

Department of Social Sciences  
Fall 2017  
CJ Criminology – CRIJ 3305  
Online

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Students can also send messages to me through Canvas

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**Office Hours:** Tuesdays and Thursdays 1:30-4:30p

“Behind every uncomfortable syllabus clause lies an even more uncomfortable teaching experience.” – @AcademicSay (April 22, 2016)

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## ACADEMIC ACCOMODATIONS

At Texas A&M University-Central Texas, we value an inclusive learning environment where every student has an equal chance to succeed and has the right to a barrier free education. The Department of Access and Inclusion is responsible for ensuring that students with a disability receive equal access to the University's programs, services and activities. If you believe you have a disability requiring reasonable accommodations please contact the Department of Access and Inclusion at (254) 501-5831. Any information you provide is private and confidential and will be treated as such.

For more information please visit our Access & Inclusion webpage  
<https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/access-inclusion.html>.

Texas A&M University-Central Texas supports students who are pregnant and/or parenting. In accordance with requirements of Title IX and guidance from US Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights, the Dean of Student Affairs' Office can assist students who are pregnant and/or parenting in seeking accommodations related to pregnancy and/or parenting. For more information, please visit <https://www.tamuct.departments/index.php>. Students may also contact the institution's Title IX Coordinator. If you would like to read more about these requirements and guidelines online, please visit the website <http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/pregnancy.pdf>.

## STATEMENT OF ACADEMIC FREEDOM

Freedom to teach and freedom to learn are inseparable facets of academic freedom. The University has adopted a policy on the Disruption of University Activities (Policy # 4.08), which can be accessed through the following link:

<https://www.tamuct.edu/departments/studentconduct/index.php>

\*\*\* **Disclaimer: Syllabus may be revised later if needed** \*\*\*

## **COURSE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

Study and critical appraisal of various theories of crime causation, including an examination of classical, biological, psychological, and sociological perspectives on the etiology of crime.

The goal of the course will be to help the students become familiarized with the various theories used in criminological research and the creation of criminal justice policy. Students will learn how to critically analyze the theories covered in the course, as well as various arguments and viewpoints from researchers and fellow classmates.

### Course Objectives

1. Students will become familiarized with the exciting world of criminological theory.
2. Students will learn key concepts of criminology.
  - a. The content of major criminological theories.
  - b. Theoretical research within the field of Criminal Justice.
3. Students will apply key concepts to problems in Criminal Justice.
4. Understand the impact of criminality, theories, and research on policies.

## **REQUIRED TEXT**

Akers, R. L., Sellers, C. S., & Jennings, W. G. (2016). *Criminological theories: Introduction, evaluation, and application* (7th ed.). New York: Oxford University Press. ISBN: 978-0190455163

Additional readings will be provided on Canvas.

## **RECOMMENDED READING**

American Psychological Association. (2009). *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association* (6th ed.). Washington, D.C.: American Psychological Association

Greasley, P. (2016). *Doing Essays and Assignments: Essential Tips for Students* (2nd ed.). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications. ISBN: 978-1473912076

Osmond A. (2016) *Academic Writing and Grammar for Students* (2nd ed.). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications. ISBN: 978-1473919365

## **COURSE POLICIES**

### Respect

In this course we will be discussing subject matter that some may consider controversial. Some students may find the readings and/or comments very challenging. Our purpose in this course is to explore this subject matter deeply and consider multiple perspectives and arguments. Students are encouraged to ask questions and voice their perspective, and are free to disagree with views expressed in the course or in the readings. However, this must be done in a respectful manner.

## Netiquette

All students must abide by the following core rules of netiquette (excerpted from Shea, 1994<sup>1</sup>) for the duration of the course on discussion boards and email.

Rule 1: Remember the human - Do unto others as you'd have others do unto you. Imagine how you'd feel if you were in the other person's shoes. Stand up for yourself, but try not to hurt people's feelings.

Rule 2: Adhere to the same standards of behavior online - Standards of behavior may be different in some areas of cyberspace, but they are not lower than in real life.

Rule 3: Know where you are in cyberspace - When you enter a domain of cyberspace that's new to you, take a look around. Spend a while listening to the chat or reading the archives. Get a sense of how the people who are already there act. Then go ahead and participate.

