

**University of North Texas at Dallas**  
**Summer 2015 5wk2**  
**SYLLABUS**

<b>SOCI 4260: Topics in Sociology: Media and Crime 3Hrs</b>	
<b>Department of</b>	<b>Sociology</b>
<b>School of</b>	<b>Liberal Arts and Sciences</b>
<b>Instructor Name:</b>	<i>Dr. Aaron Bartula</i>
<b>Office Location:</b>	<i>DAL 2 #320</i>
<b>Office Phone:</b>	<i>972-780-3629</i>
<b>Email Address:</b>	<i>Aaron.Bartula@untdallas.edu</i>
<b>Office Hours:</b>	<b>Via appointment</b>
<b>Virtual Office Hours:</b>	<i>Anytime via email, usually will respond within 24 hours</i>
<b>Classroom Location:</b>	<b>DAL 2 #306</b>
<b>Class Meeting Days &amp; Times:</b>	<b>MTWR 10am -11:50am</b>
<b>Course Catalog Description:</b>	Investigation, analysis and discussion of a significant, contemporary topic.
<b>Prerequisites:</b>	<b>SOCI 1510, CJUS 2100, PSYC 1630</b>
<b>Co-requisites:</b>	None
<b>Required Text:</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Surette, Ray. (2015). <i>Media, Crime, and Criminal Justice: Images, Realities, and Policies</i> (5<sup>th</sup> ed.). Stamford, CT: Cengage Learning. ISBN# 978-1285459059</li> <li>2. Rafter, Nicole. (2006). <i>Shots in the Mirror: Crime Films and Society</i>. Oxford University Press. ISBN# 978-0195175066</li> </ol>
<b>Recommended Text and References:</b>	<b>Additional readings and videos will also be posted each week.</b>
<b>Access to Learning Resources:</b>	UNT Dallas Library: phone: (972) 780-3625; web: <a href="http://www.unt.edu/unt-dallas/library.htm">http://www.unt.edu/unt-dallas/library.htm</a> UNT Dallas Bookstore: phone: (972) 780-3652; e-mail: <a href="mailto:1012mqr@fheg.follett.com">1012mqr@fheg.follett.com</a>
<b>Course Goals or Overview:</b>	
	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.
<b>Learning Objectives/Outcomes:</b> 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.
7	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
<b>Week 1</b>	<b>Welcome to the Matrix: Social Construction of Crime</b>	
7/13/2015	Syllabus and Course Introduction	
7/14/2015	Crime, Justice and Media <b>Readings: (Surette) pgs. 1-28</b>	
7/15/2015	Media and Societal Construction of Crime <b>Readings: (Surette) pgs. 30-56</b>	
7/16/2015	History of Crime Films <b>Readings: (Rafter) pgs. 21-57</b>	<b>Reaction Paper 1</b>
<b>Week 2</b>	<b>Overload: News Media</b>	
7/20/2015	Images of Crime, Criminals and Criminality; <i>Film: Bowling for Columbine</i> <b>Readings: (Surette) pgs. 31-73</b>	
7/21/2015	Images of Crime, Criminals and Criminality (cont.); <i>Film: Bowling for Columbine</i> <b>Readings: (Surette) pgs. 31-73</b>	
7/22/2015	Criminogenic Media; Guest Speaker: Chief Cliff Jaynes <b>Readings: (Surette) pgs. 74-99</b>	
7/23/2015	Why They Went Bad; <i>Film: Jinx: story verse media (old and new)</i> <b>Readings: (Rafter) pgs. 61-84</b>	<b>Reaction Paper 2</b>
<b>Week 3</b>	<b>Let's Go to the Movies: Crime in the Movies</b>	
7/27/2015	Slasher, Serial Killer, and Psycho Movies; <i>Film: (1)The Killing Screens; (2)American Psycho versus Psycho</i> <b>Readings: (Rafter) pgs. 87-108</b>	
7/28/2015	Slasher, Serial Killer, and Psycho Movies (cont.); <i>Film: Aileen: Life of a Serial Killer</i> <b>Readings: (Rafter) pgs. 87-108</b>	
7/29/2015	Cop and Detective Films; <i>Film: Mean Streets</i> <b>Readings: (Rafter) pgs. 109-134</b>	
7/30/2015	Criminal Law Films; <i>Film: The Firm</i> <b>Readings: (Surette) pgs. 123-152 &amp; (Rafter) pgs. 135-162</b>	<b>Reaction Paper 3</b>
<b>Week 4</b>	<b>That's My Jam: A Look at Music's Influence</b>	
8/3/2015	Corrections; <i>Film: Shawshank Redemption</i> <b>Readings: (Surette) pgs. 153-176 &amp; (Rafter) pgs. 163-188</b>	
8/4/2015	Book: Hip Hop Theory of Justice <b>Readings: (Butler) Chapter excerpt (pdf)</b>	
8/5/2015	Book: Hip Hop Theory of Justice (cont.) <b>Readings: (Butler) Chapter excerpt (pdf)</b>	<b>Reaction Paper 4</b>
8/6/2015	The Heroes of Crime; <i>Film: American Gangster</i> <b>Readings: (Rafter) pgs. 189-212</b>	
<b>Week 5</b>	<b>"The Idiot Box": A Portrayal of Crime on TV</b>	
8/10/2015	Crime Fighters; <i>TV: CSI versus First 48</i> <b>Readings: (Surette) pgs. 153-176</b>	
8/11/2015	New Media, Crime and Justice <b>Readings: (Surette) pgs. 225-245 &amp; (Towers) Contagion: Mass Shootings (pdf)</b>	<b>Presentation 1</b>
8/12/2015	New Media, Crime and Justice (cont.) <b>Readings: (Surette) pgs. 225-245 &amp; (Towers) Contagion: Mass Shootings (pdf)</b>	<b>Presentation 2; Reaction Paper 5</b>
8/13/2015	<b>Final Exam</b>	<b>Final Exam</b>

