons 5-7; and for week three, discussion questions should be derived from Lessons 8-11. As the creator and moderator of the discussion board threads on Blackboard – it will be your responsibility: (1) to offer engaging questions, (2) to respond to comments/ideas offered by the undergraduate students, and (3) to post a final summary for each thread that summarizes the comments offered by the participants in the discussion. Also, it would be wonderful if your discussion questions linked material presented in the course with current events (for example – victim blaming and the Michael Brown-Officer Darren Wilson incident in Ferguson, MO). Again – I want to emphasize this: In addition to writing, posting and moderating 1 discussion board thread each week, you will also **have to respond to six discussion questions/threads posted by your graduate student colleagues (just like the undergraduate students).***

Important Information

Online Course: This course will be administered entirely using WKU's Blackboard System – which may be accessed using the following URL: <http://blackboard.wku.edu>. You will need to type your WKU NetID and password to access course content. I will release the entire Blackboard course **no later than Monday, January 4** – and you may begin completing work at your own pace.

I have divided the class into 11 lesson folders on Blackboard – and inside most lesson folders you will find: (1) links to online lectures, (2) links to online videos/content, (3) quizzes, (4) article

analysis questions, and (5) handouts. The two take home exams and the proctored final exam as well as the discussion board questions will be posted under separate links on the left-side menu of our Blackboard course site. If you experience any technological problems during the semester, please contact the WKU **IT Help Desk at 270-745-7000**. They have experienced and knowledgeable professionals who can help you resolve technological issues.

Proctored Final Exam: As noted above, the final-exam must be taken in a proctored setting for the **undergraduate students** enrolled in Crim 438. The WKU Distance Learning (DL) Testing Center provides proctored testing on the main campus of WKU and at the regional campuses. They will also help you identify a proctored testing environment anywhere in the USA and in other countries – so wherever you happen to be while taking this course, you will be able to find a proctored setting to take both exams. You will receive an email (to your WKU email account) with instructions for the scheduling of the final exam.

Academic Dishonesty: I will not tolerate any form of academic dishonesty, including cheating and plagiarism (especially on your exams and papers). Evidence of any of these behaviors will result in an automatic “F” in the course.

Special Circumstances: I realize all of you have busy lives. If anything serious or significant occurs in your life that may hurt your performance in the course, please let me know ASAP.

The Learning Center (TLC): A great resource for students who are struggling with any course at WKU. TLC provides individual and group peer tutoring for WKU Students. Located in DUC A330; Phone: (270) 745-6254; Email: tlc@wku.edu

From the Student Accessibility Resource Center: In compliance with university policy, students with disabilities who require academic and/or auxiliary accommodations for this course must contact Student Accessibility Resource Center in the Downing Student Union (DSU), A-200. The phone number is 270-745-5004. Please DO NOT request accommodations directly from the professor or instructor without a letter of accommodation from the Student Accessibility Resource Center.

Course Outline – Lessons and Assignments

While you may progress through the course at your own pace – I have indicated when I expect lessons to be completed. As you’ll see, you should have Lessons 1-4 completed by the end of Week 1, Lessons 5-7 should be completed by the end of Week 2, and Lessons 8-11 should be completed by the end of Week 3. I am providing this timeline to ensure that each student makes satisfactory progress during this short three week winter term; you may, of course, work more quickly through the content.

Timeline	Topic	Work/Activities To be Completed
Week 1: Monday January 4 to Sunday January 10	Lesson 1: Introduction to Victimology	Read Ch 1 in Daigle (pp 1-13) Complete Ch 1 quiz
	Lesson 2: Data, Theories & General Patterns	Read Ch 2 in Daigle (14-29) Read Daday et al. (Blackboard) Read Article # 2 of Ch 2 (44-54) Complete Ch 2 quiz Complete Lesson 2 Article Analysis
	Lesson 3: Consequences of Victimization	Read Ch 3 in Daigle (71-86) Read Article # 1 of Ch 3 (87-98) Read Article # 2 of Ch 3 (101-109) Complete Ch 3 quiz
	Lesson 4: Victims' Rights	Read Ch 4 in Daigle (116-131) Read Article # 2 of Ch 4 (142-149) Read Article # 3 of Ch 4 (150-168) Complete Ch 4 quiz
Week 2: Monday January 11 to Sunday January 17	Lesson 5: Sexual Victimization	Read Ch 5 in Daigle (169-187) Read Article # 1 of Ch 5 (188-201) Read Article # 3 of Ch 5 (217-228) Complete Ch 5 quiz Complete Lesson 5 Article Analysis
	Lesson 6: IPV	Read Ch 6 in Daigle (231-250) Read Article # 1 of Ch 6 (251-260) Read Article # 2 of Ch 6 (263-271) Complete Ch 6 quiz Complete Lesson 6 Article Analysis
	Take Home Exam 1 – based on lessons 1-6	This is a take home examination – and should be completed when students have completed the material associated with Lessons 1-6. The exam will have a combination of multiple choice and essay questions. Students will have 1 attempt over 75 minutes to complete this take home examination.
	Lesson 7: Child & Elder Abuse	Read Ch 7 in Daigle (286-305) Read Article # 1 of Ch 7 (306-318) Read Article # 2 of Ch 7 (322-332) Complete Ch 7 quiz Complete Lesson 7 Article Analysis

Week 3: Monday January 18 to Sunday January 24	Lesson 8: Victimization of Special Populations	Read Ch 8 in Daigle (342-362) Read Article # 1 of Ch 8 (363-374) Read Article # 3 of Ch 8 (388-397) Complete Ch 8 quiz
	Lesson 9: Workplace and School Victimization	Read Ch 9 in Daigle (400-419) Read Article # 1 of Ch 9 (420-431) Read Article # 4 of Ch 9 (463-477) Complete Ch 9 quiz Complete Lesson 9 Article Analysis
	Lesson 10: Property Victimization & ID Theft	Read Ch. 10 in Daigle (481-498) Read Article # 2 of Ch 10 (516-528) Complete Ch 10 quiz Extra credit opportunity
	Lesson 11: Other issues	Read Ch. 11 in Daigle (543-563) Complete Ch 11 quiz
	Take Home Exam 2 - based on Lessons 7-11	This is a take home examination – and should be completed when students have completed the material associated with Lessons 7-11. The exam will have a combination of multiple choice and essay questions. Students will have 1 attempt over 75 minutes to complete this take home examination.
Available between 8:00am on Wednesday, January 20 and 4:30pm on Monday, January 25	Comprehensive Final Exam (undergraduate / Crim 438 students only)	A comprehensive examination that covers topics 1-11. Must be taken in a proctored location between 8:00am on Wednesday, January 20 and 4:30pm on Monday, January 25. Details provided above.
Must be submitted to me via email before noon on Sunday, January 24	Literature Review (graduate / Socl 538 students only)	Submission of a literature review that focuses on one of the 11 topics in this course; uses at least 8 peer-reviewed journal articles; must be submitted to me via email by noon on Sunday, January 24.