

VICTIMOLOGY

CJ 480

SYLLABUS

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When sending emails please include Victimology and your name in the subject line.

Texts:

Controversies in Victimology, by Laura J. Moriarty, © 2003. Published by Anderson Publishing Company

Victimology, Legal, Psychological, and Social Perspectives, by Harvey Wallace, 2 /e, Allyn & Bacon, 2007

Other readings as assigned/provided

Course Description and Purpose

This is a survey course covering contemporary developments in the field of victimology, its conceptual boundaries, its basic concepts and literature, its subfields and role as a field of study within criminology and criminal justice. The historical and emerging roles of victimology as a field of study are examined and discussed in depth. This course also deals with analysis of contemporary programs and trends in the criminal justice system's response to victims.

Course Objectives:

1. To increase familiarity with basic terms, concepts and ideas in victimology

2. To appreciate the historical development of victimology and its subfields
3. To explore and analyze contemporary problems and trends in victimology
4. To review the functions, operations & management of the criminal justice system
5. Recognize that crime victims make up half the crime equation
6. Enhance sensitivity as to the impact of criminal victimization on primary and secondary victims and the larger community
7. Contribute to the classroom learning experience by preparation and participation

On-line Participation/Group Discussion Policy: Participation in on-line discussions is required, not optional. Active participation in the groups is expected and is 20% of your final grade. This is an academic setting designed to promote scholarship and critical thinking on topics such as Why don't battered women leave? Should the names of crime victims be printed in the paper, Should crime victims have a say in the prosecution of their offender? Everyone is welcome to express their opinion and to challenge the opinions of others but those discussions will be respectful, open-minded and tolerant. Many of us have been touched by crime ourselves and we will be examining these issues from both a scholarly as well as a personal perspective.

Each week there will be specific discussion questions that you will discuss and debate with your classmates. I will moderate the discussions if I believe necessary; however, they are designed for you. Discussion topics are typically critical-thinking topics. Perhaps you will have to sharpen some skills related to commenting on responses with which you do not agree. You are required to participate in these discussions, and you must participate in the current week in order to receive credit.

Weekly discussion questions typically ask you to discuss, reflect, comment on, and/or research-debate a topic covered in the corresponding weekly reading. Please proof responses before submitting so that your "post" has no typos/spelling errors/grammatical mistakes, is clear, concise, factual, unified, and coherent. To post to the Board, you may either click on "Add New Tread" or "Reply", but do not click on students names, just the post's title line.

Tips for Posting

- Before you read others' responses, consider the question and topic carefully for yourself. Develop your own viewpoint and decide how to support your perspective. Then read other posts.
- You will be evaluated on the quality and thoughtfulness of how you present your point of view. A quality message is well thought out, clearly presented, and well-formulated.
- When posting, be sure to present your thoughts and point of view in an unbiased way. You can and should cite evidence for your assertions where appropriate. Primary sources of "evidence" are our textbook, selected Web sources, newspaper/magazine articles and so forth, rather than personal experiences. You do not have to formally cite the resources you use, unless you have a web site or some other resource that you want to share with the group.
- Your postings should be concise. Please do not feel as though you have to write a lot. Think quality over quantity. Try to keep messages to one paragraph (150-200 words), if possible.
- Think of your postings in terms of a dialogue, even an informal one, rather than a writing exercise. You are being instructed to engage in a discussion about selected topics.
- Once you have posted, check back frequently to see if anybody has responded to you.

Tips for Responding

- Respond to messages that are compelling for you. You may choose posting that contradict or support your own thoughts.
- When you respond, you may also turn your own thoughts into questions and offer your opinion. When offering your opinion, justify your thinking on the topic by clearly presenting your argument and supporting it with facts or reflection. When possible, play the devil's advocate; ask challenging questions.
- Avoid emotional responses and those that offer only right and wrong perspectives while ignoring other possible answers.

Each student will be responsible for either writing a term paper **or** doing a 20 hour service learning project at an agency/organization that directly services victims of crime. Please review the details for each project below. You can only do one or the other not both. You will only receive credit for

the first paper turned in.

GUIDELINES FOR TERM PAPERS

For the students who chose this option you will to complete a term paper of 10-12 pages in length on one of the topics listed below or another approved by the instructor. Every paper must include:

1. examples of incidences of the crime and the victims the crime affects
2. legal aspects of the crime (not lengthy)
3. societal reactions and legal processing
4. an analysis of the victim and the crime using at least one of the theories or explanations given in the readings pertaining to that particular victimization/crime approximately 1 1/2 to 2 pages in length.
5. your recommendations for change in helping the victim and dealing with the crime, criminal, or system.

These additional guidelines will help you organize and write a successful paper:

1. Use a consistent form throughout. I recommend an outline and sub-topical headings for the paper, including an introduction and a conclusion.
2. Any standard footnote style will do. Include a full bibliography at the end. Give full credit to those from whom you take information. Plagiarism is a serious violation. An internet address (URL) is not a complete reference. The author's name, title of article and date must be included with the URL.
3. Utilize ideas from the textbook and class materials in your paper. Write for the approach used in this class, not for another focus such as law, law enforcement, philosophy, history, etc. (i.e. focus on the victim side of the crimes)
4. Organization, grammar, and spelling are important and will be considered in the grading process.
5. Ten references is a minimum for the paper. Use a variety of library and community sources (including personal interviews with people who work in areas related to your topic).
6. Papers should be typed, 12 point font, double-spaced, and properly referenced.
7. Ten points will be deducted for each day the paper is late.

