

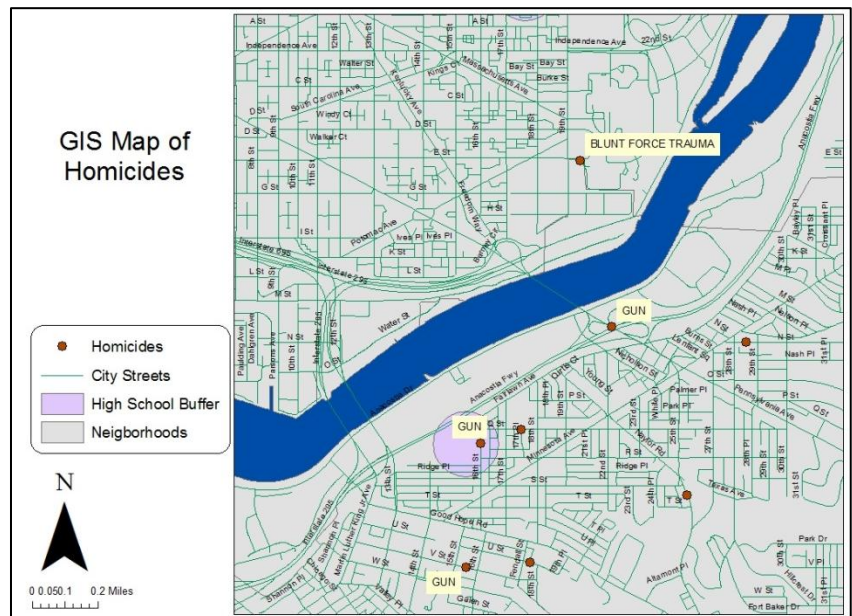
## Perceived Fear of Victimization: Understanding Fear of Crime on a University Campus

For many young adults attending college, it is a first step to adulthood and oftentimes their first time experiencing a lack of adult supervision. With this in mind, it is no wonder that the University/College environment garners a great deal of attention in terms of crime and victimization. While recent events may have demonstrated that no University/College is completely secure, most often we consider it to be a crime-free or low crime area. However, and maybe more importantly, it does not stop students from raising concerns about crime, and indicating elevated levels of fear of victimization.

With this in mind, the goal of our class will be to examine the status of fear of victimization on the George Mason University Campus. Particular attention will be paid to perceptions of fear, while considering the spatial patterns of crime on campus. Students in the class will be involved in survey development, interview professionals, conduct social observations as well as spatial analysis of crime data using Geographic Information Systems (GIS). The course will highlight the 'connect' between research and practice in the field of Criminal Justice.

This is a particularly valuable experience for those interested in graduate study. The honors series requires a one-year commitment to take CRIM 491 in the fall and CRIM 492 in the spring. Students who complete the series successfully will earn 6 credits in either the elective category or the skills category within the major (student's choice). Those who earn a GPA of 3.5 or higher for these two classes will receive the honors designation on their degree. Enrollment is by departmental approval. To be eligible for enrollment, students need to have:

- A GPA of at least 3.4
- Completed 60 credits prior to Fall 2012
- Completed ADJ/CRIM 300 with at least a B, or be enrolled in CRIM 300 in Fall 2012



The seminar will meet on Monday afternoons (1:30 to 4:10) on the Prince William campus, but class meetings will sometimes be substituted with fieldwork assignments on the Fairfax campus. General information on the honors programs can be found at <http://cls.gmu.edu/adjhonors>.

The faculty sponsor of this seminar is Professor Brian Lawton. If you're interested in enrolling or want further information, contact him at [blawton@gmu.edu](mailto:blawton@gmu.edu).