## 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	5 at 50 points each	250
Exams	100 points	100
In Class Quizzes	10 quizzes at 5 points each	50
Presentation	50 points	100
<b>Total:</b>		<b>500</b>

### 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 Dallas faculty is committed to complying with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Students' with documented disabilities are responsible for informing faculty of their needs for reasonable accommodations and providing written authorized documentation. Grades assigned before an accommodation is provided will not be changed as accommodations are not retroactive. For more information, you may visit the Student Life Office, Suite 200, Building 2 or email or call Cindy Suarez at [Cynthia.suarez@untdallas.edu](mailto:Cynthia.suarez@untdallas.edu) or 972-338-1777.

### Student Evaluation of Teaching Effectiveness Policy:

The Student Evaluation of Teaching Effectiveness (SETE) is a requirement for all organized classes at UNT. 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 the SETE to be an important part of your participation in this class.

### Assignment Policy:

**Exams** – 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 five 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.

**In Class Quizzes** – 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.

If the student is prepared prior to each class they will do well on each quiz. **Note:** All quizzes are worth 5 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 10-20 minute presentation identify one example of a crime in which media (using a source discussed during the course) was blamed for the actions of an individual or group. Each presentation MUST:

1. Be at least 10 minutes in length (no more than 20 mins)
2. Explain the crime in question
3. Present and explain the media source that was blamed for said crime.
4. Determine if the blame 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 at <http://www.unt.edu/unt-dallas/policies/Chapter%2007%20Student%20Affairs,%20Education,%20and%20Funding/7.002%20Code%20of%20Academic%20Integrity.pdf> for complete provisions of this code.

In addition, all academic work submitted for this class, including exams, papers, and written assignments should 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.**

**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 & 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 Office of Student Life as the instructor deems appropriate. This course is designed to be a safe open forum so that we may critically analyze and discuss crime theories. Thus, please adhere to the guidelines outlined in the Code of Student Conduct.

**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).