

**George Mason University**  
**Department of Criminology, Law, and Society**  
**CRIM 404-DL1 Crime Victims and Victimization**  
**Spring 2024**

**When does this course meet?**

This is an asynchronous online course that runs from January 16<sup>th</sup> to May 8<sup>th</sup>. All coursework will be completed on Blackboard.

**Who is the instructor for this course?**

**Dr. Marie Mele Thomas**, Associate Professor, Department of Criminology, Law, and Society. I have been teaching criminology and criminal justice courses for many years, and Crime Victims and Victimization is one of my favorite classes to teach! Although this is an asynchronous course, I will be available throughout the semester for virtual meetings. The best way to reach me is via email at [mmeletho@gmu.edu](mailto:mmeletho@gmu.edu).

**What is this course about?**

This course is about the study of crime victims and victimization. Victimology is a subfield of criminology, that focuses on the causes of criminal victimization, its consequences, how the criminal justice system accommodates victims of crime, and how other elements of society, such as the media and the public, respond to crime victims. Much like other social scientists, victimologists use the scientific method to answer empirical questions about crime victims, such as why the risk of victimization decreases with age, why men are more likely than women to be victims of violent crime, and why victims of different social status are often treated differently in the criminal justice system. In this course, you will explore these questions, and immerse yourself in the rich body of empirical literature on criminal victimization.

**What are the course objectives?**

As a result of completing this course, you will be able to demonstrate:

- An understanding of the history and evolution of victimology as an academic field of study.
- An understanding of the theories, correlates, and consequences of criminal victimization.
- An understanding of victims' rights in the U.S., and the role crime victims play in the American criminal justice process.
- An ability to use empirical data to identify patterns and trends of criminal victimization.
- An ability to analyze and critique crime control policies as they relate to the rights and interests of crime victims.
- An ability to express your views on victim related issues in writing and in virtual discussion.

**What books are required for this course?**

Daigle, L. (2022). *Victimology: The essentials, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition*. Sage Publications. ISBN 978-1544393193.

Additional readings will be provided on Blackboard.

## How will your learning be assessed in this course?

### *Discussion Boards*

Contribute to a weekly discussion board by answering the prompt questions with an initial post (3 points) and responding to two classmates' posts (2 points). Initial posts will be graded on relevance to the prompt and originality in thought. **Discussion board prompts will be posted on Blackboard at 12:00am on Sundays and will be due at 11:59pm on Wednesdays.** Late posts will not receive a grade. Each board is worth 5 points, for a total of 65 points.

Given the sensitive nature of the topics we will cover in this course, including sexual victimization and hate crime, you are expected to contribute to class discussions in a mature and responsible manner. **Given the myriad differences in life experiences, it is essential to respect views or perspectives that differ from your own.** The expression of individual opinions is encouraged; however, prejudicial, derogatory, or demeaning remarks will not be tolerated. Before you speak (or write), think about the impact your words will have on others, and consider the extent to which the point you are making is informed by facts or personal bias. Be prepared to support your viewpoint with empirical data if challenged by a classmate.

### *Exit Tickets*

Submit an exit ticket at the conclusion of each week. To receive full credit for this assignment, you must fully answer the prompt questions in approximately 300 words. Your answer must show your understanding of and critical thinking about the material. **Exit tickets will be posted on Blackboard at 12:00am on Sundays and will be due at 11:59pm on Fridays.** Late tickets will not receive a grade. Each ticket is worth 5 points, for a total of 65 points.

### *Quizzes*

Complete four quizzes, each consisting of 15 multiple choice questions on the course material. Quizzes will be administered virtually via Blackboard and must be taken on the dates assigned. **Quizzes are designed to assess your retention of the material and are not open book,** which means you should not rely on the weekly slides, videos or readings to complete the quiz. Each quiz is worth 30 points, for a total of 120 points.

