



CJ 469.01W Victimology

COURSE SYLLABUS: Spring 2025
Web Based Class

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor:	Dr. Arthur Vasquez
Office Location:	Online / Remote
Office Hours:	Email, Telephone, or Virtual by Appointment
Office Phone:	(903) 886-5332
Office Fax:	(903) 886-5330
University Email Address:	Arthur.Vasquez@tamuc.edu
Preferred Form of Communication:	Email
Communication Response Time:	Within twenty-four hours during weekday

COURSE INFORMATION

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings

Textbook(s) Required:

Karmen, A. Crime Victims: An Introduction to Victimology. Cengage

Ebook: ISBN 13: 9780357698136

Paperback: ISBN 13: 978-0-357-03779-9

* Class WILL NOT USE Mindtap

* You have the option of selecting the paperback or eBook.

Optional Texts and/or Materials: Any additional and/or supplementary required readings will be posted online through D2L.

Course Description

CJ 469 Victimology. This course will present a number of different definitions of Victimology to include early theorists and recent theories as to the causes of victimization. Methods of reporting crimes, both official (government) and unofficial reports will be examined including the Uniform Crime Report (UCR). The course will offer an examination of the criminal and civil process as it relates to victims. It explains the impact of crime on victims; a global perspective of victimization; and responses to victimization.

Student Learning Outcomes: Upon successful completion, the student will be able to:

1. Define and distinguish between key terms in criminology and victimology.
2. Discuss the breadth and depth of the study of victimology.
3. Describe the evolution of the discovery of victims.
4. Critically assess issues related to theory, types of victimization, and responses to crime victims.
5. Identify and describe characteristics of victims of different types of crime.
6. Discuss the various responses to victims and victim services in the United States.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Minimal Technical Skills Needed

The class will use the D2L learning management system. Students in the class may be required to use or be able to perform tasks employing Microsoft Word, PowerPoint, and using presentation and graphics programs, etc.

Instructional Methods

All assignments posted into D2L (our online system) must be on time (designated due time 11:59pm) and on or before the last designated due date. There will be no exceptions, or excuses for late assignments. There will be no make-up assignments.

Methods of Evaluation

Course Requirements: 500 total possible points

3 Exams, 1 Introduction post, 1 Discussion board, 2 Social media posts, 1 Victimology Infographic

Introduction Post: 25 points

Respond to initial introduction post on D2L. **Due by January 19, 2024 by 11:59pm.**

Introduction Post:

1. Name
2. How this course is expected to help or aid your career, separate from the entire degree.
3. What area/field are you interested in? (e.g. law enforcement, case management, advocacy, etc.)
4. Describe how you expect this degree to enhance your career.

Exams: There will be THREE (3) exams this semester. **Each exam will be worth 100 points.** Each exam will be comprised of approximately 50 (multiple choice & true-false) questions based on assigned readings, and any materials posted online. Each exam will be timed, and you will have 80 minutes to complete the exam once it is clicked open. All exams will be posted online through your regular online portal you accessed this syllabus. **You will not need to go to campus to take the exam.**

Makeup Exam Policy

Makeup exams will be provided for students who have a university recognized excused absence. Excused absences include (but are not limited to): illnesses with a doctor's note, serious family emergency, special curricular requirements (e.g., East Texas A&M field trips,

conferences), participation in official university activities. Final decision of excused absences is left to the discretion of the professor.

In most instances, students will be required to provide written documentation for your absence. In addition, you **MUST** talk with me prior to the date of the exam in order to schedule a makeup. All makeup exams **MUST** be scheduled within one week of the original exam.

Note: All make up exams will be essay format.

If a student misses an exam, there will be a 10 point deduction per day.

Discussion Board Questions: 25 points total

Students will participate in one (1) discussion board to better facilitate their learning of the material. Each student must also respond to at least one (1) of their fellow classmate's posts on their selected topic. Discussion posts and responses **MUST** be grounded in the course material. The due dates are below on the course schedule. Due by February 9th at 11:59pm in D2L.

All discussion board posts *MUST be a minimum of 250* words in length per discussion question for each post to receive credit. All responses **MUST** be meaningful and add to the discussion. Discussion posts that do not comply with the guidelines presented here will be given no credit, no exceptions. Marginal responses will receive reduced or no credit. Responses consisting of liking and/or agreement/disagreement with little or no substance will not count towards the discussion response grade. Please ensure that your posts and responses are respectful. A rubric will be posted on D2L (online).