SOME SUGGESTIONS FOR TERM PAPER TOPICS

Violent Personal Crime:

murders assault
sexual assault child abuse
spouse abuse drunk drivers
child molesting kidnapping

Organized Crime:

organized prostitution
drug trafficking

Occasional Property Crime:

auto theft
vandalism

Professional Crime:

shoplifting pick pocketing
forgery counterfeiting

Occupational/Organizational (white collar) Crime:

embezzlement environmental crime
computer crime crime in the professions

Public Order Crime:

crimes without victims drunkenness
vagrancy/panhandling disorderly conduct
prostitution illegal drug sales, use, possession

Conventional Crime:

robbery larceny
burglary theft
shoplifting

GUIDELINGS FOR SERVICES LEARNING PROJECT/PAPER

For the students who chose this option you will to complete 20 hours of service an agency or organization that **directly** services victims of crime. Once the hours are complete you will need to write a 2-3 paper describing the agency the hours were done with, what type of work you did, and how the work you did benefitted the agency and victims of crime. Please provide the name of the agency, the contact at the agency and a phone number where that person can be contacted.

1. Organization, grammar, and spelling are important and will be considered in the grading process.
2. Papers should be typed, 12 point font and double-spaced.
3. Ten points will be deducted for each day the paper is late.

Notes and other assigned readings: I will post power point presentations weekly with discussion questions. Throughout the semester there will be additionally readings for the course. Some are on reserve at the library and others I will post for you to print off.

Questions for pop quizzes and exams will come from the reading as well as the power point presentations.

Grades: Your final grade will be based on the following formula-----

- 20% group discussion/participation. All students will be divided into groups for the semester. Every Monday discussion questions will be posted for each group. You will have until Sunday at 5pm of the same week to post at least 5 contributing and meaningful post to your group discussion questions. (that means not just answering with a yes or no, they are called discussion questions for a reason)
- 20% reading quizzes. There will be five unannounced pop quizzes over your text that will be posted on Monday mornings and you will have a certain amount of time to complete quiz once you have started. Pop quizzes must be taken in the Monday to Sunday week that they are posted. They will become unavailable on Sundays at 5:01pm and can not be made up.
- 30% Exams-two exams are scheduled to help monitor learning. The average of your two scores will make up this portion of your grade.

Any extra credit offered during the semester will be added to your lowest exam score. Both exams will be taken on-line. The second exam is scheduled during finals week but it will not be cumulative. Exams must be taken in the Monday to Sunday week that they are posted. They will become unavailable on Sundays at 5:01pm and can not be made up. Please check the 16-week calendar for exact time frames on each exam.

- 30% Term Paper OR Service Learning Paper

I do not accept late assignments or give makeup exams. Should an emergency occur it should be discussed with me and decision will be made on an individual basis. With that said you will be docked ten points for every day late - no exception.

Academic Dishonesty:

<http://www.shsu.edu/administrative/faculty/sectionb.html#dishonesty>

Disabled Student Policy: .

http://www.shsu.edu/~vaf_www/aps/811006.html

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

Student Absences on Religious Holy Day Policy:

<http://www.shsu.edu/catalog/scholasticrequirements.html#holyday>

Taking an Online Course

Taking an online course is ideal for students with busy schedules and can be more convenient than an on-campus class. But please remember, online classes are not easier and do have deadlines, assignments, and participation requirements just like on-campus classes. Please budget your time carefully and keep an open line of communication with me. If you are having technical problems, problems with your assignments, or problems that are impeding your progress let me know as soon as possible by calling or emailing me so that we can work together to ensure your success in the class.

16-Week Calendar:

(dates for papers/exams are approximate)

January 28	Victimology, History and Victimization Theory Assigned Reading: Wallace Ch 1
February 4	Crime Reports and System Response to Victims Assigned Reading: Wallace Chaps 2-4 & Moriarty Ch 2
February 11	Victims Rights and Trauma Assigned Reading: Wallace Chaps 5 & 16 and Moriarty Ch 1
February 18	Sexual Assault, Media, and Stalking Assigned Reading: Wallace Ch 8 and Moriarty Chaps 3 & 4
February 25	Domestic Violence and Victim Impact Assigned Reading: Wallace Ch 9 and Moriarty Ch 5
March 3	Victim Blaming and Homicide Assigned Reading: Wallace Ch 7 and Moriarty Ch 2
March 10	Police and Victims & Prosecution and Victims Assigned Reading: Wallace Chaps 2 & 3
March 17	Exam I (will have Monday 8am to Sunday 5pm to take exam)
March 24	Hate/Bias Crimes and Special Victim Populations Assigned Reading: Wallace Chaps 12 & 13
March 31	Elder and Child Abuse Assigned Reading: Wallace Chaps 10 & 11
April 7	Property Crimes and Campus Violence/School Violence Assigned Reading: To be Assigned
April 14	Workplace Violence and Public Order Crimes: Assigned Reading: To be Assigned
April 21	Victim/Offender Reconciliation Assigned Reading: Wallace Ch 9
April 28	Vigilantism and Crime Trends Assigned Reading: To be Assigned
May 5	Term Paper or Service Paper Due Final Comments
May 12	Exam II (will have Monday 8am to Thursday 5pm to take exam)

