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**COURSE SYLLABUS**

**CRJ 495: Victimology**

**Spring Semester (Session 2)**

**March 11th - May 5th, 2024**

**INSTRUCTOR:**          Jeff Black, MPA

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**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

An examination of theories and history shaping the biological, psychological, social and environmental characteristics of crime and violent victimization. Emphasis is placed on intersection with issues of race, gender, class, ethnicity, and sexual orientation.

**REQUIRED TEXTBOOK**

Karmen, A. (2016). *Crime victims: An introduction to victimology* (9th ed.). Belmont, CA: Wadsworth.

**STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES**

After completing this course, the student will be able to:

* Demonstrate how victimology is similar to and different from criminology
* Explain the origins and development of victimology as an academic study
* Explain and apply the rediscovery process as it relates to crime victims
* Explain the application of crime data to the study of victimization
* Explain the relationship between lifestyle, routine activities and victimization
* Explain and apply the concepts of victim facilitation, victim blaming, and victim defending
* Identify approaches utilized by the criminal justice system to meet the needs of crime  
  victims

**COURSE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES**

**ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

All assignments must be completed by the learner. Learners are expected to read and adhere to the Academic Integrity section of Reinhardt University’s Academic Catalog. Cases of academic dishonesty may result in expulsion from the University, a failing grade for the course, or a failing grade for the assignment.

The following are recognized as unacceptable forms of academic behavior at Reinhardt University:

* Plagiarizing, that is presenting words or ideas not your own as if they were your own. The words of others must be enclosed in quotation marks and documented. The source of the distinctive ideas must also be acknowledged through appropriate documentation. (NOTE: Strictly adhere to APA citation and referencing guidelines to avoid this).

* Submitting a paper written by another student or another person as if it were your own.

* Submitting a paper containing sentences, paragraphs, or sections lifted from another student’s work or other publication; there must be written documentation.

* Submitting a paper written by you for another course or occasion without the explicit knowledge and consent of the instructor.

* Fabricating evidence or statistics that supposedly represent your original research.

* Cheating of any sort on tests, papers, projects, reports, etc.

* Using the internet inappropriately as a resource. See 3 above.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS/ASSIGNMENTS**

Knowledge of the material presented in this course will be evaluated based on the satisfactory completion of all coursework. Methods of instruction and learning include Module reading assignments, discussion postings, individual research, and essay assignments.

Learners are expected to complete all module activities during the week they are assigned and in the manner prescribed.

**Reading Assignments**

Learner’s are expected to complete the assigned textbook readings for each Module prior to participating in discussions and/or submitting essay assignments. The course textbook is accessed through the "VitalSource Course Materials" link found in the left-side navigation menu.

**Discussion Post Assignments**

Each Module discussion posting must contain a minimum of a 200 word initial response. Due dates for initial postings are listed below. Learners will be penalized 10 points for each day he/she is late on an initial posting. Initial postings will not be accepted 24 hours after the due date.

Initial postings must cite material from the course textbook and use at least one (2 for maximum points) outside scholarly sources cited in accordance with APA guidelines. Posts without both sources of information will not be graded.

Do not use articles that are more than 10 years old and do not use direct quotes from your source(s). Newspaper or magazine articles and books other than the text book for this class should never be used as references. Web sites cannot be used unless they are credible such as the site of a government agency or a highly recognized organization such as a national health organization. The best practice is to never use a nongovernmental web site.

Your original post should contain a summary of the article(s) and your analysis. You need to paraphrase the information into your own words. The second part of the post should be your analysis of the article. You are developing and supporting your opinion. Citations do not count as part of the word count for original postings or responses. Always keep in mind that this is a college class which means you need do college level writing. Your personal experiences should not be used in your posts.

Learners are expected to reply to at least three students in the class with a minimum of a 100 word response for each. To obtain the maximum number of points you should respond to three students. The responses must be substantive in nature by adding additional knowledge to the conversation. Due dates for responses shall be published within Module Academic Requirements. Learners must also respond to any questions posed by the instructor. Your personal experiences should not be used in your responses.