## How will your final grade be calculated?

Final grades will be calculated using the following course requirements:

Discussion Boards	65 points
Exit Tickets	65 points
Quizzes	120 points
<b>Total</b>	<b>250 points</b>

Final grades will be calculated by dividing the total number of points accumulated by the total number of points available, and then multiplying that figure by 100. For example, if a student accumulates 210 points, the grade calculation is as follows:  $210 / 250 \times 100 = 84\%$

Final grades will be determined using the following matrix:

A+	97-100	A	94-96	C+	77-79	C	74-76
A-	90-93	B+	87-89	C-	70-73	D	60-69
B	84-86	B-	80-83	F	0-59		

### **What policies are you expected to follow?**

#### ***Email***

GMU policy provides email as the standard means of communication and requires that all email contact occur through GMU email accounts. **Please check your GMU email regularly** so you do not miss time-sensitive information and course announcements.

#### ***Blackboard***

GMU's online Blackboard program will be used for posting assignments, grades, readings, and course announcements. Here is how to access Blackboard:

- Go to: [mymason.gmu.edu](http://mymason.gmu.edu)
- Log in using your email username and password.
- Click on the link toward the upper-right part of the screen that says "Courses"
- Under "Course List," click on "CRIM 404 (Spring 2024)."

If you need assistance accessing or navigating Blackboard, you can email [courses@gmu.edu](mailto:courses@gmu.edu), call (703) 993-3141, or go to Johnson Center room 311.

#### ***Diversity and Inclusion***

Mason promotes a living and learning environment for outstanding growth and productivity among its students, faculty, and staff. Through its curriculum, programs, policies, procedures, services and resources, Mason strives to maintain a quality environment for work, study, and personal growth. An emphasis upon diversity and inclusion throughout the campus community is essential to achieve these goals. Diversity is broadly defined to include such characteristics as, but is not limited to, race, ethnicity, gender, religion, age, disability, and sexual orientation. Diversity also entails different viewpoints, philosophies, and perspectives. **Attention to these aspects of diversity will help promote a culture of inclusion and belonging, and an environment where diverse opinions, backgrounds and practices have the opportunity to be voiced, heard, and respected.**

#### ***University Honor Code***

Following is a summary of Mason's honor code; see the University Catalog and <http://oai.gmu.edu/the-mason-honor-code-2/> for additional information. Mason's honor code will be strictly enforced in this class and all violations will be reported to the Office of Academic Integrity. The Honor Code of George Mason University specifically prohibits cheating and attempted cheating, plagiarism, lying, and stealing.

Cheating and attempted cheating include "willful giving or receiving of an unauthorized, unfair, dishonest, or unscrupulous advantage in academic work over other students." Examples include the use of unauthorized resources during an exam, copying another student's work (with or without their permission), allowing another student to copy your work, using an assignment or test from another

student, accessing tests or grades electronically for the purpose of getting an unfair advantage, and any other behavior that fits the general definition above.

Plagiarism includes “presenting as one’s own the words, the work, the ideas, the arrangement of material, or the pattern of thought of someone else without proper acknowledgment. While direct quotations do need citations, so do paraphrases and summaries of opinions or factual information formerly unknown to the writers or which the writers did not discover themselves. Exceptions for this include factual information which can be obtained from a variety of sources, the writers’ own insights or findings from their own field research, and what has been termed common knowledge.” Examples include taking or buying a paper from someone else or the internet and presenting it as your own, and submitting as your own work a paper with substantial unacknowledged contributions from others. Information and graphics obtained from the internet (except for freeware clipart) must include source citations to avoid plagiarism. Your final paper will be submitted to Blackboard and screened by the SafeAssign plagiarism detection program. If you use another student’s paper as a significant, unacknowledged source for your paper, you will be referred to the Office of Academic Integrity.