2 Factual Social Media Posts: 100 points total (2 x 50 points each = 100 points)

As part of your coursework, you will develop **TWO (2)** separate social media posts on any **TWO** separate topics related to victimology. This can include victim rates, trends, policies, laws, etc. As part of this class, you are learning how to explain victimology and criminal behavior, while at the same time, learning how to properly state your stance using factual information obtained from **OFFICIAL** government or law enforcement websites. This assignment is **NOT** opinionated. **ONLY FACTUAL.**

Each post is worth 50 points each. Post should include factual data, statistics, and include at least one academic or government source. For this assignment, **you DO NOT have to actually post** this on any social media platforms. This can be done as a general post, or flyer / visual post. Rubric will be posted on D2L.

Victimology Infographic: (100 points total)

For your final project in this course, you will create a one-page infographic on one topic based on Victimology we covered this semester. Imagine you are presenting this infographic and report to someone who has little to no background in criminal justice. How would you make your infographic appealing, while at the same time, presenting the factual information related to your specific topic? You may choose any topic covered in class or related to victimology. Here are just a few suggestions:

- Preventing Crime Victimization
- Restorative Justice
- Any specific non-profit that works with victims
- Policies that address victims

- Victimology rates for a specific area, for example:
 - Human Trafficking
 - Domestic Violence
 - Child abuse / neglect
 - Gangs
- Any theory of victimology

Detailed instructions/rubric for the infographic are posted in DL2. Final infographics are **due no later than Sunday, April 13th at 11:59 PM** *either by email or through DL2.*

Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course

Students should plan to regularly log onto the course website. Students should be very aware of their study habit and how much time they should commit to each class, the amount of weekly study time and participation time will impact your degree of success.

In addition, here are some other points to consider:

Tips on How to be successful in this Class:

1. Students must commit serious time to reading the textbook, and other assigned readings.
2. Student should ask questions of the professor if there is any information, he/she does not understand.
3. Students should regularly attend class.
4. Students should take good, clear, and understandable notes from the lectures.
5. Students must commit a serious amount of time to preparation for the exams.
6. Students must make the most of the “easy” grades, so they help to balance or soften the more difficult grades.

GRADING

3 Exams @ 100 points each	= 300 points
1 Introduction post	= 25 points
1 Discussion board post	= 25 points
2 Social Media Posts @ 50 points each	= 100 points
1 Theory Inforgraphic	<u>= 50 points</u>
	500 points total

The following grade scale will be used:

- A = 450 - 500 Points
- B = 400 - 449 Points
- C = 350 - 399 Points
- D = 300 - 349 Points
- F = 239 or less Points

Assessments

All class assessments are connected to one or more Student Learning Outcomes:

1. Define and distinguish between key terms in criminology and victimology.
 - a. Will be measured by the administering of the three objective exams.
2. Discuss the breadth and depth of the study of victimology.
 - a. Will be measured by the administering of the three objective exams.
3. Describe the evolution of the discovery of victims.
 - a. Will be measured by the administering of the three objective exams.
4. Critically assess issues related to theory, types of victimization, and responses to crime victims.
 - a. Will be measured by the accomplished work of each student writing the victim infographic.
5. Identify and describe characteristics of victims of different types of crime.
 - a. This assessment will occur through the social media posts and discussion board.
6. Discuss the various responses to victims and victim services in the United States.
 - a. Will be demonstrated by students participating in the research and writing to be performed for the 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.

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

Contact of Professor

Students needing to contact the Professor should do so by using his office email address. If necessary students may call the office number provided on the first page of the class syllabus. The Professor will contact you if a message is left by email or phone call within twenty-four (24) hours during the weekday.

Research Assistance

For research assistance, students should contact: Reference Librarian at Velma Waters Library Room 218; 903-886-5719 or <http://www.tamuc.edu/library>.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures/Policies

Academic Honesty

Students who violate University rules on scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including (but not limited to) receiving a failing grade on the assignment, the possibility of failure in the course and dismissal from the University. Since dishonesty harms the individual, all students, and the integrity of the University, policies on scholastic dishonesty will be strictly enforced. In **ALL** instances, incidents of academic dishonesty will be reported to the Department Head. Please be aware that academic dishonesty includes (but is not limited to) cheating, plagiarism, and collusion.

Cheating is defined as:

- Copying another's test or assignment
- Communication with another during an exam or assignment (i.e. written, oral or otherwise)
- Giving or seeking aid from another when not permitted by the instructor
- Possessing or using unauthorized materials during the test
- Buying, using, stealing, transporting, or soliciting a test, draft of a test, or answer key

Plagiarism is defined as:

- Using someone else's work in your assignment without appropriate acknowledgement
- Making slight variations in the language and then failing to give credit to the source

Collusion is defined as:

- Collaborating with another, without authorization, when preparing an assignment If you have any questions regarding academic dishonesty, ask. Otherwise, I will assume that you have full knowledge of the academic dishonesty policy and agree to the conditions as set forth in this syllabus.

