**The University of North Texas**

**Department of Criminal Justice**

**CJUS 4650.001: Victimology**

**Spring 2014**

**Instructor:** Andrekus Dixon, M.S. Criminal Justice

**Time:** MWF 8:00am – 8:50am

**Room:** BLB 245

**Office Hours:** After class or by appointment

**Phone:** 940-349-3352 (office)

**e-mail:** AndrekusDixon@my.unt.edu

**Course Description:**

Traditionally, criminologists and criminal justice professionals have focused considerable attention upon the offender and the “criminal’s” justice system that processes transgressors. However, the past few years have seen new interest riveted on the other forgotten member of the criminal dyad: the victim. While some observers might prefer to look at the scientific study of victims as merely another facet or extension of criminology and criminal justice, other scholars have hailed the emergence of victimology as a long overdue development. The victimological movement, which includes both academicians and practitioners, has achieved significant strides over the past four decades. The purpose of this course, then, is to introduce students to these developments and to alert them to ongoing victim-related issues.

**Goals and Objectives:**

While at least one victimological pioneer, Beniamin Mendelsohn, argues that the term “victimology” encompasses more than just crime victims, this course will confine attention solely to criminal victimization. Such an orientation, while being somewhat restrictive, allows greater exploration of a variety of issues within a single intellectual realm. Consequently, the goals of this course are:

* To introduce the student to the development of the field of victimology;
* To delineate the conceptual boundaries of victimology;
* To familiarize the student with basic concepts and literature within various subareas of victimology;

* To explore policy developments and practical applications that stem from this concern over victims;
* To assess the progress away from a *criminal* justice system toward achieving a *victim* justice system.

**Textbook:**

The assigned text listed below is required for all students enrolled in this course. Reading assignments are noted in the Course Calendar. All students are expected to read the assigned chapters prior to the date specified in the Course Calendar. The assigned readings will serve as a foundation for the discussion of the issues in class as well as test material.

William G. Doerner and Steven P. Lab (2012). *Victimology,* 6th ed. Boston: Anderson Publishing /Elsevier. ISBN: 978-1-4377-3486-7

**Grade Breakdown**

Grades are based on your earned point totals for the semester.

Exams 300 points (3 @ 100 pts each)

Final Exam 200 points

**Total Points 500 points**

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| --- |
| **Final Grade Scale**  450-500 = A  400-449 = B  350-399 = C  300-349 = D  299 and below = F |

**Extra Credit:**

There may be extra credit given but this will be at the discretion of the professor. If this opportunity presents itself, this will be for the entire class and not one individual person.

**Attendance Policy:**

I expect every student to attend class regularly and promptly. Attendance will be taken at some point throughout each class meeting. Students are allowed a maximum of **three** absences during the semester. **There are no excused /unexcused: you are allowed three, use them for whatever you deem necessary. Remember, however, if you are absent on the day an assignment or extra credit is given, you forfeit those points as they cannot be made up.**

If you have more than three absences, the professor reserves the right to reduce your final grade by ten points for every absence after the three allowed. A student who is absent from a class session is responsible for the subject matter discussed during that particular session. **I do not give out my lecture notes.** Notes missed (from lecture, guest speaker, presentations, ect.) will need to be obtained from a fellow classmate. It will be extremely difficult for you to obtain an acceptable grade in this course if you miss class consistently. Excused make-up exams will be taken the next class day and unexcused will be taken with a 30 point deduction, to be fair to all students.

**ADA Statement**

The University of North Texas complies with Section 504 of the 1973 Rehabilitation Act and with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. The University of North Texas provides academic adjustments and auxiliary aids to individuals with disabilities, as defined under the law. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring accommodation, please see the instructor and/or contact the Office of Disability Accommodation at 940-565-4323 during the first week of class.

**Academic Honesty**

I regret that I should even have to mention the issue of cheating, but here it is: If I catch you, the very least you can expect is an F. Honor and integrity is the very core of Criminal Justice and I value my profession and its reputation very highly. Academic integrity is a hallmark of higher education.  You are expected to abide by the University’s code of conduct and Academic Dishonesty policy.  Any person suspected of academic dishonesty (i.e., cheating or plagiarism) will be handled in accordance with the University’s policies and procedures.  Refer to the Student Code of Conduct at <http://www.unt.edu/csrr/student_conduct/index.html> for complete provisions of this code.