Lying includes “the willful and knowledgeable telling of an untruth, as well as any form of deceit, attempted deceit, or fraud in an oral or written statement relating to academic work.” Examples include making up source materials or source citations in a paper, pretending to use an actual source that you did not really use, making up an excuse for missing a test or assignment due date, falsifying any written or electronic document, or presenting any other falsehoods through any method and in any context.

Other policies are available at <http://universitypolicy.gmu.edu>. All members of the university community are responsible for knowing and following established policies.

### ***Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)***

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA) is a federal law that gives protection to student educational records and provides students with certain rights. For more information on your FERPA rights, please visit <https://registrar.gmu.edu/ferpa/>

### **What University resources are available to you?**

#### ***Health and Safety Concerns***

#### ***WAVES: Wellness, Alcohol and Violence Education and Services***

WAVES (Wellness, Alcohol and Violence Education and Services) promotes wellness within the Mason community through health education, alcohol/drug assessment and education, and violence awareness, prevention, and sexual assault response. We help students make healthy, safe choices and encourage lifelong, thoughtful healthy decision-making through individualized support, creative programming, and evidence-based education and outreach. You can reach the WAVES office at 703-993-9999 or at [waves.gmu.edu](http://waves.gmu.edu). The office is located in SUB (Student Union Building) I, Suite 3200. Additional resources include:

- 24-Hour Sexual and Intimate Partner Violence Crisis Line 703-380-1434
- Fairfax County Office for Women and Domestic and Sexual Violence Services 703-360-7273
- Arlington County Domestic Violence Services 703- 228-4848

- Prince William County Sexual Assault Victims Advocacy Services (SAVAS) 703-368-4141
- Virginia Family Violence and Sexual Assault 1-800-838-8238
- Rape, Abuse, and Incest National Network 1-800-656-HOPE <https://ohl.rainn.org/online/>

### ***CAPS: Counseling and Psychological Services***

Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) provides a wide range of free confidential services to students, faculty, and staff. Services are provided by a staff of professional clinical psychologists, social workers, counselors, learning specialists, and psychiatric providers. CAPS individual and group counseling, workshops, and outreach programs are designed to enhance students' personal experience and academic performance. Visit [caps.gmu.edu](https://caps.gmu.edu) for additional resources.

- For consultation or emergency assistance during office hours call 703-993-2380.
- For assistance during non-office hours, call University Police at 703-993-4357.

Additional resources include:

- 703-527-4077 (CrisisLink)
- 1-800-273-8255 (National Suicide Prevention Lifeline)
- 1-877-838-2838 (Veterans' Crisis Hotline)

### ***Students with Disabilities***

If you have (or think you may have) a disability or other condition that may affect your academic performance, please make sure documentation is on file with the Office of Disability Services (703-993-2474; [ods.gmu.edu](https://ods.gmu.edu)) to determine the necessary accommodations. By Mason policy, I can only make accommodations for students with certification from ODS.

### ***English Language Skills***

If you are not a native English speaker and are interested in linguistic or cultural enrichment services, you can contact Mason's English Language Institute at [eli.gmu.edu](https://eli.gmu.edu).

### ***Academic Skills***

If you are interested in improving your academic skills, the university offers students assistance through Learning Services at [caps.gmu.edu/learningservices](https://caps.gmu.edu/learningservices). Learning Services offers workshops on the study cycle, effective note-taking techniques, individual learning styles, exam preparation, and effective time management.

### ***Writing Skills***

If you are interested in improving your writing skills, the university offers students assistance through the Writing Center at [writingcenter.gmu.edu/](https://writingcenter.gmu.edu/)

