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CJ1307, SECTION 01E, CRIME IN AMERICA

COURSE SYLLABUS: SPRING 2022

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Emily M. Homer, Ph.D. (she/her/hers)

Office Location: Ferguson Social Sciences 219

Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:30-10:30 AM and 1-3 PM in my office. If you let me know, I will be available via Zoom. You are also very welcome to schedule a meeting at a time that works for both of us.

Office Phone: 903-468-3259

Office Fax: 903-886-5330

University Email Address: emily.homer@tamuc.edu

Preferred Form of Communication: E-mail

Communication Response Time: E-mail is the best way to contact me. I will respond to email and phone calls within 24 hours in most cases, 48 hours on weekends or holidays. If you do not receive a response within that timeframe, please reach out again.

COURSE INFORMATION

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings

Textbook(s) Required: J. S. Baughman, V. Bondi, R. Layman, T. McConnell, & V. Tompkins (Eds.). (2001). *American Decades*. Gale. *available via Waters library ebook
Software Required: Microsoft Word

Optional Texts and/or Materials: American Psychological Association. (2020). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (7th ed.). APA.

Course Description

American crime problems are studied in the historical perspective. Social and public policy factors affecting crime are discussed. The impact of crime and crime trends are shown along with the social characteristics of specific crimes. The prevention of crime is emphasized.

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, students who fully participate in all aspects of the course should be able to:

1. Demonstrate knowledge of the historical development of crime and criminal justice.
2. Identify transformations in the criminal justice process in the United States from the early 1900s to the present.
3. Identify transformations in criminological explanations in the United States from the early 1900s to the present.
4. Relate past events to contemporary conversations about crime and criminal justice reform.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Minimal Technical Skills Needed

You will need to have regular access to a computer and reliable high-speed internet to access the textbook and other materials via BrightSpace. If you do not have access at home, you may be able to use a public library or come to campus to use computers in the library or one of the student computer labs. You must be able to use internet search tools, access BrightSpace, use email, and know how to download and upload documents.

For your privacy and security, only your official TAMUC email account will be used for email communication. No information will be sent to personal email accounts. Please check your TAMUC email regularly.

Instructional Methods

This course is fully in-person on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11 AM-12:15 PM. Your readings for the course will be hosted on BrightSpace. You should login to the course on BrightSpace on a regular basis to keep up with class readings and assignments. Each module will end on Tuesday at 10:59 AM. The next module begins when you enter class on Tuesday.

This course will examine major crime events in United States history, while also examining the social, political, and economic conditions surrounding each crime event. We will discuss events in the United States focusing on 1900s to the present. We will discuss each decade for 1-2 weeks, placing each major crime event into the historical context of the United States at the time.

On Tuesdays, we will largely “set the stage” of the environment in the US for that decade. You will engage in activities and discussions in class to help you understand the climate in the country that decade. Thursdays will shift the focus to crime, including student presentations on major crime events that happened during that decade. We will discuss several pertinent criminal events each decade, focusing on how the country’s climate at the time affected both the causation and aftermath of the events.

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

Some assignments will be submitted within Brightspace. Written assignments (in this course, your Documentary Review) will be completed using Turnitin, a program that checks for citations and plagiarism. I will review the Turnitin report along with the paper. For more information about Turnitin, go to <http://www.tamuc.edu/facultyStaffServices/academictechnology/educational-technology/turnitin.aspx>.

Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course

I expect that you complete the assigned readings before coming to class each Tuesday and come to class ready to discuss the material. I expect that you are attentive during class and participate in the activities and discussions. I also expect that you challenge yourself to view the classroom topics from a different perspective than you may have viewed them prior to coming to class.

Your primary job is to use the environment that I have created for you to learn – interact with the materials, construct and share information, manage your time effectively, and use that time for critical thinking, reflection and application. You are in control and responsible for your own learning. I am here to support and help you, but it is up to you to ask for help when you need it. Please communicate with me.

GRADING

Final grades in this course will be based on the following scale: A = 90%-100%, B = 80%-89%, C = 70%-79%, D = 60%-69%, F = 59% or Below.

Because of Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA), information regarding grades will only be available through Brightspace. I will never provide information regarding grades through email or to anyone except you.