Rule 4: Respect other people's time and bandwidth - ...don't expect instant responses to all your questions, and don't assume that all readers will agree with -- or care about -- your passionate arguments.

Rule 5: Make yourself look good online - As in the world at large, most people who communicate online just want to be liked. Networks -- particularly discussion groups -- let you reach out to people you'd otherwise never meet. And none of them can see you. You won't be judged by the color of your skin, eyes, or hair, your weight, your age, or your clothing.

Rule 6: Share expert knowledge - Don't be afraid to share what you know.

Rule 7: Help keep flame wars under control - ...Netiquette does forbid the perpetuation of flame wars -- series of angry letters, most of them from two or three people directed toward each other, that can dominate the tone and destroy the camaraderie of a discussion group. It's unfair to the other members of the group.

Rule 8: Respect other people's privacy

Rule 9: Don't abuse your power - Some people in cyberspace have more power than others...Knowing more than others, or having more power than they do, does not give you the right to take advantage of them.

Rule 10: Be forgiving of other people's mistakes - ... when someone makes a mistake -- whether it's a spelling error or a spelling flame, a stupid question or an unnecessarily long answer -- be kind about it. If it's a minor error, you may not need to say anything. Even if you feel strongly about it, think twice before reacting. Having good manners yourself doesn't give you license to correct everyone else. If you do decide to inform someone of a mistake, point it out politely, and preferably by private email rather than in public. Give people the benefit of the doubt; assume they just don't know any better. And never be arrogant or self-righteous about it. Just as it's a law of nature that spelling

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<sup>1</sup> Shea, V. (1994). Core Rules of Netiquette. In *Netiquette*, (pp. 32-46). Vancouver: Albion Books.

flames always contain spelling errors, notes pointing out Netiquette violations are often examples of poor Netiquette.

### Academic Honesty

Texas A&M University -Central Texas values the integrity of the academic enterprise and strives for the highest standards of academic conduct. A&M-Central Texas expects its students, faculty, and staff to support the adherence to high standards of personal and scholarly conduct to preserve the honor and integrity of the creative community. Academic integrity is defined as a commitment to honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility. Any deviation by students from this expectation may result in a failing grade for the assignment and potentially a failing grade for the course. Academic misconduct is any act that improperly affects a true and honest evaluation of a student's academic performance and includes, but is not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work, plagiarism and improper citation of sources, using another student's work, collusion, and the abuse of resource materials. All academic misconduct concerns will be reported to the university's Office of Student Conduct. Ignorance of the university's standards and expectations is never an excuse to act with a lack of integrity. When in doubt on collaboration, citation, or any issue, please contact your instructor before taking a course of action. For more information, please see

<https://www.tamuct.edu/departments/studentconduct/academicintegrity.php>

**Violations in academic honesty will result in score of zero on the assignment for which it is suspected. Any suspected violations of academic honesty will be reported to TAMUCT's Office of Student Conduct (<https://www.tamuct.edu/departments/student-affairs/bat.php>).**

### **ACCESSING CANVAS**

This is an online course and will use the TAMUCT Instructure Canvas learning management system.

Logon to TAMUCT Canvas [<https://tamuct.instructure.com>]

Username: Your MyCT username

(xx123 or everything before the "@" in your MyCT e-mail address)

Password: Your MyCT password

For technology issues, students should contact Help Desk Central.

24 hours a day, 7 days a week:

Email: [helpdesk@tamu.edu](mailto:helpdesk@tamu.edu)

Phone: (254) 519-5466

Web Chat: <http://hdc.tamu.edu>

When calling for support please let your support technician know you are a TAMUCT student.

For issues related to course content and requirements, contact your instructor.

To help you learn Canvas, I recommend you complete the Canvas Orientation Course. All students should have been automatically enrolled. If you are not or cannot access it, please contact IT.

## **COURSE COMMUNICATION**

Course announcements will be posted to the course Announcements page on Canvas.

Correspondence to individual students will be sent to your TAMUCT email account. Make you sure you have access to and regularly check it, as it is not my responsibility to locate your non-TAMUCT email address.

