# CRIME VICTIMS AND VICTIMIZATION

**CRIM-404**

**Fall 2018**

**Professor:** Ms. Karen L. Bune

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**Class Meeting Time:** Wednesdays, August 29, 2018 – December 12, 2018

***Final Exam: Wednesday, December 12, 2018 (7:30 - 10:15 PM)***

**Place: Lecture Hall 2**

**Office Hours:** By appointment. If a student needs to meet with the professor, the

student should contact the professor to set up an appointment.

**Course Description:**

Victims of crime have generally been overlooked in our haste to understand, prevent, and control crime. Research and public attention has begun to focus on this important group over the last few decades. The purpose of this course is to review what is known about crime victims and victimization. A combination of readings, lectures, guest presentations, and discussions will be utilized to evaluate criminal victimization.

The course will cover a discussion of defining and measuring victimization and will examine theories of why some individuals become victims and others do not. The course will also evaluate the impact of victimization and its consequences and will study various victim issues as well as the victims’ rights/victims’ assistance movement. The course will relate studies to actual life situations and current events related to crime victims.

**Required Texts:**

Doerner, W. G. and Lab, S. P. (2013) Victimology, 8th ed., Cincinnati: Anderson Publishing; ISBN 978-1-138-69029-5

**Recommended Reading:**

Moriarity, Laura J. (2008) Controversies in Victimology, 2nd edition, Cincinatti: Anderson Publishing: ISBN 9781593455682

***Note***: **It is imperative that** **ALL assigned material must be read prior to class and students should be fully prepared to engage in discussion of issues related to assigned topics.**

**ATTENDANCE, ASSIGNMENTS, AND EXAM:**

**Attendance (10%)**

Students are expected to attend all classes and remain for the entire class period unless there is an extenuating circumstance that includes illness or death in the family for which documented proof may be required. The GMU Honor Code must be upheld at all times.

**Analytical Writing Exercise (30%)**

Students will be provided a handout of an article titled, “Apologetic Drunk Driver Who Killed 3 on I-66 Gets 6 Years in Prison,” by Tom Jackman, Washington Post, which describes an actual incident that occurred. Professor will provide article to students. Students are to critically analyze this incident and evaluate the relevant issues pertaining to victimization. Such issues can include-- but not be limited to-- victim-impact, grief and loss issues, victim services, accountability/responsibility, role of the criminal justice system, sentencing, media, and any other issues students deem pertinent to the facts and issues surrounding this case. There is no mandatory length required for the writing assignment. **However, it is important that the key issues and points of the article be fully addressed and that critical analytical thinking is demonstrated in the written analysis.** Paper must be typed, double-spaced. Students will be graded on their ability to assess the critical issues and extrapolate important factors related to this case, the analysis and evaluation of the various components pertaining to victimization issues, the reasoning and logic that is used in the final analysis, and the quality of the written work (i.e. spelling, sentence and paragraph construction, consistency and flow, punctuation, correct grammar).

**This paper is due October 3, 2018. A HARD COPY must be submitted to professor in class.**

**PROFESSIONAL INTERVIEW: (40%)**

Students are to conduct an interview with a professional in the criminal justice system (i.e. law enforcement, victim services, courts, etc.) concerning an issue, problem area, or subject related to crime victims and victimization and write a newspaper-style article based on the interview. It is suggested that students look at a newspaper article in a major newspaper (i.e. The Washington Post, The New York Times, etc.) to obtain an example of a newspaper style article. Students must develop the interview questions pertinent to their chosen area and gather the vital information pertinent to the subject of inquiry. Students must develop a minimum of 8 questions, and no more than 12, for the interview. The questions should be formulated in a way to derive the information required for the focus of the interview, and the responses to the questions should be substantive, relevant, and sufficient to meet the needs of the assignment related to the chosen issue, area, or topic.