The assessments are worth the following point values:

Assessment	Point Value
Introduction Quiz	20
In-class Assignments	100
Notes Journal	50
Historical Crime Presentation Proposal	10
Historical Crime Presentation	40
Documentary Review	50
Exams (2)	100
Total	370

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

Assessments

Further details on the Assessments below are available in BrightSpace.

Introduction Quiz

The purpose of the Introduction Quiz is to help you understand the important policies of the course before the course really starts. I want to make sure you understand the course rules and objectives. The answers to the Introduction Quiz can be found throughout the materials presented on Brightspace and this course syllabus. The Introduction Quiz will be untimed and open-note. You may submit the quiz as many times as you like.

The Introduction Quiz can be completed in-class on Thursday, January 13, or online via BrightSpace on your own time. This assignment will be graded based on accuracy. It is due by **Tuesday, January 18 at 11:59 PM**. The quiz is worth 20 points.

Introduction Quiz Late Submission Policy

Late Introduction Quizzes will be penalized one point per day late and will not be accepted after two days *unless* you have added the class late. Please communicate with me if that is the case to arrange a makeup quiz.

In-class Assignments

The purpose of the in-class assignments is to encourage you to attend class and actively participate in classroom activities and discussions. It is also to reward you for your attendance and participation. In-class assignments will vary in structure, potentially including matching activities, exercises, debates, paired discussions, creative activities, etc.

In-class assignments will largely be graded based on cooperation and completeness, although some will be graded based on accuracy as well. You will complete 11 in-class assignments throughout the semester. I will drop your lowest score. Each in-class assignment is worth 10 points, for a total of 100 points after dropping the lowest score.

In-class Assignments Late Submission Policy

You cannot make up in-class assignments if you are absent from class on a day where there is an in-class assignment *unless* you have contacted me about an extended absence beforehand to explain any circumstances.

Notes Journal

The purpose of the Notes Journal is to document your gained knowledge and reflections of the course materials. The Notes Journal can be used for all your assignments in the course and will ideally be helpful for your future courses. Since we do not have a formal textbook in this course, the Notes Journal will act as a textbook capturing your insights.

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This assignment will be graded based largely on completion and insight (I know that not everyone is an extensive note-taker, so there will be no length requirement). The Notes Journal is due by **Tuesday, May 10 at 11:59 PM**. The Notes Journal is worth 50 points.

Notes Journal Late Submission Policy

Your grade will be lowered by 10% for each day late unless you have contacted me beforehand to explain any circumstances and we have agreed to an extension before the due date. Late Notes Journals will not be accepted after three days.

Historical Crime Proposal and Presentation

The purpose of the Historical Crime Presentation is to conduct an in-depth examination of one historical crime event of your choosing. Your presentation will include a description of the event, the historical significance of the event, what social, political, or economic circumstances led to the event, and its aftermath. You will work in groups of two to four to will deliver an 8-12 minute presentation. You are required to include some visual element. For example, you might use a PowerPoint presentation, recreation the event or put on a play, show a personally created and recorded video, present a poster, pamphlet, etc.

You will have the opportunity to sign up for a decade, topic, or specific group early in the course. Selections must be completed by **Thursday, January 20, 2022**. If you do not complete your selections by that date, I will assign you to a group and presentation date. One member of the group should turn in a *proposal* including all the names of the students participating in the group, the topic being investigated, and some initial ideas of resources.

The Historical Crime *Proposal* will be graded based on adherence to assignment directions. This assignment is due by **Tuesday, February 8, at 11 AM**. The proposal is worth 10 points. The Historical Crime *Presentation* will be graded based on presentation content, design, delivery, and adherence to assignment directions. A grading rubric is available on BrightSpace. The Historical Crime Presentations will occur in class on Thursdays throughout the course, with the last presentation on **Thursday, April 28, at 11 AM**. The Historical Crime *Presentation* is worth 40 points.

Historical Crime Proposal and Presentation Late Submission Policy

For the Historical Crime *Proposal*, your grade will be lowered by 10% for each day late unless you have contacted me beforehand to explain any circumstances and we have agreed to an extension before the due date. Historical Crime *Proposals* will not be accepted after three days.

Historical Crime *Presentations* can only be made up on a case-by-case basis. Speak to me regarding your specific circumstances if you need to make up the assignment.