## **STUDENT-PROFESSOR INTERACTION**

Students may speak with the Professor via email, during office hours, or by appointment. Emails will be answered within 72 hours. Appointments (date/time) must be confirmed by the student and the professor via email.

## **ASSIGNMENTS AND QUIZZES**

### Reading Assignments

The reading assignments are taken from the required textbook and the PowerPoints posted each week. It is important to have this textbook when class begins so you can keep up with the assigned readings. I recommend you purchase the book as soon as possible so you are adequately prepared for class.

I also suggest you purchase and read the Recommended Resources, as they will help you complete your assignments.

### Reflection Questions (15 points each)

For each group of theories (i.e. Neo-Classical Theories), there will be a reflection question (RQ). The question will be posted at the beginning of the week for that group of theories (Monday at 12:00a) and due by the end of the week (Sunday at 11:59p). I will pose at least one question, and you must provide a thoughtful answer. Reflection questions must be written at a college level. Reflection questions can be found on Canvas under Modules/Week # (i.e. Modules/Week 5).

Reflection questions will be graded as follows:

<b>Reflection Question Components</b>	<b>Points</b>
Content Clearly answers the question Provides sufficient support for answer If there is a right/wrong answer, also provides the correct answer	10 points
Writing Mechanics and Quality Writing is clear, formal and concise. Very little informal writing or wordiness. College-level writing. Correct spelling, word usage, grammar, punctuation, and sentence structure. Few errors	5 points
Late penalty	-5 points

Late reflection questions will be accepted up until a week after the due date with a 5-point penalty. Late reflections questions will be accepted without penalty if I receive documented, written notice that you will be unable to complete the assignment due to employment conflicts or military obligations. **This documentation must be provided before the deadline and include dates of the conflict/obligations.** You will have one week from the due date to submit the completed assignment. Submissions later than a week will not be accepted.

Advanced notice is not required for medical emergencies; however, you must provide written documentation (on official paper with the date(s)) within one week from the deadline. You will also have one week from the deadline to submit the completed assignment. Submissions later than a week will not be accepted.

#### Routine Activities Project (50 points)

Submit a PowerPoint with examples of the key components included in the Routine Activity Theory. The examples must be pictures taken by the student (they cannot be pictures from current/previous students or from the internet). The guidelines may be found on Canvas under Modules/Routine Activities Project/RAP Guidelines. The project is due November 22 at 11:59p, and must be submitted as a PowerPoint presentation (ppt or pptx) via Modules/Routine Activities Project/RAP Submission. Submissions will be considered late starting on November 23 at 12:00a, and will be receive a 5-point late penalty for each day they are late. This assignment will be graded as follows:

<b>Grade elements</b>	<b>Point Distribution</b>
Assigned project elements	40 points
Follow instructions	10 points
Late penalty	- 5 points/day

**RAPs will not be accepted in hardcopy, email, or course message. RAPs submitted via any of the proscribed methods will receive the late penalty if they are submitted via the Canvas submission link after the deadline.**

#### Quizzes (50 points/each)

There will be five quizzes worth 50 points each. The quiz will be posted at the beginning of the week (Monday at 12a) and must be completed by the end of the week (Sunday at 11:59p). **Late quizzes will not be accepted.** The Learning Objectives posted each week will aid students in studying for the quizzes.

**Exceptions can be made if I receive documented, written notice in advance that you will miss the week due to employment conflicts or military obligations. Documentation must be received by Friday at 5p of the previous week.<sup>2</sup> You will have one week from the quiz week to complete the make-up quiz,<sup>3</sup> which will be true/false. In the event of a medical emergency, you must provide written documentation (on official paper with the date(s)) within one week from the quiz date.** You will also have one week from the quiz due date to complete the make-up quiz, which will be true/false.

The answers to the quizzes will not be displayed after they are graded. Students who would like feedback on their quizzes may see me during my office hours or make an appointment to meet with me.

