

University of North Texas at Dallas
Summer 2016 3wk1
SYLLABUS

CJUS 4870/SOCI 4260: Media and Crime 3Hrs	
Department of	Criminal Justice/Sociology
School of	Liberal Arts and Sciences
Instructor Name:	<i>Dr. Aaron Bartula</i>
Office Location:	<i>DAL 2 #240</i>
Office Phone:	<i>972-780-3629</i>
Email Address:	<i>Aaron.Bartula@untdallas.edu</i>
Office Hours:	Via appointment
Virtual Office Hours:	<i>Anytime via email, usually will respond within 24 hours</i>
Classroom Location:	DAL 2 #306
Class Meeting Days & Times:	MTWR 8am -11:50am
Course Catalog Description:	Investigation, analysis and discussion of a significant, contemporary topic.
Prerequisites:	SOCI 1510, CJUS 2100, PSYC 1630
Co-requisites:	None
Required Text:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Surette, Ray. (2015). <i>Media, Crime, and Criminal Justice: Images, Realities, and Policies</i> (5th ed.). Stamford, CT: Cengage Learning. ISBN# 978-1285459059 2. Rafter, Nicole. (2006). <i>Shots in the Mirror: Crime Films and Society</i>. Oxford University Press. ISBN# 978-0195175066
Recommended Text and References:	Additional readings and videos will also be posted each week.
Access to Learning Resources:	UNT Dallas Library: phone: (972) 780-3625; web: http://www.unt.edu/unt-dallas/library.htm UNT Dallas Bookstore: phone: (972) 780-3652; e-mail: 1012mgr@fheg.follett.com
Course Goals or Overview:	
	This course examines the media's portrayal of crime and the criminal justice system. An emphasis is placed on how various media outlets through imaging construct criminal activities, influences public policy, and shape societal perceptions of crime as a social problem. Topics include contemporary news, films and television dramas depicting crime and criminals.
Learning Objectives/Outcomes: At the end of this course, the student will	
1	Be able to describe the role of media in societal perception.
2	Identify the different ways media construct crime as a social problem.
3	Critically assess the validity of media's construction of crime.
4	Identify the impact of the media on public policy.
5	Critically assess the influence of the reality of media on individual behavior and overall public opinion.
6	Introduce APA writing style and enhance student's overall writing capability.

COURSE POLICIES

Classroom Citizenship

Students who are actively engaged and participate in class learn more, earn better grades, and are better informed citizens of their university and communities. It is an expectation that you use critical thinking and are engaged as a positive participant in our classroom. **Our classroom is a safe space to share your experiences, thoughts, and critiques of the media and other crime related topics.** During the semester many sensitive topics will be covered and used as points of discussion. **I expect everyone to participate in the discussions in an appropriate manner.** Maintaining a different viewpoint does not require negative behavior or disrespectful comments. If a student is disrespectful in their behaviors or language, I will address the issue in a timely manner. If a student's negative behavior and/or language is addressed and it continues, the student will be asked to leave the class and will suffer a deduction in their grade or withdraw from the course.

Course Disclaimer

During the semester, we will watch videos pertaining to the various topics covered. These videos may contain explicit material including hard language, intense or persistent violence, sexually-oriented nudity, drug abuse or other graphic elements, and could be considered offensive to some viewers. If you wish to complete an alternative assignment, please contact me prior to the designated class that the video will be shown to make arrangements. Due to the sensitive nature of the material addressed in this course, students may have a desire to share their personal experiences. Student should know that this is a perfectly normal and reasonable response given the subject matter. I encourage students to bring personal experiences to class discussion. Although I encourage class discussions, some material may illicit uncomfortable memories or a need to discuss these experiences with someone outside of class. There are several resources available to students at UNT Dallas through the Office of Student Affairs.

Office of Student Affairs

<http://www.untDallas.edu/osa>

972-338-1775

Counseling and Wellness Services

<http://www.untDallas.edu/wellness>

972-338-1779

Disability Services

<http://www.untDallas.edu/disability>

972-338-1777

Course Outline

This schedule is subject to change by the instructor. Any changes to this schedule will be communicated by the instructor via Blackboard and email.