The separate list of questions must be attached and submitted with the written article. The article should be in essay/article format. ***It should not be a mere listing of responses to the questions developed.*** Students must fully explain to the person being interviewed that the purpose of the interview is for a class assignment and must obtain the individual’s permission for the interview. Students must list the name of the person, title, and organization of the person being interviewed for the article and there should be no anonymous subject of an interview. Students should not choose a current professor for the interview. Students should not interject themselves into the article itself but, instead, the article should be written in an objective fashion and one pertinent to the findings of the interview. Students must attribute any direct quotes to the actual person being quoted. Students will be graded on the selection of the interview topic/ issue, the choice of the professional to be interviewed, the nature and quality of the questions, the nature and relevancy of the responses incorporated into the article, the conclusion formulate from the interview findings, and the manner in which the entire assignment/article is developed, constructed, and written***. The article should be written in the same person/tense throughout.*** Students will also be evaluated on the overall quality of the written work, continuity and flow, proper punctuation, spelling, and grammar**. This assignment is due November 7, 2018. A HARD COPY must be presented to the professor in class.**

**FINAL EXAM: (20%)**

**A final exam (closed book) will be administered on December 12, 2018.**

**IF students have attended all classes, completed all readings, and listened to speakers, they should be well prepared to address the issues that will be covered on the final exam.**

**STUDENT EVALUATION AND GRADING:**

Analytical Writing Exercise 30%

Professional Interview 40%

Attendance 10%

Final Exam 20%

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**Total:** 100%

**Grades for individual assignments and exam will be calculated as follows:**

A+ = 4.00

A = 4.00

A- = 3.67

B+ = 3.33

B = 3.00

B- = 2.67

C+ = 2.33

C = 2.00

C- = 1.67

D = 1.00

F = 0.00

**Final Grading for Course: (compilation of all grades)**

A+ Exceptional work; however, it enters in Patriot Web as 4.0, same as an “A”

A 4.00

A- 3.67-3.99

B+ 3.33-3.66

B 3.00-3.32

B- 2.67-2.99

C+ 2.33-2.66

C 2.00-2.32

C- 1.67-1.99

D 1.00-1.66

F anything less than 1.00

**GENERAL EDUCATION MISSION:**

The mission of George Mason University’s General Education Program is to educate, liberate, and broaden the mind, and to instill lifelong love of learning. In conjunction with each student’s major program of study and other electives, minors, or certificates, this program seeks to produce graduate with intellectual vision, creative abilities, and moral sensibility, as well as the skills to assure a well-rounded and useable education. The General Education program seeks four specific goals:

1. General education courses should first ensure that all undergraduates develop skills in information gathering, written and oral communication, and analytical and quantitative reasoning.
2. General education courses should expose students to the development of knowledge by emphasizing major domains of thought and methods of inquiry.
3. General education courses should enable students to attain a breadth of knowledge that supports their specializations and contributes to their education in both personal and professional ways.
4. General education courses should encourage students to make important connections across boundaries (for example: among disciplines; between the university and the external world; between the United States and other countries.

This course is designed to provide students critical/analytical thinking skills and problem-solving capabilities coupled with effective oral and written communication skills to deal with real-life issues related to criminal victimization.

**STUDENT OBLIGATIONS:**

**Honor Code: Students must abide by the GMU Honor Code (See University Catalog). Any violation of the Honor Code will follow the standard reporting procedures as outlined in the university catalog and will also result in failure of the assignment.**

**Special Note on Plagiarism:** Plagiarism means using other people’s work and representing it as your own. Generally, students writing papers need to provide references for ideas that are not their own. Appropriate formats for citing and referencing include APA and MLA. You may also use formats contained in criminal justice journals such as Justice Quarterly or Criminology.

**Disability Statement**: If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodation, please see professor and contact the Office of Disability Resources at (703) 993-2472. All academic accommodations must be made through that office.

**Enrollment:** Students are responsible for verifying enrollment in this class. Schedule adjustments must be made by deadlines published in the Schedule of Classes. (Deadlines each semester are published in the Schedule of Classes available from the Registrar’s website at registrar.gmu.edu). The last day to add a course is September 4, 2018. The last day to drop a course with no tuition penalty is September 9, 2018. After the last day to drop a class, withdrawal from this course requires approval of the dean and is only allowed for non-academic reasons. Undergraduate students may choose to exercise a selective withdrawal. See the Schedule of Classes for selective withdrawal procedures.

