



Texas A&M
UNIVERSITY
Central Texas

HLS 5308
Victimology
Spring 2021

Class Location: Online
Class Hours: Mondays, 6:00-8:45 pm
Instructor: Floyd Berry, PhD
Office: HH 204 S (not used during pandemic)
Email: (*prefer Canvas message*) fberry@tamuct.edu
NOTE: If contacting instructor *outside* of Canvas, students must use their official TAMUCT emails.

1.0 Course Description

This course includes a comprehensive study of victimization, including the relationship between the victims and offenders, and their interaction with the criminal justice system. Students will provide a literature review on a topic of interest.

2.0 Accessing Canvas

This is an online course that meets for roughly three hours, one day per week. The student accesses Canvas at <https://tamuct.onecampus.com/> or on the TAMUCT website ("MY CT") at <https://www.tamuct.edu>.

3.0 Course Objectives

1. Students will demonstrate a knowledge of the history of victimology as a field of study.
2. Students will be able to elaborate on theories of victimology and how they differ from theories of criminology.
3. Students will express the major consequences of victimization.
4. Students will be able to identify the major types of victimization in the criminal justice system.
5. Students will report on websites pertaining to victimology.
6. Students will meaningfully participate in class discussions over required reading material.
7. Students will submit acceptable essays for mid-term and final exams. To be accepted, the student shall discuss all aspects of an essay question, using standard English prose and grammatical construction.

4.0 Textbook

4.1 Required for Course

Daigle, L. E., & Muftić, L. R. (2020). *Victimology* (2nd ed.). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.

4.2 List of Unrequired Reading

- Burgess, A. W., Regehr, C., & Roberts, A. R. (2013). *Victimology: Theories and applications* (2nd ed.). Burlington, MA: Jones and Bartlett.
- Daigle, L. E. (2018). *Victimology: The essentials* (2nd ed.). Los Angeles: Sage.
- Davies, P., Francis, P., & Greer, C. (2007). *Victims, crime, and society*. Los Angeles: Sage.
- Hindelang, M. J., Gottfredson, M. R., & Garofalo, J. (1978). *Victims of personal crime: An empirical foundation for a theory of personal victimization*. Cambridge, MA: Ballinger.
- Schafer, S. (1968). *The victim and his criminal: A study in functional responsibility*. New York: Random House.
- von Hentig, H. (1948/1979). *The criminal & his victim: Studies in the sociobiology of crime*. New York: Schocken.
- Walklate, S. (Ed.). (2018). *Handbook of victims and victimology* (2nd ed.). London: Routledge.

5.0 Course Requirements

5.1 Exams (400 pts)

The student shall take two exams, a mid-term and a final. The exams are “take-home” exams in that the student has a week to answer the questions that are presented. Students type on a Microsoft Word document and submits the exam by attaching it to an email (message in Canvas), sent to the instructor. Each exam is valued at 200 points. Students are encouraged to review their work before submission. The mid-term exam will receive comments from the instructor and will be returned to the student. The following rubric will guide the instructor:

Qualities & Criteria	Poor	Good	Excellent
Content <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elements of topics to be addressed • Information is correct • Coherency <p>(Weight: 70%)</p>	Not objective and poorly addresses the issues. Information is unnecessary or insufficient to discuss the issues. (0-109 pts)	Mostly objective and addresses most of the issues. Information is mostly necessary and sufficient to discuss the issues. (110-131 pts)	Objective and addresses all the issues. Information is necessary and sufficient to discuss the issues. (132-140 pts)
Quality of Writing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clarity • Grammar and English usage • Organization and coherence <p>(Weight: 30%)</p>	Poorly written and contains flagrant spelling and grammatical errors. Poorly organized, lacks clarity, and is incoherent. (0-40 pts)	Mostly well-written, without egregious spelling or grammatical errors. Organized, clear, and ideas are presented in coherent ways. (41-55 pts)	Well-written, without egregious spelling or grammatical errors. Well organized, clear, and ideas are presented in coherent ways. (56-60 pts)

A week before each exam, the instructor will provide students with two exam questions. This practice provides the student with a week’s worth of preparation.