All postings and replies must adhere to APA 7th Edition guidelines regarding citations and referencing. Learners must also employ proper grammar, punctuation, and correct spelling.

**Essay Assignments**

Learners must complete all essay assignments according to due dates listed within Module Academic Requirements. Learners must adhere to the minimum word count specified for each assignment. Assignments must adhere to the citation and referencing guidelines contained in the 7th Edition APA Manual. Learners must also employ proper grammar, punctuation, and correct spelling in all submissions. Answers must cite material from the course textbook and use at least one outside scholarly source cited in accordance with APA guidelines. Answers without both sources of information will not be graded.

Do not use articles that are more than 10 years old and do not use direct quotes from your source(s). Newspaper or magazine articles and books other than the text should never be used as references. Web sites should not be used unless they are credible such as the site of a government agency or a highly recognized organization such as a national health organization. The best practice is to never use a nongovernmental web site.

Your submission should contain a summary of the peer reviewed journal article(s) that you use and your analysis. You need to paraphrase the information into your own words. The second part of the post should be your analysis of the article(s). You are developing and supporting your opinion. Citations do not count as part of the word count for original postings or responses. Direct quotes from sources cannot be used. Always keep in mind that this is a college class which means you need do college level writing. Your personal experiences should not be used in your answers.

**Literature Review**

Students must submit a literature review on a topic approved by the course instructor. The literature review must conform to APA 7th edition standards of formatting and adhere to requirements established in the research paper guide. The completed literature review should be at least 2 pages but not longer than 3 pages.

Do not use reference articles that are more than 10 years old and do not use direct quotes from your source(s). Newspaper or magazine articles and books other than the text book for this class should never be used as references. Web sites should not be used unless they are credible such as the site of a government agency or a highly recognized organization such as a national health organization. The best practice is to never use a nongovernmental web site.

You need to have 4 references on the topic you selected from the topics list.   
  
**EVALUATION & GRADING**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Grade Percentage** | **Corresponding Letter Grade** |
| 90% to 100% | A |
| 80% to 89% | B |
| 70% to 79% | C |
| 60% to 69% | D |
| 0-59% | F |

***NOTE: A final grade of "C" or higher is required for criminal justice students.***

**FINAL AVERAGE BREAKDOWN**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Assignment Category** | **Percentage of Final Grade** |
| Discussion Post Assignments | 30% |
| Essay Assignments | 40% |
| Literature Review | 30% |

**PROJECTED LEARNING SCHEDULE**

**MODULE #1:  Monday, March 11th – Sunday, March 26th, 2024  (2 weeks)**

* Chapter 1: What is Victimology?
* Chapter 2: The Rediscovery of Crime Victims

**MODULE #2: Monday, March 25th – Sunday, March 31st, 2024 (1 week)**

* Chapter 3: Victimization in the United States: An Overview
* Chapter 4: A Closer Look at the Victims of Interpersonal Crimes of Violence and Theft

**MODULE # 3:  Monday, April 1st – Sunday, April 7th, 2024  (1 week)**

* Chapter 5: The Ongoing Controversy over Shared Responsibility
* Chapter 6: Victims and the Police

**MODULE #4: Monday, April 8th – Sunday, April 21st, 2024 (2 weeks)**

* Chapter 7: Victims' Rights and the Criminal Justice System

**MODULE #5: Monday, April 22nd – Sunday, May 5th, 2024 (2 weeks)**

* Chapter 12: Repaying Victims

**ONLINE ATTENDANCE AND WITHDRAWAL POLICY**

Students are accountable for all required work in each of their courses. They must assume full responsibility for class attendance in a way satisfactory to the instructor and for work missed because of absence. Since class sessions function not merely for individual learning but also for group interaction, absences can become a serious problem both for the individual and for the group.

Online courses are generally delivered over a period of eight weeks (7 weeks for summer sessions) with activities and assignments specified for each week. An online week is defined as being Monday 12:00 AM through Sunday at 11:59 PM. Deadlines for attendance are based on Eastern Standard Time (or EDT depending on time of year).

A student will be considered in attendance for a given week of online instruction if he or she participates in the course. Participation is defined as posting a response to a discussion assignment or submitting a completed course room activity/assignment during the online week prior to Sunday at 11:59 PM (EST).

