



UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY  
SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES & SOCIAL SCIENCES

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*SEMESTER:*

*COURSE: VICTIMOLOGY; CJS 3303*

*LECTURER:*

*TIME/DAYS:*

*VENUE:*

*CREDIT:*

*OFFICE HOURS:*

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### **1. DESCRIPTION**

The course seeks to familiarize the students with issues related to the study of the effect of crime to victims. It covers the origin of victimology, various concepts and approaches to victimology, theories of victimology, scientific study of victimology, typologies of victims, rights of victims, different crimes and their effect on victims. The course also covers the treatment of victims in the criminal justice system and difficulties in measuring victimization. Finally, the course looks at the international standards for victim treatment in the criminal justice system.

### **2. LEARNING OUTCOMES**

Students are expected at the end of the course to;

1. Recognize the importance of victims as key actors and stakeholders in the Criminal Justice System.
2. Examine the different theories that explain why some people are more likely to be victims than others.
3. Identify different types of crime and their effects on specific victims and community.
4. Examine the effectiveness of treatment of victims by the Criminal Justice System.
5. Understand and apply the international standards of victim treatment and victim rights to any given situation.

### **3. ATTENDANCE, PREPARATION AND PARTICIPATION**

- Attendance and participation contribute to 10% of the final grade
- Class attendance is mandatory and records will be taken during each class. The record must be signed by each student in attendance- name, registration number, student signature. **DO NOT SIGN FOR ANOTHER STUDENT IN OR OUTSIDE CLASS.**
- ~~Do not print or make other marks on the attendance sheet.~~
- Do not sign for someone else as it amounts to cheating and is punishable.
- If an asterix \* appears behind your name in the attendance sheet, it means a pattern of absenteeism is detected in your case and may be penalized if no improvement occurs.

- Seven (7) absences will lead to a failure of the course.
- Any late arrivals or absences should be reported to the instructor in advance.
- The course involves in-class activities and discussions and therefore is integral parts of learning.
- Prepare for the class in advance by going through assigned readings topics for adequate preparation
- Class sessions only supplement the assigned readings
- The course is collaborative, its success depends on your class attendance, participation, contribution and positive learning attitude
- You may carry your mobile phones, but put the on silent mode during class time
- Sleeping in class is not allowed
- Excuse for non-attendance is only allowed for illness, unavoidable circumstance and extra-curriculum activities approved by the Dean of the faculty or DVCAA
- Illness must be documented by a medical professional or USIU health centre
- Unavoidable circumstances should be described in writing
- The instructor reserves the right to override what the student describes as unavoidable
- Extra curriculum activities are normally notified to the faculty via email from the relevant department
- **'Three Tardies Equals One Absence'** rule applies. Tardiness is defined as twenty minutes of any class meeting time, regardless of whether it occurs at the beginning, middle or towards end of the class. Anyone who abuses this definition by deliberately and repeatedly keeping it just under twenty minutes will be penalized in the same manner and referred for behavioral disruption.
- If a class is cancelled for any reason, the material scheduled for the cancelled class is automatically rescheduled for the next class meeting. This includes exams and other work due on the cancelled date
- If the instructor cannot make it to a class meeting, the information will be communicated on the announcement pages of Blackboard, and there will be a note on the classroom door
- **To pass the course, you must complete all assignments, tests/quizzes, mid-term and final examination.**

#### 4. WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS

- This is aimed at teaching learners to express their ideas clearly and concisely
- Completed assignments must be submitted to the course instructor **on or before the stipulated deadline**. More information on this will be given in class as the course progresses.
- Overdue assignments will be assessed five(5) points penalty per day for the first seven(7) days while any assignment overdue for a period exceeding one(1) week will earn an automatic zero(0) score.
- Where a student cannot complete an assignment by the set deadline, he/she must inform the instructor before, **NOT after the deadline.**
- Papers are graded using the REOS method. Reasoning (Logic), Evidence(sources), Observations(your own personal touch) and Substance(how significant /profound you are). The length of your papers should be 7-10 pages. No extra marks is awarded for a longer paper.

