

VICTIMOLOGY
CRJU 4430
Fall Semester, 2014
Online Course

Professor (August 18 – October 17): Dr. Heidi Scherer

Professor (October 20 – December 15): Dr. Jennifer McMahon-Howard

As your instructor, we are here to help you succeed. We can offer assistance through e-mail or via phone. Use D2L mail to set up an appointment if you need help with an assignment or if you would like to talk about the course content. For the first half of the semester (see dates above), please contact Dr. Scherer. For the second half of the semester (see dates above), please contact Dr. McMahon-Howard.

- Online Office Hours: By appointment only.
- Responses to your work: Unless you are notified otherwise, grades and feedback will be posted within one week of the assignment deadline. In general, grades will appear in the “Grades” section on D2L and feedback can be found in the same place where you submitted your work.
- Responses to Student E-mails: I will respond to student e-mails within 48 hours Monday-Friday, starting on the first day of class.

Course Description: An overview of the basic concepts of criminal victimization, including society's response to victims and their problems.

Expected Course Outcomes: Upon successful completion of this course, students should be able to:

- Demonstrate an understanding of the role of victims in the criminal justice system
- Describe the effects of victimization on individuals
- Critique the treatment of victims by criminal justice agencies
- Discuss social implications of victimization
- Discover services available to victims
- Evaluate victim-assistance and prevention programs
- Promote awareness of victim-related issues
- Offer policy ideas to improve treatment of victims and reduce victimization in our society.

Texts:

- Karmen, Andrew. 2013. *Crime Victims: An Introduction to Victimology*, 8th Edition. Wadsworth/Thomson Learning.

Course Requirements:

This course is divided into weekly learning modules. Within each learning module, you will find the Learning Objectives, Required Readings, Powerpoint Slides, Discussions, and Quizzes. **For each module, you will have one discussion post due by 11:59 pm on the Tuesday before the module due date as well as a second discussion post and a quiz due by 11:59 pm on the module due date.** The assigned readings and the due dates for each module can be found in the Course Calendar, which is posted on the Course Homepage. All modules are “open” for two weeks prior to the module due

date. Therefore, you can complete the modules ahead of the due date. Late work will not be accepted. In addition to the weekly learning modules, which include required discussions and quizzes, you will be required to complete 2 exams and write a research paper. Given that this is an on-line course, a reliable internet connection is required (please review the technology requirements in the “Start Here” folder on the home page. A lack of internet access does not excuse missing due dates).

Evaluation: Your grade will be based on the following:

Final grades will be determined based upon the following scale:

A (90+), **B** (80 - 89), **C** (70 - 79), **D** (60 - 69), **F** (<60)

Discussions (10%): Students are required to post to our D2L discussion board on topics posted in each learning module. Students are also required to respond to another student's posting. Thus, a total of 2 separate postings are required for each module. For the original post (1st post), students should *use ideas/concepts from the assigned course readings* to address all of the questions/issues included in the specific discussion post instructions. **This first post must be submitted by 11:59 pm on the Tuesday prior to the module due date.** For the response to another student's post (2nd post), students should *use ideas/concepts from the assigned course readings* to provide a critical assessment of the student's post (agreeing or disagreeing with the post). **This second post must be submitted by 11:59 pm on the module due date.** Although students must base their posts on the ideas/concepts from the assigned readings, the posts must be written in the students' own words (do not copy sentences/paragraphs verbatim from the chapters/powerpoints/articles). *Late postings will not be accepted and there are no make-ups for missed/late discussion posts.* The grading criteria for the online discussion posts can be found in the “Rubrics” folder on the course content page. The posts will be **graded according to their relevance to our readings and the student's ability to display some analytical insight.** Since we will be discussing and debating a number of controversial issues in victimology, it is important to point out that students are expected to treat each other with respect at all times. All arguments and critiques should be based on empirical evidence and logical reasoning.

Quizzes (20%): Quizzes will be given for each module. For each quiz, you will have 40 minutes to answer 20 multiple-choice questions. All module quizzes are “open” for two weeks prior to the module due date and they are due by **11:59 pm on the module due date.** **No make-up quizzes will be given;** however, I will drop your lowest quiz score. If you miss a quiz, then that quiz will be the one I drop.