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Documentary Review

The purpose of the Documentary Review is for you to learn about a second historical crime in-depth. By watching the documentary, you will also explore how crimes can be illustrated in the media and specifically how films can be used to educate (or potentially mislead) the public about these issues.

You **must** watch the movie in its entirety and **cannot** watch a movie you have previously seen. You will have your choice of documentary from 4 options. All the documentaries are available for free through Kanopy.

The Documentary Review will be graded based on coherence of thought, appropriate level of reflection, and adherence to assignment directions. A grading rubric is available on BrightSpace. The Documentary Review is due by **Tuesday, May 3 by 11 AM**. The assignment is worth 50 points.

Documentary Review Late Submission Policy

Your grade will be lowered by 10% for each day late unless you have contacted me beforehand to explain any circumstances and we have agreed to an extension before the due date. Late Documentary Reviews will not be accepted after three days.

Exams

The purpose of the exams is to assess your overall understanding of the course material. You will complete two exams, a midterm and final exam. These exams will contain 25 multiple-choice questions and two short answer questions. You may use your Notes Journal, so make sure it's organized and complete! You may use any other course materials you like, but these must be printed materials. You will not be allowed to use a computer or other device during the exams. The exams will not be cumulative: the first exam covers up to and including the 1950s and the second exam covers 1960s to the present.

The exams will be graded based on accuracy and clarity of your responses. The midterm will be held in-class on **Thursday, March 10 at 11 AM**. The second exam will be held in-class on **Tuesday, May 10 at 10:30 AM** (note that this time is different because of finals week). Each exam is worth 50 points for a total of 100 points.

Exam Make-Up Policy

Exams can only be made up on a case-by-case basis. Speak to me regarding your specific circumstances if you need to make up the assignment. Your grade will be lowered by 10% each day. Late exams will not be accepted after three days.

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Extra Credit

Extra credit information is available on Brightspace in the Final Assignments module. The assignment will be graded based on accuracy, completion, clarity of your responses, and coherence of thought. Extra credit is due by **Tuesday, May 10 at 11:59 PM**.

Exam Make-Up Policy

I will not accept late extra credit assignments.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

LMS

All course sections offered by Texas A&M University-Commerce have a corresponding course shell in the myLeo Online Learning Management System (LMS). Below are technical requirements.

LMS Requirements:

<https://community.brightspace.com/s/article/Brightspace-Platform-Requirements>

LMS Browser Support:

https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser_support.htm

YouSeeU Virtual Classroom Requirements:

<https://support.youseeu.com/hc/en-us/articles/115007031107-Basic-System-Requirements>

ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or helpdesk@tamuc.edu.

Note: Personal computer and internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, office service companies, Starbucks, a TAMUC campus open computer lab, etc.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your Instructor.

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Technical Support

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778. Other support options can be found here: <https://community.brightspace.com/support/s/contactsupport>.

Interaction with Instructor Statement

I prefer communication via email. Since I am typically only in my office two days a week for a few hours, I rarely have access to my office phone and am much more likely to respond quickly to emails. I will respond to email and phone calls within 24 hours in most cases, 48 hours on weekends or holidays. If you do not receive a response within that timeframe, please reach out again. Please be sure that when you email me, you use a proper greeting (Dr. Homer or Professor Homer), an email body, and an appropriate closing. Be sure you have an appropriate and informative subject line. I will disseminate any important course-related information through your TAMUC email accounts and BrightSpace announcements.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures/Policies

- If you are having problems, academically, socially or emotionally, etc., please discuss these issues with me if your grades may be affected. I am happy to help however I can, but I need to know what is going on.
- Because we often study sensitive subjects (such as racism, sexism, victimization, crime, and so on), it is extremely important to be respectful of each other when discussing these matters. Diverse opinions, even controversial ones, are welcome; incivility toward each other will not be tolerated.
- Pay attention to the lecture or discussion going on in the classroom. Any behavior that I determine to disturb the class will not be allowed. These may include conducting side conversations, sleeping, arriving late to class, leaving early, etc. If you are disruptive, I will ask you to leave. Make the most of the little time we will have together in person!
- Please remain in the classroom for the entire period (unless it is an emergency) and do not pack up belongings before I have concluded the class.
- No cell phone calls or texting, unless you have a potential emergency situation (in which case, please set your ringer to vibrate and notify me).
- I encourage you to make notes of any questions/thoughts you have while reviewing the course readings to bring them to class to discuss.
- You may bring a computer to class if you would like. However, if you disrupt your fellow classmates or me, I may ask you to turn off your device. If you do bring a computer, I encourage you to focus on the classroom materials and not be distracted by your computer.
- You have one written assignment in this course, the Documentary Review. I do not expect you to format this paper in a specific writing style. I encourage you to use APA style, but it is not required. I do expect you to use in-text citations and references. The assignment will have a portion of points designated for adherence to proper citations. While you do not need to submit your presentation