**Initial Course Participation**  
A student who fails to participate during the first 8 calendar days of a course shall be administratively dropped from the course.

**Ongoing Course Participation**  
Ongoing course participation is satisfied through the continued completion of course room activities, such as written assignments, quizzes, or discussion question responses. Students who do not participate in a course for 7 or more consecutive days are not satisfying ongoing course participation.

Students who are not satisfying the ongoing course participation requirement shall be notified by a University representative via University email. The learner must resume participation in the course within 3 calendar days following the sending of the notification.  
Students who do not resume participation in the course will be administratively withdrawn from the course and be issued a grade of “W” or “F”.

A grade of “W’ will be issued if an administrative or voluntary withdrawal occurs before 11:59 PM (EST) on Monday of the fifth week of the course.

A grade of “F” will be issued if an administrative or voluntary withdrawal occurs after 11:59 PM (EST) on Monday of the fifth week of the course.

Students may be impacted academically and financially in the case of voluntary and administrative withdrawals. It is the student’s responsibility to understand these implications.

**NON-DISCRIMINATION STATEMENT**  
Reinhardt University does not discriminate in any of its policies, programs, or activities on the basis of race, color, age, culture, national origin, socioeconomic status, gender, religious belief, sexual orientation, physical (dis)ability or genetic information.

**LITERATURE REVIEW REQUIREMENTS**

A literature review is an examination of the existing research about a topic. It is as simple as that so there is no need to worry. Follow these guidelines and you will not have any problems.

1. Pick a topic  
Choose a topic that you are personally interested in because the work will be more pleasant if you like the topic. Then do a quick check to see if there are enough journal articles available to ensure you will have sufficient material to complete the assignment. You do not want to begin the review and then discover that there is very little extant research about the topic. Since that is likely to happen, you may want to explore multiple topics so you can find one that will yield enough information.

Your topic should relate to one of the following student learning outcomes:

* Demonstrate how victimology is similar to and different from criminology
* Explain the origins and development of victimology as an academic study
* Explain and apply the rediscovery process as it relates to crime victims
* Explain the application of crime data to the study of victimization
* Explain the relationship between lifestyle, routine activities and victimization
* Explain and apply the concepts of victim facilitation, victim blaming, and victim defending
* Identify approaches utilized by the criminal justice system to meet the needs of crime  
  victims.

2. Submit your topic  
I will approve almost any topic that is related to victimology because I want you to have as wide a range of topics as possible but it must be related to the course. Your topic choice will be due during Module #1.

3. Find your articles  
As usual, the articles should be full length and peer reviewed. There are a lot of journals that you can use so some of you may have to limit the amount of information that you find. You do not have to find every article about your topic. You will know when to stop when the articles you are finding no longer reveal anything new about the topic.

4. Write.  
There are two ways to do a literature review. One is to find your articles and read them all as a group and write the review as a collection. Another way is to pick one article and review it by itself. Then pick another article and add to the information from the first article. Then pick a third article and review it and so on. One advantage of the second method is it gives immediate results. One article is all you need to get started. Check the citation information of all articles while you look at them or after you print them out. Not all journals provide the information in the same format. You do not want to have to go back and find an article that you looked at two weeks before just to get the issue number.

Remember what the purpose of a literature review is---an examination of research. It is not an opportunity to editorialize or to give your opinion. You are gathering knowledge and passing it on. However, that does not mean that you should be one sided about your topic. Not everyone that does research agrees. You should work to find articles that relate to all sides of your topic. It will result in more depth in your coverage of the topic and you will have more to write about. ALSO, DO NOT USE DIRECT QUOTES. THE BODY OF THE REVIEW MUST BE 3-5 PAGES IN LENGTH. STUDY THE GRADING RUBRIC SO YOU HAVE AN UNDERSTANDING OF WHAT ELSE IS EXPECTED.

5. References  
Provide your references using APA format and double check to make sure the in text citations and references match. You do not want a citation that does not have a reference and vice versa.

A target for the number of references is an average of 3 per page. USE ONLY PEER REVIEWED JOURNAL ARTICLES.