Exams (40%): You will be given a midterm and a final exam consisting of 100 multiple-choice questions. You have two hours to complete each exam. Each exam is worth 100 points. **Both exams are “open” one week prior to the exam due date and they are due by 11:59 pm on the exam due date (see course calendar).** Since the exams are available for an entire week, make-up exams will only be given under *very* limited conditions (i.e., hospitalization), which will require documentation, and you must

contact the professor *prior to* the exam to be considered eligible for a possible make-up exam (make-up exams may be essay exams). Do not wait until the last minute to complete the exams.

Research Paper: All students must write a 6-10 page research paper on a topic related to victimology. Specific instructions are posted in the “Research Paper” folder in D2L. The paper is **due at 11: 59 pm on December 4, 2014**. There is a 10 point penalty for each day (24 hour period) the paper is submitted late. **Papers must be submitted in the Dropbox** on D2L. NOTE: A plagiarism detection program, turnitin.com, is utilized in D2L and will be activated for your paper submissions.

Academic Integrity: Every KSU student is responsible for upholding the provisions of the Student Code of Conduct, as published in the Undergraduate and Graduate catalogs. Section II of the Student Code of Conduct addresses the University’s policy on academic honesty, including provisions regarding plagiarism and cheating, unauthorized access to University materials, misrepresentation/falsification of University records or academic work, malicious removal, retention, or destruction of library materials, malicious/intentional misuse of computer facilities and/or services, and misuse of student identification cards. Incidents of alleged academic misconduct will be handled through the established procedures of the University Judiciary Program, which includes either an “informal” resolution by a faculty member, resulting in a grade adjustment, or a formal hearing procedure, which may subject a student to the Code of Conduct’s minimum one semester suspension requirement. **All of the work in this course is assigned individually and should be completed individually. Failure to follow this rule will qualify as academic dishonesty.**

Disruption of Campus Life Statement: It is the purpose of the institution to provide a campus environment, which encourages academic accomplishment, personal growth, and a spirit of understanding and cooperation. An important part of maintaining such an environment is the commitment to protect the health and safety of every member of the campus community. Belligerent, abusive, profane, threatening and/or inappropriate behavior on the part of students is a violation of the Kennesaw State University Student Conduct Regulations. Students who are found guilty of such misconduct may be subject to immediate dismissal from the institution. In addition, these violations of state law may also be subject to criminal action beyond the University disciplinary process.

Plagiarism and Cheating: No student shall receive, attempt to receive, knowingly give or attempt to give unauthorized assistance in the preparation of any work required to be submitted for credit as part of a course (including examinations, laboratory reports, essays, themes, term papers, etc.). When direct quotations are used, they should be indicated, and when the ideas, theories, data, figures, graphs, programs, electronic based information or illustrations of someone other than the student are incorporated into a paper or used in a project, they should be duly acknowledged.

Student Support Services: Kennesaw State University welcomes all students, recognizing that variations of abilities contribute to a richly diverse campus life. The Student Development Center offers the following programs: Adult Learner Programs, Minority Student Retention Services, International Student Retention Services, Odyssey Peer Mentoring Program. Please visit the [Student Development Center](#) for additional information.

disAbled Student Support Services: A number of services are available to help

students with disabilities with their academic work. In order to make arrangements for special services, students should visit the office and make an appointment to arrange an individual assistance plan. Students who wish to participate in an activity or program offered by the university and need accommodations should contact the office sponsoring the program at least five days prior to the program so that arrangements can be made. The course strives to meet all Americans with Disabilities Act guidelines and regulations. Please visit the [disAbled Student Support Services](#) website for additional information and obtain any necessary accommodations.

Writing Center: The Writing Center is more than a free service available to all members of the university community; it is a place where anyone who writes—those who love it, those who struggle with it, and everyone in between—can come for help in becoming a better writer. In fact, that is the goal of the Writing Center: to produce not just better writing but better writers. Please visit it at:

<http://www.kennesaw.edu/english/WritingCenter/index.shtml>

Drop Date: The last day to drop without academic penalty is October 8, 2014.