Victims of Crime

**CJ241-101**

**CRN 1810**

Fall, 2010

Monday – Wednesday – Friday

1:00 PM to 1:50 PM

Smith Hall 416

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| **Required Texts** |
| 1. Davis, R., Lurgio, A., and Herman, S. (2007) Victims of Crime (3rd Ed.) Thousand Oaks, Ca: Sage |
| 2. Selected web readings to be announced |
| **Instructor: Darrell L. Legg** |
| Office: SH 423 Office Hours: Monday, Wednesday, & Friday 11:30 AM to 12:00 PM |
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| **Course Description** |
| This course is intended to serve as an introduction to Victimology & its role in Criminal Justice. The areas of victim profiles, crime & victimization statistics, as well as official responses to the issues of victims & victim’s rights will be explored. |
| **Prerequisites** |
| PR: None |
| **Computer Requirements** |
| Students will be required to have e-mail and internet access |

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| **Desired Learner Outcomes/Objectives** | | | | | |
| In general, I want to assist you in developing your critical thinking skills and social awareness with respect to understanding criminal victimization. I hope to increase your ability to examine victimization and social justice scientifically (rationally and empirically), as well as your willingness to challenge popular beliefs and assumptions (including those you hold) about the causes and impact of crime, the nature and functioning of justice systems, and what should be done with victims. More specifically, I will teach, and I expect you to learn:  • key terms and issues in victimology  • a great deal of information about the nature and extent of victimization  • how to define and identify plausible causes and consequences of victimization  • basic criminal justice structures and processes  • an understanding of victimization in the contexts of other social institutions  • how to offer solutions to problems regarding victimization and justice  • ideas on how to apply what you learn in this course to the world around you | | | | | |
| **Evaluation of Learner Objectives** | | | | | |
| Evaluation of this objective will be through classroom observation, written assignments, and testing. All tests will be comprised of multiple choice, matching, fill in the blank, and short essay questions designed to stimulate thought, assess learning, and contribute to the intellectual growth of the student. Additionally, student participation will be an important component of the student's overall grade. | | | | | |
| **Assignments** | | | | | |
| A paper will be required for this course. Your report will be 6-10 pages in length, typewritten and double-spaced. It must be adequately referenced. You must use a minimum of three references, one of which must be a book and the other two must be journal articles. Your report must include the following sections:   1. Introduction/Statement of the Problem 2. History 3. Current Status 4. Future Trends 5. Opinion (supported by research) 6. Conclusion 7. References   Your paper can be any topic related to victimology, victim rights, victim services or particular types of victims. However, your paper MUST be organized as mentioned above. It will be partially graded based on grammar, spelling errors, typographical errors, as well as clarity of writing.  As an alternative to a paper, you may prepare a presentation to an unspecified audience on the topic of Victims’ Rights for a potential Victims’ Rights Week Program. You MUST complete the following components, a power point presentation and a script for the presentation. The total length of time for the presentation is to be 15 minutes and will be presented in class prior to the end of the semester. We will discuss the expectations for this in class. | | | | | |
| **Course Schedule (Subject to change as deemed necessary)** | | | | | |
| Date | Reading Material | | Subject | | |
| Week 1  August 23 | Notes & Ch. 2 & Ch 12 | | Introduction – What is crime & what is a victim?; Developmental Victimology: The Comprehensive Study of Childhood Victimization; Gender Based Violence in Schools | | |
| Week 2 August 30 | Ch. 13 | | The Reoccurrence of Victimization: What Researchers Know About its Terminology, Characteristics, Causes, and Prevention | | |
| Week 3 September 8 | Ch. 3 | | Sexual Assault Victimization Across the Life Span: Rates, Consequences, and Interventions for Different Populations | | |
| Week 4 September 13 | Ch. 4 | | Victims of Domestic Violence | | |
| Week 5 September 20 | Ch. 5 | | Stalking in America: Laws, Research, & Recommendations | | |
| Week 6 September 27 | Ch. 10 & Ch. 11 | | Elder Abuse; The Mentally Ill as victims of crime; **Test 1** | | |
| Week 7 October 4 | Ch. 6 | | Hate Crimes: Characteristics of Incidents, Victims, and Offenders | | |
| Week 8 October 11 | Ch. 7 | | Homicide Survivors: A Summary of the Research | | |
| Week 8 October 18 | Ch. 9 | | The Mental Health & Behavioral Consequences of Terrorism | | |
| Week 9 October 25 | Ch. 8 | | Victims of Financial Crime  **Paper Due** | | |
| Week 10 November 1 | Ch. 14 | | Victimization: An International Perspective; **Test 2** | | |
| Week 11 November 8 | Ch. 15 & Ch. 16 | | Crisis Intervention with Victims of Violent Crime; The Key Contributions of Family, Friends, and Neighbors | | |
| Week 12 November 15 | Ch. 17 | | Victim Participation in the Criminal Justice System | | |
| Week 13 November 29 | Ch. 18 | | Legal Rights for Crime Victims in the Criminal Justice System | | |
| Week 14 December 6 | Ch. 19 | | Reaching Underserved Victim Populations | | |
| Week 15 | TBA | | **Final Examination (Test 3)** | | |
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| **\*Class presentations may vary from the schedule due to student interest or comprehension.** | | | | | |
| **Grading Policy** | | | | | |
| **Grading Criteria** | | **Points** | | **Grading Scale** | |
| Test 1 | | 200 | | A = 900-1000 | |
| Test 2 | | 200 | | B = 800-899 | |
| Test 3 | | 200 | | C = 700-799 | |
| Paper | | 200 | | D = 600 -699 | |
| Participation | | 100 | | F = 599 or less | |
| In-Class Assignments | | 100 | |  |  |
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| **Class Schedule** **Notes** | | | | | |
| Classroom work will consist of traditional lecture, group activities, and sharing of information between students and instructor. | | | | | |
| **Attendance Policy (Philosophy)** | | | | | |
| **1**. Attendance is MANDATORY in this class. A student should recognize that one of the most important aspects of a college education is classroom attendance & participation. The value of this part of the academic experience cannot be fully measured by the testing process.  **2.** Absences such as those resulting from illness, death in the family, or institutional activities (Those approved by the academic deans, such as debates, artistic performances, class trips, and athletics) are to be excused when a student reports such and is subsequently verified by the instructor. For such absences, the student should not be penalized (MU Undergraduate catalog).  **3.** When students attend classes they are in a position to make significant contributions to their learning experiences and the learning experiences of others by asking pertinent questions, making pertinent observations, and sharing information. When students cut classes, they not only keep themselves from learning, but they keep other from learning all they possibly could. Students should participate, just not occupy a chair.  **4.** Students will be held accountable for all requirements and information covered in all classes. If it becomes necessary to give quizzes to spur attendance, the points gained on these quizzes will count toward test scores.  **5**. **Any materials due are due on the day stated.** If assignments or papers are late or not turned in, in class on the date stated, the paper or assignment will only be accepted with a minimum of a letter grade deduction for lateness.  **6**. All exams will be taken on the dates assigned. If an exam is missed, then this will result in a 0 (zero) being given for the exam. However, exams may be rescheduled by the instructor if he is given prior notice, or excuse as specified in the catalog and in the above tenets.  **7. Leave your cell phones off or at least on vibrate during class. Also, TEXTING during class will not be tolerated!** | | | | | |