#### Final Paper (100 points)

Students will analyze a movie or real-life case using one criminological theory. This will not be a group assignment, and late papers will not be accepted. You will receive a grading rubric to help aid in the process of writing the paper, and you must have your paper reviewed by the Writing Center or Tutoring Services prior to submission. Documentation that your paper was reviewed by the Writing Center or Tutoring Services must be provided no later than the due date. Final Papers must be submitted via the submission link on Canvas (Modules/Final Paper) by 12/13 at 11:59p. Make sure you include your last name in the file name. **Papers will not be accepted after the deadline (starting 12/14 at 12:00a).**

**Papers will not be accepted in hardcopy, email, or course message. Papers submitted via any of the proscribed methods will not be accepted if the paper is submitted via the Canvas submission link after the deadline.**

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<sup>2</sup> i.e. If you will miss Week 4, I must receive documentation by Friday, Sept 15 at 5:00p.

<sup>3</sup> i.e. The make-up for Quiz 4 must be no later than Sunday, October 1 at 11:59p.

Papers will be graded as follows:

<b>Paper Elements</b>	<b>Point Distribution</b>
Overview of movie/case	10 points
Summary of theory	20 points
Theoretical Application	40 points
Additional Features (introduction, conclusion, organization, citations, spelling, grammar, etc.)	30 points

## **GRADING**

Quizzes and final grades will not be curved. Grades will be posted on Canvas within approximately one week. Students will be notified if it will take longer to post the grades.

Your final grade will be weighted. Guidance on how to calculate your weighted grade may be found on Canvas/Modules/Additional Resources/General Resources.

	<b>Number of Points</b>	<b>Percentage of Grade</b>
Reflection Questions	15 points/each (165 total points)	30%
Quizzes x 5	50 points/each (250 total points)	35%
Routine Activities Project	50 points	10%
Final Paper	100 points	25%
	<b>Total: 565 points</b>	

## **EXTRA CREDIT**

Apply any theory used in class to a recent event. The limit is one per week and will be worth five points. The student must turn in documentation of the event (i.e. newspaper article) as well as a short write up (approximately one page) explaining how a particular theory is relevant, using key terms, concepts, etc. No more than five submissions during the semester.

## **COPYRIGHT NOTICE**

Students should assume that all course material is copyrighted by the respective author(s). Reproduction of course material is prohibited without consent by the author and/or course instructor. Violation of copyright is against the law and Texas A&M University-Central Texas' Code of Academic Honesty. All alleged violations will be reported to the Office of Student Conduct.

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## COURSE SCHEDULE

<b>Week</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Reading Due</b>	<b>Assignment Due</b>
Week 1 08/28-09/03	Introduction to Criminology Evaluation of Theories	Akers: Ch. 1	RQ due 09/03 at 11:59p
Week 2 09/04-09/10	<i>Classical Theory</i> <i>Neo-Classical Theories</i> Rational Choice, Deterrence and Reconceptualized Deterrence Theory	Akers: Ch. 2	RQ due 09/10 at 11:59p
Week 3 09/11-09/17	<i>Positivist School</i> <i>Biological and Biosocial Theories</i>	Akers: Ch. 3	RQ due 09/17 at 11:59p <b>Quiz 1</b> due 09/17 at 11:59p (Evaluation of Theories, Classical Neo-Classical, and Positivist)
Week 4 09/18-09/24	<i>Learning Theories</i> Theory of differential association Social Learning	Akers: Ch. 5	RQ due 09/24 at 11:59p
Week 5 09/25-10/01	<i>Learning Theories</i> Subculture of Crime		
Week 6 10/02-10/08	<i>Control Theories</i> Social Control Theory	Akers: Ch. 6	RQ due 10/08 at 11:59p
Week 7 10/09-10/15	<i>Control Theories</i> General Theory of Crime		<b>Quiz 2</b> due 10/15 at 11:59p (Learning and Control Theories)
Week 8 10/16-10/22	<i>Labeling Theories</i> Primary and Secondary Deviance Reintegrative-Shaming Theory	Akers: Ch. 7	RQ due 10/22 at 11:59p
Week 9 10/23-10/29	<i>Chicago School</i> Social Disorganization Collective Efficacy	Akers: Ch. 8	RQ due 10/29 at 11:59p <b>Quiz 3</b> due 10/29 at 11:59p (Labeling and Chicago School theories)
Week 10 10/30-11/05	Anomie Theory and Strain Theory	Akers: Ch. 9	RQ due 11/05 at 11:59p
Week 11 11/06-11/12	<i>Environmental Criminology</i> Routine Activity Theory	BB – Cullen & Agnew – <i>Environmental Criminology</i>	RQ due 11/12 at 11:59p
Week 12 11/13-11/19	<i>Environmental Criminology</i> Broken Windows Theory		