NOTE: Graduate students are expected to have adequate knowledge of the essentials of grammar, writing style, and essay organization in accordance with writing manuals. If the student does *not* have adequate knowledge in these areas, then the purchase and use of additional books are highly recommended. The University Writing Center is also available to students. Failure to provide written work in accordance with the essentials of acceptable, English writing style will result in poor grades. Examples of non-standard English usage include, among other things, sentence fragments, run-ons, dangling modifiers, lack of agreement between pronouns and their antecedents or subjects and verbs, bulleted items, slashes, flagrant misuse of punctuation, slang or abbreviated expressions, “etc.” or “*et cetera*,” and excessive use of metaphorical language. In Modules, there is a Power Point on “Typical Problems with Essay Exams.” Students should review this Power Point.

How to Submit Exams: Use Times New Roman 12 point, double spaced. Do not use citations or quotations. Attach your Word document to a message in Canvas and send it to your instructor.

5.2 Class Participation (300 pts)

Students are expected to participate in online class discussions, indicating an understanding of the reading material and how to apply it. Students are to read assigned material before class. Students earn a point for each of two questions that are posted by the instructor. Thus, the student earns 0-2 points on each class day (total of 12 days), which correspond to the following, class participation grade:

Points	Grade	Points	Grade	Points	Grade
24	300	16	200	8	100
23	288	15	188	7	88
22	275	14	175	6	75
21	263	13	163	5	63
20	250	12	150	4	50
19	238	11	138	3	38
18	225	10	125	2	25
17	213	9	113	1	13

The student answers two questions that are posed by the instructor, under Discussions in Canvas. The student is not to quote or cite sources. All information is from the course textbook.

NOTE: The graduate student is allowed one absence without major deduction of points (based on Class Participation rubric). A second absence, however, results in a lowering of final course grade (e.g., A becomes B, B becomes C).

5.3 Academic Integrity Document

During the first week of class, the student is to read the section in the syllabus on Academic Integrity (§ 8.0) and the link provided in that section regarding plagiarism. Students must read the document (also in Canvas, under Modules) pertaining to Academic Integrity and send emails to the instructor that they understand Academic Integrity.. **NOTE: Students will not be allowed to continue in the course without notifying the instructor of their comprehension of this material.** Examples of academic dishonesty in this course might be having someone do the student's work or plagiarizing from internet sites.

5.4 Website Reports (300 pts)

The student shall report on all websites mentioned in the required readings of Martin's *Understanding Homeland Security* and Sylves' *Disaster Policy and Politics*. When reading the assigned chapters, the student will note every website mentioned and investigate them. First, the student will report whether the website is still operative or whether the website URL has changed. Second, the student will briefly report on the contents of the website, i.e., what information is available at the website.

Using a Microsoft Word document, the student will enter his name in the header and provide a page number in the upper right (usually, the commands **Insert**, **Page Number**, **Top of Page**, and **Plain Number 3** will work). At the top of the first page, centered and bolded, will be the chapter number and book (e.g., **Chapter 1-Martin**, or **Chapter 1-Sylves**). In the body of the paper, the student simply lists the name of the website and its URL and underscores them. Underneath, the students type what they discovered in accessing the website. The student continues this practice for all websites, using double-space, Times New Roman 12 typeface, and normal margins.

These reports are submitted as attachments to an email (see Course Calendar for due date). The grade will reflect the proportion of websites correctly discovered and investigated.

6.0 Grading Matrix and Conversion

6.1 Matrix

	Points
Exams (2 @ 200)	400
Class Participation	300
Website Reports	300
Academic Integrity Acknowledgement	-----
<i>Total:</i>	1000

6.2 Conversion to Course Letter Grade

Points	%	Grade
900 – 1000	90 – 100	A
800 – 899	80 – 89	B
700 – 799	70 – 79	C
600 – 699	60 – 69	D
0 – 599	0 – 59	F

7.0 Course Calendar¹

Date	Topic	Readings ²	Assignments Due
1/25/21	Syllabus Academic Integrity	Syllabus Academic Integrity readings (§ 8.0 of syllabus)	
2/1/21	Introduction	Ch 1	Academic Integrity acknowledgement by 6 pm
2/8/21	Theories	Ch. 2	
2/15/21	Victim-offender overlap	Ch. 3	
2/22/21	Consequences	Ch. 4	
3/1/21	Recurring victimization	Ch. 5	
3/8/21	Mid-term xam		
3/15/21	Spring Break		
3/22/21	Homicide	Ch. 7	
4/5/21	Sexual predation	Ch. 8	
4/12/21	Intimate Partner	Ch. 9	
4/19/21	Children & elders	Ch. 10	
4/26/21	Special populations	Ch. 11	
5/3/21	School and work	Ch. 12	Website Reports due
5/10/21	Final exam		Meet at Library

¹ Events are subject to minor revision (see § 15.0).