TIMELINE	TOPICS, and READINGS	Assignments
Week 1	Welcome to the Matrix: Social Construction of Crime and Overload: News Media	
5/16/2016	Syllabus and Course Introduction	
5/17/2016	Crime, Justice and Media Readings: (Surette) pgs. 1-28	Quiz 1
	Media and Societal Construction of Crime Readings: (Surette) pgs. 30-56	
5/18/2016	History of Crime Films Readings: (Rafter) pgs. 21-57	Quiz 2
	Images of Crime, Criminals and Criminality; <i>Film: Bowling for Columbine</i> Readings: (Surette) pgs. 31-73	
5/19/2016	Criminogenic Media; Guest Speaker: Tramese Andrews- PIO DPD (11-12pm) Readings: (Surette) pgs. 74-99	Reaction Paper 1
	Why They Went Bad; <i>Film: Jinx: story verse media (old and new)</i> Readings: (Rafter) pgs. 61-84	
Week 2	That's My Jam: A Look at Music's Influence" and The Idiot Box": A Portrayal of Crime on TV	
5/23/2016	Book: Hip Hop Theory of Justice Readings: (Butler) Chapter excerpt (pdf)	Guest Speaker Reaction Essay 1; Quiz 3
	Book: Hip Hop Theory of Justice (cont.) Readings: (Martin) Music of Murder	
5/24/2016	Crime Fighters; <i>TV: CSI versus First 48</i> Readings: (Surette) pgs. 153-176	Quiz 4
	New Media, Crime and Justice Readings: (Surette) pgs. 225-245 & (Towers) Contagion: Mass Shootings (pdf)	
5/25/2016	Guest Speakers: Jonesta Nolan and Britany Webb- Dallas Crime Lab	
	New Media, Crime and Justice (cont.) Readings: (Surette) pgs. 225-245 & (Towers) Contagion: Mass Shootings (pdf)	
5/26/2016	The Heroes of Crime Film Readings: (Rafter) pgs. 189-212	Reaction Paper 2
Week 3	Let's Go to the Movies: Crime in the Movies	
5/30/2016	Slasher, Serial Killer, and Psycho Movies; <i>Film: (1)The Killing Screens; (2)American Psycho versus Psycho</i> Readings: (Rafter) pgs. 87-108	Guest Speaker Reaction 2; Quiz 5
	Slasher, Serial Killer, and Psycho Movies (cont.); <i>Film: Aileen: Life of a Serial Killer</i> Readings: (Rafter) pgs. 87-108	
5/31/2016	Cop and Detective Films; <i>Film: Mean Streets</i> Readings: (Rafter) pgs. 109-134	Quiz 6
	Criminal Law Films; <i>Film: The Firm</i> Readings: (Surette) pgs. 123-152 & (Rafter) pgs. 135-162	
6/1/2016	Corrections; <i>Film: Shawshank Redemption</i> Readings: (Surette) pgs. 153-176 & (Rafter) pgs. 163-188	Presentations; Reaction Paper 3
6/2/2016	Final Exam	Final Exam

Course Evaluation Methods

This course will utilize the following instruments to determine student grades and proficiency of the learning outcomes for the course.

Exams – *written tests administered via Blackboard designed to measure knowledge and application of presented material.*

Reaction Papers – *written essays designed to reinforce course material and test the student's ability to critically analyze said material.*

In Class Quizzes – *daily written quizzes that cover knowledge of the day's material.*

Presentation – *contemporary crime story presentation.*

Grading Matrix:

Instrument	Value (points)	Total
Reaction Papers	3 at 50 points each	150
Exam	100 points	100
Guest Speaker Reaction Essays	2 at 50 points each	100
In Class Quizzes	5 quizzes at 10 points each	50
Presentation	100 points	100
Total:		500

Grade Determination:

A = 500 – 450 pts; i.e. 90% or better

B = 449 – 400 pts; i.e. 80 – 89 %

C = 399 – 350 pts; i.e. 70 – 79 %

D = 349 – 300 pts; i.e. 60 – 69 %

F = 299 pts or below; i.e. less than 60%

No discussion about grades/points will be done through the internet or with anyone other than the student (FERPA law). Please make an appointment and I will happily discuss them or other concerns.

University Policies and Procedures

Students with Disabilities (ADA Compliance):

The University of North Texas at Dallas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodations must first register with the Disability Services Office (DSO) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the DSO will provide you with an accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course. You may request accommodations at any time, however, DSO notices of accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of accommodation for every semester and must meet/communicate with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. Students are strongly encouraged to deliver letters of accommodation during faculty office hours or by appointment. Faculty members have the authority to ask students to discuss such letters during their designated office hours to protect the privacy of the student. For additional information see the Disability Services Office website at <http://www.untDallas.edu/disability>. You may also contact them by phone at 972-338-1777; by email at UNTDDisability@untDallas.edu or at Founders Hall, room 204. (UNTD Policy 7.004)

CoursEval Policy:

Student's evaluations of teaching effectiveness is a requirement for all organized classes at UNT Dallas. This short survey will be made available to you at the end of the semester, providing you a chance to comment on how this class is taught. I am very interested in the feedback I get from students, as I work to continually improve my teaching. I consider students' evaluations to be an important part of your participation in this class.

Assignment Policy:

Exam – A final comprehensive exam will be given over the course of the semester. The exam may consist of a combination of multiple choice questions, short answers, and essays. The exam will be given on the scheduled final day of the semester in class.

Reaction Papers - There are three reaction papers required in this course. The papers require the student to critically respond to a specific question posed over the material in class. **Each reaction paper must be at least 2 pages but no more than 4 (see specifics below).** The papers must be TYPED with **12 point Times New Roman font, 1 inch margins, and Double Spaced.** The papers must be submitted to me during class on the scheduled due dates (refer to Course Outline for due dates). **NOTE: DO NOT submit this assignment via Blackboard!!!!**

The papers must include the following information:

- 1) Your name
- 2) Answer the question using information covered during the course as evidence.
- 3) Identify any potential policy implications that may result.