Week 13 11/20-11/26	<b><i>Turkey Week</i></b>		<b><i>Routine Activities Project due 11/22 by 11:59p</i></b>
Week 14 11/27-12/03	<i>Developmental Theories</i> Life Course Theory	BB – Cullen & Agnew – <i>Developmental Theories: Crime and the Life Course</i>	<b><i>Submit paper topic by 12/03 at 11:59p</i></b> RQ due 12/03 at 11:59p
Week 15 12/04-12/10	<i>Developmental Theories</i> Adolescent-Limited and Life Course Persistent		<b><i>Quiz 4</i></b> due 12/10 at 11:59p (Anomie, Strain, Environmental and Developmental theories)
Week 16 12/11-12/15			<b><i>Final Paper due by 12/13, at 11:59p</i></b> RQ due 12/15 at 12:00p

## **911 CELLULAR**

Emergency Warning System for Texas A&M University – Central Texas

911Cellular is an emergency notification service that gives Texas A&M University-Central Texas the ability to communicate health and safety emergency information quickly via email, text message, and social media. All students are automatically enrolled in 911 Cellular through their myCT email account.

Connect at 911Cellular <https://portal.publicsafetycloud.net/Texas-AM-Central/alert-management> to change where you receive your alerts or to opt out. By staying enrolled in 911Cellular, university officials can quickly pass on safety-related information, regardless of your location.

## **DROP POLICY**

If you discover that you need to drop this class, you must complete a Drop Request Form

[https://www.tamuct.edu/registrar/docs/Drop\\_Request\\_Form.pdf](https://www.tamuct.edu/registrar/docs/Drop_Request_Form.pdf).

Professors cannot drop students; this is always the responsibility of the student. The Registrar's Office will provide a deadline on the University Calendar for which the form must be completed, signed and returned. Once you return the signed form to the Registrar's Office, you must go into Warrior Web and confirm that you are no longer enrolled. If you still show as enrolled, FOLLOW-UP with the Registrar's Office immediately. You are to attend class until the procedure is complete to avoid penalty for absence. Should you miss the drop deadline or fail to follow the procedure, you will receive an F in the course, which may affect your financial aid and/or VA educational benefits.

## **TUTORING**

Tutoring is available to all A&M-Central Texas students, both on-campus and online. On-campus subjects tutored include Accounting, Advanced Math, Biology, Finance, Statistics, Mathematics, and Study Skills. Tutors are available at the Tutoring Center in Warrior Hall, Suite 111.

If you have a question regarding tutor schedules, need to schedule a tutoring session, are interested in becoming a tutor, or any other question, contact Academic Support Programs at 254-519-5796, or by emailing Larry Davis at [lmdavis@tamuct.edu](mailto:lmdavis@tamuct.edu).

Chat live with a tutor 24/7 for almost any subject on your computer! Tutor.com is an online tutoring platform that enables A&M-Central Texas students to log-in and receive FREE online tutoring and writing support. This tool provides tutoring in over forty subject areas. Access Tutor.com through Canvas.

## **THE UNIVERSITY WRITING CENTER**

Located in 416 Warrior Hall, the University Writing Center (UWC) at Texas A&M University-Central Texas is a free workspace open to all TAMUCT students from 10am-5pm Monday-Thursday with satellite hours in the University Library on Mondays from 6:00-9:00pm. Students may arrange a one-on-one session with a

trained and experienced writing tutor by visiting the UWC during normal operating hours (both half-hour and hour sessions are available) or by making an appointment via WOnline <https://tamuct.mywconline.com/>. In addition, you can email Dr. Bruce Bowles Jr. at [bruce.bowles@tamuct.edu](mailto:bruce.bowles@tamuct.edu) to schedule an online tutoring session. Tutors are prepared to help writers of all levels and abilities at any stage of the writing process.