² **M** = Martin, *Understanding Homeland Security*; **S** = Sylves, *Disaster policy and politics*

8.0 Academic Integrity

TAMUCT expects all students to maintain high standards of personal and scholarly conduct. Students guilty of academic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary action. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work, plagiarism, self-plagiarism (“recycling”), or collusion. The instructor shall initiate action for each case of academic dishonesty and report it to the Associate Director of Student Conduct. Zero points will be assigned for any course product that violates academic honesty. The student should access this link for more information: <https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/student-conduct.html>.

9.0 Disability Support

If students believe that this course may present barriers to learning due to a disability, they must contact Access and Inclusion at (254) 501-5831 in Warrior Hall, Ste. 212. For more information, students may visit their website at <https://www.tamuct.edu/student->

[affairs/access-inclusion.html](#). Any information that the student provides is private and confidential and will be treated as such. The instructor cannot accommodate students' disabilities unless they first communicate with Access and Inclusion. The director of Access and Inclusion is Donald Norman.

10.0 Diversity in the Classroom

Respect for cultural and human biological diversity are core concepts within the social sciences. In this course, each voice in the classroom has value in contributing to class discussion. The student should respect the different experiences, beliefs, and values expressed by one's fellow students and instructor, and refrain from derogatory comments about other individuals, cultures, groups, or viewpoints. In this course we welcome individuals of all ages, backgrounds, citizenships, disabilities, education, ethnicities, family statuses, genders, gender identities, geographical locations, languages, military experiences, political views, races, religions, sexual orientations, socioeconomic statuses, and work experiences.

11.0 Classroom Etiquette

Students shall show respect to other students and to the instructor in all communications, whether verbal or in writing (e.g., online). For example, making rude or threatening remarks or gestures, arguing, complaining, and challenging that is not based on readings, rationality, and the course objectives are all violations of classroom etiquette.

12.0 Writing Center

The University Writing Center (UWC) at Texas A&M University-Central Texas is a free workspace open to all TAMUCT students. The UWC is located in Warrior Hall, Rm 416. One may contact Dr. Bruce Bowles at bruce.bowles@tamuct.edu for more information.

13.0 Late Work

As a rule, make-up work for exams is not offered. *The mid-term exam may be made up with instructor approval; however, in no instance will that make-up be given later than two weeks from the original exam date. To be considered as a prospect for making up the mid-term exam, the student must contact the instructor within 24 hours of having missed the exam for purposes of making it up.* The final course grade will be posted within a few days of the final exam; therefore, *no incompletes will be awarded for this course.* If students foresee that they will be unable to complete the course, then they should either drop the course or accept the posted grade.

14.0 Student's Expectation of Grades

If students foresee that their scores in class participation, reaction comments, or essays are unacceptable, they may wish to drop the course. Absences for any reasons, including medical, cannot be used to exempt one from the requirements of the course. For example, students may inform the instructor that they will not or did not make class(es) for some reason. While the instructor appreciates the information about

absences, students should not expect that they will be afforded leniency or a recalculation of grades based on this information. All students in a class must be treated fairly and equally. If students foresee that they will be unable to earn the grade they desire, then they should either drop the course or accept the posted grade.

15.0 Modification of the Syllabus

This syllabus may be revised in minor ways at the discretion of the instructor. The student is responsible for noting any changes in the syllabus. More than likely, a change in the syllabus will pertain to typos or events in the course calendar (§ 7.0). If modified, a revised course calendar will be posted on Canvas and will replace § 7.0 of the syllabus.

16.0 Contact with the Instructor

The student should contact the instructor via the message feature of Canvas about any topic or issue that pertains to the course. If students contact the instructor through the instructor's official TAMUCT email, they must use their own official TAMUCT email. Many personal emails find their way to the junk folder by default.

17.0 Announcements

The student is responsible for checking Canvas for ongoing announcements or messages pertaining to the course. For example, if a class is cancelled due to inclement weather, students would benefit from checking messages about the class cancellation and thus be able to alter their travel schedules.