## 5. CONTENT & CLASS SCHEDULE

### Week One

#### Lecture 1

- Preliminaries
- Issuance of course outline
- Introduction to victimology-goals/objectives

#### Lecture 2

- Origin of Victimology
- Victim defined

*Question:* Discuss the traditional African concept of a victim. How were victims treated in the specific African communities?

### Week Two

#### Lecture 3

##### Development of Laws

- Code of Hammurabi
- Other early codes and laws
- Modern codes and laws

#### Lecture 4

##### Victimology Theories

- Mendelsohn's Theory
- Von Hentig's Theory
- Schafer's Functional Responsibility
- Wolfgang's study of homicide
- Karmen's Theory

### Week Three

#### Lecture 5

##### Other Theories of Crime, Victimology, and Victimization

- Lifestyle Theory
- Routine Activities Approach
- The Opportunity Model
- Critical Victimology
- Victim-Blaming

- Victim's contribution to the crime

#### Lecture 6

#### The Rise of the Victims' Rights Movement

- The Beginning of the Movement
- Gains and Losses
- Increased Public Awareness
- Increased Professionalism
- Additional Laws

#### **Week Four**

#### Lecture 7

#### Measurement of Crime and its Effects

- Official Reports
- Other Reports

#### Lecture 8

#### Consequences of Victimization

- Physical Consequences
- Mental Consequences
- Negative Social Consequences
- Financial Consequences
- Costs of Fraud Crimes

#### **Week Five**

#### Lecture 9

#### Empowering Victims

- Media: relations with the media
- Legislation
- Public Speaking
- Fundraising

#### Lecture 10

#### Homicide Victims

- Nature and extent of the problem
- Theories, Types, and Characteristics of Homicide
- Drinking, Driving and Homicide
- Responding to Social Needs

## **Week Six**

### Lecture 11

#### Females as Victims

- Sexual Assault
- Stranger Rape
- Acquaintance Rape
- Marital Rape
- Stalking
- Sexual Harassment

### Lecture 12

#### Intimate Partner Abuse

- Introduction to Intimate Partner Abuse
- Theories of Intimate Partner Abuse
- The Criminal Justice Response to Intimate Partner Abuse

## **Week Seven**

### MID SEMESTER EXAMINATION

## **Week Eight**

### Lecture 13

#### Child Victims

- Types of Child Abuse
- Extent of the Problem
- Intergenerational Transmission of Violence
- Other Theories Regarding Child Abuse
- Special Types of Child Abuse

### Lecture 14

#### Elder Victims



- Elder Abuse
- Theories of Elder Abuse
- Elder Victimization
- Combating Elder Abuse in the Future

## **Week Nine**

### Lecture 15

#### Hate Crimes

- Hate Crimes
- Cultural Awareness

### Lecture 16

#### Special Victim Populations

- HIV/AIDS Victims
- Victims with Disabilities
- Gay and Lesbian Victims
- Prisoners as Victims
- Violence in Schools: From Bullying to Homicide

## **Week Ten**

### Lecture 17

#### An Overview of the Criminal Justice System

- The Criminal Court System
- The Parties
- Criminal Justice Procedures

### Lecture 18

#### Civil Court Proceedings and Victims

- Civil Procedures
- Juvenile Court Dependency Procedures
- Restorative Justice

## **Week Eleven**

### Lecture 19

## Negligence and Intentional Torts

- Negligence
- Wrongful Death
- Assault and Battery
- False Imprisonment
- Mental Distress
- Defenses of Intentional Torts

## Lecture 20

### Constitutional and Civil Rights Victims

- Section 1983 Actions
- Violence Against Women Act
- Injunctions
- Defenses

## Week Twelve

### Lecture 21

#### Compensation and Restitution of Victims

### Lecture 22

#### Victim Impact Statements

- History, Use, and Effect of Impact Statements
- Victim Impact Panels

## Week Thirteen

### Lecture 23

#### International Aspects of Victimology

- History and Leaders in the Field
- Crime Victim Surveys
- Globalization of Crime and Victims
- The United Nations
- The International Criminal Court
- International Victimization
- War, Natural Disasters, and Other Acts of God.