**Course Evaluations:**

Instead of in-class evaluations of the course, students are now asked to complete the Student Evaluation of Teaching Effectiveness (SETE) which will be made available on-line. Towards the end of the semester, I will make an announcement as to when the SETE will be available to access. I would like to encourage you to complete these evaluations as they often provide useful feedback.

**Classroom Policy:**

It is very important that students show respect and remain orderly while in class. Incivility is prohibited. Conduct that is considered disorderly is: **talking while someone else is talking, profanity, sleeping, and any other type of disruptive noise. Cell phones must be away during class time. NO TEXTING DURING CLASS TIME.**  If a student is found guilty of any of the following misconducts, he/she will be asked to leave the class and will be considered absent for that particular day. If the conduct is persistent, students will be reported to the Dean of Student Services to receive appropriate disciplinary action.

All **cell phones and any other electronic device** must be turned off or on a silent mode prior to entering the classroom.

**Children in the Classroom:**

Due to the University policy, liability concerns, and the course material, children are not permitted in this class, no exceptions.

**Final Points**

Please do not hesitate to come to the professor with any questions, problems, or issues you may have. Do not wait to address these issues until it is too late for you to receive an acceptable grade. You will find the professor to be very approachable and eager to address any problems with you in a professional manner.

**Course Calendar and Topics**

Although we will attempt to adhere to the schedule of topics listed and described below, the course schedule should be viewed as highly flexible. Consequently, it is your responsibility to come to class, know where we are in the listing of assigned readings irrespective of this schedule, and know the material that we have covered prior to any reading assessment, examination, and/or presentation. Further, there may be additional items added to the calendar throughout the course of the semester.

**Course Calendar**

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| **DATE** | **Topics to be Covered** | **Corresponding Readings** |
| January 13 | Cover Syllabus  Course Overview |  |
| January 15 | The Scope of Victimology | Chapter 1 |
| January 17 | The Scope of Victimology | Chapter 1 |
| January 20 | MLK Day—No Class |  |
| January 22 | The Scope of Victimology | Chapter 1 |
| January 24 | Measuring Criminal Victimization | Chapter 2 |
| January 27 | Measuring Criminal Victimization | Chapter 2 |
| January 29 | Property Victimization | Chapter 3 |
| January 31 | Property Victimization | Chapter 3 |
| February 3 | Property Victimization | Chapter 3 |
| February 5 | **Exam #1** | **Exam #1** |
| February 7 | Personal Victimization | Chapter 4 |
| February 10 | Personal Victimization | Chapter 4 |
| February 12 | Personal Victimization | Chapter 4 |
| February 14 | The Cost of Being a Victim | Chapter 5 |
| February 17 | The Cost of Being a Victim | Chapter 5 |
| February 19 | Remedying the Plight of Victims | Chapter 6 |
| February 21 | Remedying the Plight of Victims | Chapter 6 |
| February 24 | Remedying the Plight of Victims | Chapter 6 |
| February 26 | Restorative Justice | Chapter 7 |
| February 28 | Restorative Justice | Chapter 7 |
| March 3 | Restorative Justice | Chapter 7 |
| March 5 | **Exam #2** | **Exam #2** |
| March 7 | Sexual Battery | Chapter 8 |
| March 10-14 | **Spring Break** |  |
| March 17 | Sexual Battery | Chapter 8 |
| March 19 | Sexual Battery | Chapter 8 |
| March 21 | Intimate Partner Violence | Chapter 9 |
| March 24 | Intimate Partner Violence | Chapter 9 |
| March 26 | Intimate Partner Violence | Chapter 9 |
| March 28 | Child Maltreatment | Chapter 10 |
| March 31 | Child Maltreatment | Chapter 10 |
| April 2 | Crime and the Elderly | Chapter 11 |
| April 4 | Crime and the Elderly | Chapter 11 |
| April 7 | Crime and the Elderly | Chapter 11 |
| April 9 | **Exam #3** | **Exam #3** |
| April 11 | Victimization at Work and School | Chapter 12 |
| April 14 | Victimization at Work and School | Chapter 12 |
| April 16 | Victimization at Work and School | Chapter 12 |
| April 18 | Victim Rights | Chapter 13 |
| April 21 | Movie |  |
| April 23 | Movie |  |
| April 25 | Movie |  |
| April 28 | Victim Rights | Chapter 13 |
| April 30 | **Review for Final** |  |
| May 2 | **Reading Day (No Class)** |  |
| May 5 | **Final Exam**: 8:00am – 9:50am | **Final Exam** |