

CRIM 238 – Victimology and Victim Advocacy Spring 2024 - ONLINE

Meeting Time: WEB COURSE – NO MEETINGS

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Office Hours: By appointment

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COURSE OBJECTIVE

The objective of this course is to provide a survey of the major theories and research in victimology and understand techniques necessary to assist victims in various aspects of the criminal justice system.

The majority of the course will focus on four major components - victimology theory, victim assistance throughout the criminal justice areas, and assistance for victims of specific crimes, and professionalism and challenges in victim advocacy.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon completion of this course, students will:

- Understand the theories of victimization and how victims process and recover from trauma
- Understand in detail the ways that victim advocacy and assistance is provided in different areas of the criminal justice system, specifically how victim assistance is provided during investigations, during the court process, in prisons and in the juvenile justice system
- Be able to identify strategies and resources as a victim advocate for those dealing with family violence, sexual violence, intimate partner violence and cyber-crime; and
- Understand ways to maintain professionalism when working with victims and understand the ethical protocols that must be undertaken when working with victims
- Be able to identify agency resources to provide collaborative care for a victim
- Understand the challenges of working with victim services

COURSE MATERIALS

Required text (available at the university bookstore or online)

Takahaski & James. (2019). *Victimology and Victim Assistance* (1st. ed.) SAGE publishing

SPECIAL NOTE FOR THE COURSE

It is important to note that we will be discussing topics in this course related to traumatic events. Those who have experienced traumas or been victimized may have strong emotions as we progress through this course. Some may also know people who are close to them who have been victims of crime. These topics may also illicit strong emotions. Please read the course outline carefully prior to deciding whether to take this course. If you have concerns around a specific content area, accommodations can be made by informing the instructor prior to the content area being discussed. If you begin to

struggle with concerning thoughts and emotions as the course progresses let the instructor know immediately so that assistance and resources can be obtained.

EXAMINATIONS

There will be **4** examinations for the course. The exams will consist of multiple choice and short essay questions. The first two exams will be worth 100 points each and the last two exams will be worth 200 points each.

*As a rule, make-up examinations are not given except for **EXTREME** circumstances (e.g., hospitalization) for which I must be notified in a timely manner and physical proof of the reason for the absence must be provided. **There will be no opportunity to make up the last examination.***

Research Activity

Students will have an option to complete ONE of two different research activities. This activity will be worth 100 points.

Chapter Assignments

Students will be required to engage in practical assignments throughout the semester through Blackboard. There will be one assignment posted for each of the 15 chapters. Assignments will require research into each topic of discussion. Students will be required to cite any sources they use for the post. Each assignment will be worth 20 points of the students' final grade. Please review the rubric in the Content folder for the assignments to ensure you get all points possible on each post.

POLICY ON PLAGIARISM

Plagiarism is representing the ideas of another as your own. Any idea, concept, statement or summary that is taken from or guided by a published source (including internet websites) must be properly cited in all writing assignments. Students are expected to conform to the highest ethical standards regarding academic integrity. Plagiarism will **NOT BE TOLERATED** and will be **DEALT WITH MOST HARSHLY**. **Lack of dishonest intent does not necessarily absolve a student of responsibility for plagiarism.** When in doubt – cite a source!! **A computer software program – Turnitin – may be used to check for plagiarized material.**

FROM THE OFFICE FOR STUDENT DISABILITY SERVICES

In compliance with university policy, students with disabilities who require accommodations (academic adjustments and/or auxiliary aids or services) for this course must contact the Office for Student Disability Services in Downing University Center A-200. The phone number is 745-5004; TTY is 745-3030. Per university policy, please **DO NOT** request accommodation directly from the professor or instructor without a letter of accommodation from the OFSDS.

Grading Scale

Test 1	100 points
Test 2	100 points
Test 3	200 points
Test 4	200 points
Research Activity	100 points
Assignments	300 points (20 points each)
Total	1000 points

**As a rule, incompletes are not given in this course. An incomplete would only be given if a student was physically incapable of completing required work due to hospitalization, incapacitation, or other extreme circumstances*

*****Please note that this course will be a completely online course. There will be no face-to-face or Zoom meetings for this course. Also, all tests, assignments and research projects are due prior to the last day of the last week of the course (April 30, 2024). I have provided a SAMPLE course outline for those who would like to have a “plan” for completing all of the assignments for the semester.**

A – 900 – 1000 points

B – 800 – 899 points

C – 700 – 799 points

D – 600 – 699 points

F – Below 600 points

SAMPLE Course Outline

**** To be used as a TOOL only...all assignments for this course are due prior to the last day of the last week of class.**

Week	Course Outline	SAMPLE Assignment Completion
1	Chapter 1: Historical Perspective of Victimology and Victim Assistance	
	Chapter 1	Chapter 1 Assignment
2	Chapter 2: Theories of Victimization	
	Chapter 2; Crime Clock Activity	Chapter 2 Assignment
3	Chapter 3: Nature and Extent of Victimization	
	Chapter 3	Chapter 3 Assignment
4	Chapter 4: Trauma and Recovery of Victims	
	Chapter 4 ; TEST 1 (Chapters 1-4)	Chapter 4 Assignment; TEST 1 (Chapters 1-4)
5	Chapter 5: Investigative Process and Victim Assistance	
	Chapter 5; "Marcy's Law" Discussion	Chapter 5 Assignment
6	Chapter 6: Court Process and Victim Assistance	
	Chapter 6; Victim Impact Statement Activity	Chapter 6 Assignment
7	Chapter 7: Corrections, Prison Violence and Victim Assistance	
	Chapter 7	Chapter 7 Assignment
8	Chapter 8: Juvenile Justice, Restorative Justice and Victim Assistance	
	Chapter 8 ; TEST 2 (Chapter 5-8)	Chapter 8 Assignment; TEST 2 (Chapters 5-8)
9	Chapter 9: Victim Assistance for Family Violence - Child and Elder Abuse	
	Chapter 9; Becoming a Victim Activity	Chapter 9 Assignment
10	Chapter 10: Victim Assistance for Intimate Partner Violence; Chapter 11: Victim Assistance for Sexual Victims	
	Chapter 10	Chapter 10 and 11 Assignment
11	Chapter 12: Victim Assistance for Cyber Crime	
	Chapter 12; TEST 3 (Chapters 9-12)	Chapter 12 Assignment; TEST 3 (chapters 9-12)
12	Chapter 13: Professionalism and Ethics in Victim Assistance	
	Chapter 13; Guest Speaker	Chapter 13 Assignment; Group Project/Research Project
13	Chapter 14: Collaborative Responses to Victims	
	Chapter 14; Title IX Coordinator discussion	Chapter 14 Assignment
14	Chapter 15: Challenges in Victim Services	
	Chapter 15	Chapter 15 Assignment
15	TEST 4 (FINAL EXAM)(Chapters 13-15)	FINAL EXAM (chapters 13-15)