## Week Fourteen- FINAL EXAMINATION

### 6. TEACHING METHODS

#### Lectures

- This offers an established basis for delivering core knowledge about the subject.
- Lectures will not necessarily reflect but complement the readings provide.
- Will be held every **Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1.30pm to 3pm in room C.**

#### Power point

- May be used to deliver lecture contents

#### Class Presentations/Group Discussions

- Encourages students to work together in researching, presenting and assessing their works

#### Student Participation

- Students are encouraged to interact in class as participation is important
- It encourages the development of presentation of oral skills directed towards criminal justice discourse

#### Media Sources

- Students are encouraged to watch certain TV programs and movies which will highlight some of the concepts taught in class e.g. CSI, Criminal Minds, Mentalist, Criminal Investigation, Judge Judy etc.

#### Office hours

- Students are encouraged to use office hours allotted to them to consult the instructor on any individual problems or difficulties related to the course

### 7. COURSE TEXT AND OTHER READING MATERIALS

- Andrew Karmen. *Crime Victims: An Introduction to Criminology*. 7<sup>th</sup> Ed. Wadsworth
- Viano Emilio. *Victims in Society*. Vissage Press Inc.
- Drapkui, Israel. *Victimology: A New Focus*. Lexington Books
- Hentig, H. Von. *The Criminal and His Victim*. Yale University Press
- Wallace, Harvey and Cliff Roberson. (2011). *Victimology: Legal, Psychological, and Social Perspectives*. 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition, New Jersey: Pearson Education Inc.

### 8. COURSE EVALUATION

Attendance and Participation 10%

Assignments 20%

Term Paper 20%

Mid-Term 20%



|              |             |
|--------------|-------------|
| Final Exam   | 30%         |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>100%</b> |

### **Term Paper**

- Students are expected to submit a researched term paper of between 3000 and 5300 words (excluding the cover page and bibliography.)
- The format for the paper is 1.5 line spacing with font pattern New Times Romans, size 12.
- USIU has general guidelines regarding writing research papers, get more information about this.
- Additional course specific guidelines regarding term paper will be provided
- Term paper forms 20% of overall grade
- Term paper is intended to encourage individual research into topics of concern in comparative justice,
- This assignment places particular emphasis upon the acquisition of relevant critical, analytical and evaluative skills

### **Academic Integrity**

- Safe Assign, a program similar to Turnitin has been introduced by USIU to help detect plagiarism on Blackboard
- Safe Assign detects originality in thoughts and deeds
- All works must therefore include correct and full referencing
- Therefore all submitted works must be accompanied by identical soft copy to check plagiarism
- Confirmed cases of plagiarism will lead to automatic zero (0)

### **Examination**

- This comprises of mid-semester and final exam
- Each exam takes one and a half hours
- Each exams will consist of four (4) to six (6) questions and students are expected to answer only two (2)
- Both mid-semester and final exam add up to 50% of the overall assessment
- Although considerable choice is availed, the questions ensure that all students acquire a substantial grasp of the course content

### **9. OTHER REQUIREMENTS**

- Students must at all times show respect and courtesy to each other while maintaining decency in their manner/mode of dressing.
- Any conflict amongst students must be resolved to ensure a free and conducive learning environment

### **10. KEY INSTITUTIONAL ACADEMIC POLICIES**

Students should note the following are key policies as outlined in the University Catalogue and Students Handbook

- *Academic dishonesty*: Any intentional giving or use of external assistance during an examination without the express permission of the faculty member giving the examination.
- **Fabrication**: any falsification or invention of data, citation or other authority in an academic exercise;
- **Plagiarism**: any passing off of another's ideas, words, or work as one's own;
- **Previously Submitted Work**: presenting work prepared for and submitted to another course;

## 2. *Class Attendance*

Students are expected to attend all classes. Upon being absent from **Seven** classes in a 3 unit course, the instructor will give a student an “**F**” grade for that course.

## 11. USIU GRADING

- A 90 - 100
- A- 87 - 89
- B 80 - 83
- B- 77 - 79
- C+ 74 - 76
- C 70 - 73
- C- 67 - 69
- D+ 64 - 66
- D 62 - 63
- D- 60 - 61
- F 0 - 59 OR 7 MISSED CLASSES