While tutors will not write, edit, or grade papers, they will assist students in developing more effective composing practices. By providing a practice audience for students' ideas and writing, our tutors highlight the ways in which they read and interpret students' texts, offering guidance and support throughout the various stages of the writing process. In addition, students may work independently in the UWC by checking out a laptop that runs the Microsoft Office suite and connects to WIFI, or by consulting our resources on writing, including all of the relevant style guides. Whether you need help brainstorming ideas, organizing an essay, proofreading, understanding proper citation practices, or just want a quiet place to work, the University Writing Center is here to help!

If you have any questions about the University Writing Center, please do not hesitate to contact Dr. Bruce Bowles Jr. at [bruce.bowles@tamuct.edu](mailto:bruce.bowles@tamuct.edu).

## **UNIVERSITY LIBRARY**

The University Library provides many services in support of research across campus and at a distance. We offer over 200 electronic databases containing approximately 250,000 eBooks and 82,000 journals, in addition to the 72,000 items in our print collection, which can be mailed to students who live more than 50 miles from campus. Research guides for each subject taught at A&M-Central Texas are available through our website to help students navigate these resources. On-campus, the library offers technology including cameras, laptops, microphones, webcams, and digital sound recorders.

Research assistance from a librarian is also available twenty-four hours a day through our online chat service, and at the reference desk when the library is open. Research sessions can be scheduled for more comprehensive assistance, and may take place on Skype or in-person at the library. Assistance may cover many topics, including how to find articles in peer-reviewed journals, how to cite resources, and how to piece together research for written assignments.

Our 27,000-square-foot facility on the A&M-Central Texas main campus includes student lounges, private study rooms, group work spaces, computer labs, family areas suitable for all ages, and many other features. Services such as interlibrary loan, TexShare, binding, and laminating are available. The library frequently offers workshops, tours, readings, and other events. For more information, please visit our Library website <https://tamuct.libguides.com/>.

## **IMPORTANT UNIVERSITY DATES**

August 28, Add/Drop/Late Registration begins

August 30, Add/Drop/Late Registration ends, 16-week and 1st 8-week classes

September 1, Priority Deadline to Submit Graduation Application

September 4, Labor Day, CAMPUS CLOSED  
September 5, Last day to drop 1st 8-week classes with no record  
September 13, Last day to drop 16-week classes with no record  
September 22, Last day to drop a 1st 8-week class with a Q or withdraw with a W  
October 6, Deadline to submit graduation  
October 20, Last day to withdraw from the University (1st 8-week classes WF)  
October 23, Add/Drop/Late Registration begins, 2nd 8-week classes  
October 26, Add/Drop/Late Registration ends, 2nd 8-week classes  
October 30, Last day to drop 2nd 8-week classes with no record  
November 10, Veteran's Day  
November 10, Last day to drop with a Q or withdraw with a W (16-week classes)  
November 17, Last day to drop a 2nd 8-week class with a Q or withdraw with a W  
November 23-24, Thanksgiving, CAMPUS CLOSED  
December 15, Last day to withdraw from the University (16-week and 2nd 8-week classes)  
December 15, Last day to file for Degree Conferral (Registrar's Office)  
December 15, Commencement (End of Fall Term)  
December 25-January 1, WINTER BREAK

#### **A NOTE ABOUT SEXUAL VIOLENCE AT A&M-CENTRAL TEXAS**

Sexual violence is a serious safety, social justice, and public health issue. The university offers support for anyone struggling with these issues. University faculty are mandated reporters, so if someone discloses that they were sexually assaulted (or a victim of Domestic/Dating Violence or Stalking) while a student at TAMUCT, faculty members are required to inform the Title IX Office. If you want to discuss any of these issues confidentially, you can do so through Student Counseling (254-501-5955) located on the second floor of Warrior Hall (207L).

Sexual violence can occur on our campus because predators often feel emboldened, and victims often feel silenced or shamed. It is incumbent on ALL of us to find ways to actively create environments that tell predators we don't agree with their behaviors and tell survivors we will support them. Your actions matter. Don't be a bystander; be an agent of change. For additional information on campus policy and resources visit the Title IX webpage

<https://www.tamuct.edu/departments/compliance/titleix.php>.