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in writing, you also need to include references for that assignment. If you do not properly cite, you will miss points on your assignment. In cases without proper formatting or citations, you may receive a 0 on your assignment: **papers without citations are plagiarized because they do not give the original author proper credit.** For assistance with writing or formatting in APA, seek guidance from me, the [TAMUC Writing Center](#), [the Waters Library](#), and [OWL of Purdue](#).

- I take issues of plagiarism (including self-plagiarism) and academic integrity very seriously. Plagiarism can be done intentionally or unintentionally and I don't tolerate either one very well. You are responsible for understanding how to correctly cite and paraphrase, as well as being familiar with the TAMUC Academic Integrity policies (linked below). You are expected to write the majority of **all** your assignments with very few direct quotes. Writing your own work with paraphrasing rather than direct quotes is how you demonstrate to the reader that you understand what you have read. You are welcome to use the Turnitin checker or similar to determine how much of your paper is directly from another source before submitting it for a grade. For some practical advice on plagiarism, see the APA's [Avoiding Plagiarism and Self-Plagiarism Guide](#).

Syllabus Change Policy

The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance.

University Specific Procedures

Student Conduct

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. The Code of Student Conduct is described in detail in the [Student Guidebook](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/Admissions/oneStopShop/undergraduateAdmissions/studentGuidebook.aspx>

Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum:

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/netiquette>

TAMUC Attendance

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the [Attendance](#) webpage and [Procedure 13.99.99.R0.01](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx>

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/academic/13.99.99.R0.01.pdf>

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Academic Integrity

Students at Texas A&M University-Commerce are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all of their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures:

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/documents/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyForm.pdf>

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/academics/graduateschool/faculty/GraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyFormold.pdf>

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/undergraduates/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

Students with Disabilities-- ADA Statement

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. 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 have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services

Texas A&M University-Commerce

Velma K. Waters Library Rm 162

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu

Website: [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/>

Nondiscrimination Notice

Texas A&M University-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

Campus Concealed Carry Statement

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a

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concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M-Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations.

For a list of locations, please refer to the [Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus](#) document and/or consult your event organizer.

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

A&M-Commerce Supports Students' Mental Health

The Counseling Center at A&M-Commerce, located in the Halladay Building, Room 203, offers counseling services, educational programming, and connection to community resources for students. Students have 24/7 access to the Counseling Center's crisis assessment services by calling 903-886-5145. For more information regarding Counseling Center events and confidential services, please visit www.tamuc.edu/counsel.

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

Week of	Topic	Reading(s)	Item(s) Due (by 11 AM on Tuesday unless otherwise noted)
January 10	Introduction		
January 17	Pre-1900s		Introduction Quiz (due by 11:59 PM on Tuesday)
January 24	1900s-1910s	Vol. 1 and 2, ch. 7	
January 31	1920s	Vol. 3, ch. 7	
February 7	1930s	Vol. 4, ch. 7	Historical Crime <i>Proposal</i>
February 14	1940s	Vol. 5, ch. 7	
February 21	1940s		
February 28	1950s	Vol. 6, ch. 7	
March 7	1950s		Midterm Exam (due by 12:15 PM on Thursday)

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March 14			*Spring Break – no class*
March 21	1960s	Vol. 7, ch. 7	
March 28	1960s		
April 4	1970s	Vol. 8, ch. 7	
April 11	1980s	Vol. 9, ch. 7	
April 18	1990s	Vol. 10, ch. 7	
April 25	1990s		
May 2	2000s-2010s	Vol. 11, ch. 7	Documentary Review
Tuesday, May 10			Final Exam (due by 12:30 PM); Notes Journal, Extra Credit (due by 11:59 PM). Class meets 10:30 AM -12:30 PM

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