Guest Speaker Reaction Essays - There are two guest speaker reaction essays required in this course. **Note that in order to answer the essay questions you must be present that day of the guest lecture. There will be no make-ups/reschedules for these two essays.** The single page essays require the student to critically respond to a specific question posed over the guest speaker's topic in class. **Each reaction essay must be 1 page only (see specifics below).** The papers must be TYPED with **12 point Times New Roman font, 1 inch margins, and Double Spaced.** The papers must be submitted to me during class on the scheduled due dates (refer to Course Outline for due dates). **NOTE: DO NOT submit this assignment via Blackboard!!!!**

The essays must include the following information:

- 1) Your name
- 2) Answer the question from the lecture using course information as evidence.

In Class Quizzes – Five daily quizzes will be given at the beginning of class that will make up part of the final grade. Each student is required to be PREPARED (having read the required readings) prior to the start of each class date. Using the assigned reading material as a foundation, each student is to complete a short quiz that helps serve as a starting point for the day's topic. Note that the lowest quiz grade will be dropped from the final grade calculation.

If the student is prepared prior to each class they will do well on each quiz. **Note:** All quizzes are worth 10 points.

******All class announcements will be posted on Blackboard, and/or sent via email. It is your responsibility to check Blackboard and your e-mail early and often. Ignorance to any posted announcement will not be an excuse.**

Presentation

Cartoons, Crime/Slasher Films, Crime News, Crime TV, and Music: Media as a Cause of Violence. In a 10-15 minute presentation identify one example of a crime in which media (using a source discussed during the course) was either blamed for the actions of an individual or group or conditioned society's views of an individual or group. Each presentation MUST:

1. Be at least 10 minutes in length (no more than 15 mins)
2. Explain the crime in question
3. Present and explain the media source that was blamed for said crime and why.
4. Determine if the blame/responsibility on the media source is justified.
5. Defend your answer through Q&A using evidence.

Exam and Quiz Policy:

Exams should be taken as scheduled. **No late or makeup quizzes or examinations will be allowed** except for documented emergencies (See Student Handbook). It is your responsibility to contact me during the first week of class if there's anything about which I should know concerning special accommodation for any of the assignments. I will try to work out a suitable arrangement, but I must know about it during the first week of class. It is also your responsibility to bring me the required documentation(s) or have the responsible parties contact me in a timely manner for any kind of special accommodation for any of the assignments.

Academic Integrity:

Academic integrity is a hallmark of higher education. You are expected to abide by the University's code of Academic Integrity 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 Academic Integrity (Policy 7.002) at

http://www.untDallas.edu/sites/default/files/page_level2/pdf/policy/7.002%20Code%20of%20Academic_Integrity.pdf

Refer to the Student Code of Student Rights, Responsibilities and Conduct at

http://www.untDallas.edu/sites/default/files/page_level2/hds0041/pdf/7_001_student_code_of_conduct_may_2014.pdf

Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarizing, fabrication of information or citations, facilitating acts of dishonesty by others, having unauthorized possession of examinations, submitting work of another person or work previously used without informing the instructor, or tampering with the academic work of other students. In addition, all academic work turned in for this class, including exams, papers and written assignments must include the following statement: "On my honor, I have not given, nor received, nor witnessed any unauthorized assistance that violates the UNTD Academic Integrity Policy."

Bad Weather Policy:

Campus facilities will close and operations will be suspended when adverse weather and/or safety hazards exist on the UNTD campus or if travel to the campus is deemed dangerous as the result of ice, sleet or snow. In the event of a campus closure, the Marketing and Communication Department will report closure information to all appropriate major media by 7 a.m. That department will also update the UNTD website, Facebook and Twitter with closing information as soon as it is possible. For more information please refer to <http://www.untDallas.edu/police/resources/notifications>

Attendance and Participation Policy:

The University attendance policy is in effect for this course. Class participation is expected because the class is designed as a shared learning experience and because essential information not in the textbook will be discussed in course. Further, in order to receive credit for class discussions the student must participate in the forums. The dynamic and intensive nature of this course makes it impossible for students to make-up or to receive credit for missed assignments. Participation in all course assessments is essential to the integration of course material and your ability to demonstrate proficiency.

Diversity/Tolerance Policy:

Students are encouraged to contribute their perspectives and insights to class discussions. However, offensive and inappropriate language (swearing) and remarks offensive to others of particular nationalities, ethnic groups, sexual preferences, religious groups, genders, or other ascribed statuses will not be tolerated. Disruptions which violate the Code of Student Conduct will be referred to the Dean of Students as the instructor deems appropriate. (UNTD Policy 7.001).

Optional Policies:

- *Use of WebCT/Blackboard: All exams will be distributed via the Blackboard site associated with this course.*
- *Grade of Incomplete, "I": Though not encouraged, incomplete grades will be granted on a case by case basis. Each student seeking such grade must come speak to me as soon as it is being considered.*
- *Intellectual Property: Students may NOT record the instructor in any manner unless give prior approval. You may NEVER sell your PowerPoint presentations, notes, online or personal study guide materials or any other class materials (except the purchased required textbooks).*