**Assignments:** All assignments are due on the specified due dates. ***E-Mailed assignments*** ***will*** ***NOT* be accepted**. **Hard copies must be turned in to the professor**. Late assignments will ***NOT*** be accepted.

**Class Participation:** Participation is inclusive of attendance as well as participating in class discussions, dialogue about current events as well as engagement in responding to questions and issues presented by professor. It also includes interacting with and responding to guest speakers and their presentations.

**Final Exam: *The final exam will be administered on Wednesday, December 12, 2018 from 7:30-10:15 PM. Students are expected to be in class to take the exam on that date.******There will be no make-up exams or alternative scheduling for the final exam.***

**Attendance:** Every effort should be made to attend all classes and arrive on time. ***Students are expected to stay for the entire class and not leave following the break***

***or they will not get full credit for attendance at the class. Class roll will be taken after the break. If students leave at the break, they will be counted as absent.***

*Students who are chronically absent will be directed to withdraw from the course****. If students are legitimately sick, they should not come to class and infect others.***

**Class Comportment:** Students should not converse with classmates during lectures, guest presentations, or while another classmate is speaking. Such interactions can be very distracting. In addition, students must not use cell phones during class, and computers should only be utilized for class purposes. Students full attention in class is required.

**Guest Speakers:** A number of guest speakers are scheduled to provide presentations during the semester. Students should make every effort to arrive punctually for class and provide them the courtesy of their full attention. These speakers work full time and, after a long day or shift, they generously give their time to visit out class. In addition, students should actively participate and engage in any discussion and question/answer period following the presentations.

**Advice: *Students would be well advised to keep abreast of relevant and current news issues concerning crime and crime victimization topics. The ability to relate class material to current events and engage in class discussions is beneficial to your learning experience in this course.***

**COURSE SCHEDULE:**

**August 29, 2018**

*Course Introduction:* Overview of course content. Discuss syllabus and course requirements, expectations, and GMU Honor Code. Student and Professor introductions. Current events discussion related to course.

***September 5, 2018***

*Scope of Victimology/Criminal Victimization*:

Read Doerner, Chapters 1, 2

**September 12, 2018:**

*Cost of Victimization & Financial Impact of Victimization:*

Read Doerner Chapters 3, 4

**September 19, 2018:**

Victims Rights/Media Issues

Read Doerner, Chapter 6

**September 26, 2018**

**Guest Speaker:** *Elizabeth Sparks, R.N., Consultant, Speaker*

Ms. Sparks will speak about suicide, secondary victimization, grief and loss issues, trauma and domestic violence.

**October 3, 2018:**

Non-Financial Impact of Victimization & Traditional Crimes

Read Doerner, Chapters, 5, 7 **NOTE:** **Analytical Writing Exercise Due Today**

**October 10, 2018:**

**Guest Speaker:** *Detective Rick Rodriguez, Arlington County, VA Police Department*

*Detective Rodriguez is a nationally recognized expert on gangs and will discuss gang issues and victimization resulting from gang activity and gang violence.*

**October 17, 2018:** Types of Victimization: Sexual Battery; Victimization at Work

Read Doerner, Chapters 8, 14

**October 24, 2018:**

Types of Victimization: Intimate Partner Violence

Read Doerner, Chapter 9

**October 31, 2018:** *Guest Speaker: Ms. Debra Evans, Division Chief, Sexual Assault Center & Domestic Violence Program, City of Alexandria, VA, Department of Community and Human Resources. Ms. Evans will speak about domestic violence and sexual assault victimization.*

**November 7, 2018:**

Types of Victimization: Child Maltreatment; Crime & Elderly

Reader Doerner, Chapters 10, 11 **NOTE: Professional Interview Due Today**

**November 14, 2018:** *Guest Speaker: Detective Louis Ordonez, Arlington County (VA) Police Department. Det. Ordonez will discuss crime and victimization issues pertaining to forensics, technology and computers.*

**November 21, 2018: THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY—NO CLASS**

**November 28, 2018:**

Types of Victimization: Hate Crime/Victimization at School

Read Doerner, Chapters 12, 13

**December 5, 2018:**

Course Review /Lingering Issues

**December 12, 2018: FINAL EXAM (CLOSED BOOK) 7:30 – 10:15 P.M.**