Students should also reference the following link for more detailed information:

<http://www.tamuc.edu/academics/colleges/humanitiesSocialSciencesArts/departments/sociologyCriminallJustice/default.aspx>

Policy for Reporting Problems with D2L

Students who encounter D2L-based problems with submitting assignments/exams, etc., are required to do the following:

Call 1-866-656-5511 or 720-931-3847 (direct), or through the Online Chat by clicking on the “Tech Support” tab within your D2L course. You may also Email HelpDesk@tamuc.edu

Hours: The D2L helpdesk is open 24/7 to meet your needs.

Your call will be logged in, I will check with the Tech Support staff to confirm your call. Once I have confirmed your call, I will contact you regarding the issue.

Only D2L-based problems will be addressed. Make sure your internet connection is working and viable when taking tests or turning in assignments.

APA Citation Format Policy

It is very important that you learn how to cite properly. In some ways, citations are more important than the actual text of your paper/assignment. Therefore, you should take this task seriously and devote some time to understanding how to cite properly. If you take the time to understand this process up front, it will save you a significant amount of time in the long run (not to mention significant deductions in points).

In the social and behavioral sciences (including Criminal Justice), we use APA (American Psychological Association) format. As a rule of thumb, one cites whenever they are paraphrasing other people’s words or when they quote other’s words directly. You may learn to cite from a variety of different sources including the APA Tutorial and the sources listed below: www.apastyle.org

<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/02/>

www.library.cornell.edu/resrch/citmanage/apa

It is the student’s responsibility to understand how to cite properly. If you have questions, feel free to ask.

Late Work

The way this course is designed, every course hour should be spent either working on your paper/posting a discussion/answering discussion or waiting for comments from your professor. If late papers are routinely accepted, it would be impossible for you to complete your work and the program. Therefore, I **strongly** suggest that should you need to turn in an assignment late, that you contact your professor **immediately**. It is completely within an instructor’s discretion to allow or not allow late work in this course. Verifiable documentation will be requested/required.

Drop Course Policy

Students should take responsibility for dropping themselves from the course according to university policy should this become necessary.

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>

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:

[Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03](#)

[Undergraduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<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 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.

Web url:

<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.

Counseling Center Services

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

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

AI use policy [Draft 2, May 25, 2023]

Texas A&M University-Commerce acknowledges that there are legitimate uses of Artificial Intelligence, ChatBots, or other software that has the capacity to generate text, or suggest replacements for text beyond individual words, as determined by the instructor of the course.

Any use of such software must be documented. Any undocumented use of such software constitutes an instance of academic dishonesty (plagiarism).

Individual instructors may disallow entirely the use of such software for individual assignments or for the entire course. Students should be aware of such requirements and follow their instructors' guidelines. If no instructions are provided the student should assume that the use of such software is disallowed.

In any case, students are fully responsible for the content of any assignment they submit, regardless of whether they used an AI, in any way. This specifically includes cases in which the AI plagiarized another text or misrepresented sources.

13.99.99.R0.03 Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty

13.99.99.R0.10 Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Reading</u>
January 13	First day of class	
January 19	Introduction Post due by 11:59 (10 pts)	
	Defining Victimology: What is Victimology?	Chapter 1
	Victimization in the United States	Chapter 3
	A Closer Look at the Victims of Interpersonal...	Chapter 4
February 9	Discussion Board #1 Due by 11:59pm (15 points)	
	The Ongoing Controversy Over Shared...	Chapter 5
	Test #1 – Chapters 1, 3, 4, & 5 (100 pts)	
	Victims and the Police	Chapter 6
	Victim's Rights and the Criminal Justice System	Chapter 7
March 2	Social Media Post #1 due by 11:59pm (20 points)	
	Victimized Children	Chapter 8
	Victims of Violence by Lovers & Family	Chapter 9
March 10 – 14	Spring Break	
March 30	Social Media Post #2 due by 11:59pm (15 points)	
	Test #2 – Chapters 6, 7, 8, & 9 (100 pts)	
	Victims of Rapes and Other Sexual Assaults	Chapter 10
	Additional Groups of Victims	Chapter 11
April 13	Victimology Infographic due by 11:59pm	
	Repaying Victims	Chapter 12
	Victims in the 21 st Century	Chapter 13
May 3 – 9	Finals Week	
	Test #3 – Chapters 10, 11, 12, & 13 (100 pts)	

Note: Timelines contained in the syllabus are subject to change at the discretion of the instructor.