## What is the course schedule for the Spring 2024 semester?

Week	Reading/Topic	Assignment	Due Day/Time	Objectives
Week 1 (Jan 16 – 19)	Chapter 1  Introduction to Victimology	Discussion Board  Exit Ticket	Friday 11:59pm*  Friday 11:59pm	Understand the history and evolution of victimology as an academic field of study  Express your views on victim related issues in writing and in virtual discussion
Week 2 (Jan 22 – 26)	Chapter 2  Extent, Theories and Correlates of Victimization	Discussion Board  Exit Ticket	Wednesday 11:59pm  Friday 11:59pm	Understand theories that seek to explain criminal victimization  Use empirical data to identify patterns of criminal victimization in the U.S.  Express your views on victim related issues in writing and in virtual discussion.
Week 3 (Jan 29 – Feb 2)	Chapter 3  Consequences of Victimization	Discussion Board  Exit Ticket	Wednesday 11:59pm  Friday 11:59pm	Understand the individual and collective consequences of criminal victimization  Express your views on victim related issues in writing and in virtual discussion
Week 4 (Feb 5 – 9)	Chapter 4  Recurring Victimization	Discussion Board  Exit Ticket	Wednesday 11:59pm  Friday 11:59pm	Understand the risks and dynamics of recurring victimization  Express your views on victim related issues in writing and in virtual discussion

		<b>Quiz #1</b>	Friday 11:59pm	Assess your knowledge of the material in Chapters 1-3
Week 5 (Feb 12 – 16)	Chapter 5  Victims' Rights and Remedies	Discussion Board          Exit Ticket	Wednesday 11:59pm          Friday 11:59pm	Understand the rights of crime victims and their role in the American criminal justice process   Analyze crime control policies as they relate to the rights and interests of crime victims   Express your views on victim related issues in writing and in virtual discussion
Week 6 (Feb 19 – 23)	Chapter 6  Homicide Victimization	Discussion Board          Exit Ticket	Wednesday 11:59pm          Friday 11:59pm	Understand the risks, dynamics and consequences of homicide victimization   Express your views on victim related issues in writing and in virtual discussion
Week 7 (Feb 26 – March 1)	Chapter 7  Sexual Victimization	Discussion Board          Exit Ticket	Wednesday 11:59pm          Friday 11:59pm	Understand the risks, dynamics and consequences of sexual victimization   Express your views on victim related issues in writing and in virtual discussion
<b>Spring Break – No coursework to complete this week!</b>				
Week 8 (March 11 – 15)		Mid-Semester Survey          <b>Quiz #2</b>	Friday 11:59pm          Friday 11:59pm	Reflect on your experience in the course thus far in the semester.

				Assess your knowledge of the material in Chapters 4-7
Week 9 (March 18 – 22)	Chapter 8  Intimate Partner Violence	Discussion Board   Exit Ticket	Wednesday 11:59pm   Friday 11:59pm	Understand the risks, dynamics and consequences of intimate partner violence  Express your views on victim related issues in writing and in virtual discussion
Week 10 (March 25 – 29)	Chapter 9  Child and Elder Victimization	Discussion Board   Exit Ticket	Wednesday 11:59pm   Friday 11:59pm	Understand the risks, dynamics, and consequences of child and elder victimization  Express your views on victim related issues in writing and in virtual discussion
Week 11 (April 1 – 5)	Chapter 10  Victimization at School and the Workplace	Discussion Board   Exit Ticket   <b>Quiz #3</b>	Wednesday 11:59pm   Friday 11:59pm   Friday 11:59pm	Understand the risks, dynamics, and consequences of victimization at school and the workplace  Express your views on victim related issues in writing and in virtual discussion  Assess your knowledge of the material in Chapters 8-10
Week 12 (April 8 – 12)	Chapter 11  Property Victimization, Identify Theft, and Cybervictimization	Discussion Board   Exit Ticket	Wednesday 11:59pm   Friday 11:59pm	Understand the risks, dynamics and consequences of property victimization, identity theft, and cybervictimization



				Express your views on victim related issues in writing and in virtual discussion
Week 13 (April 15 – 19)	Chapter 12  Victimization of Persons with Disabilities or Mental Illness	Discussion Board  Exit Ticket	Wednesday 11:59pm  Friday 11:59pm	Understand the risks, dynamics, and consequences of victimization of persons with disabilities or mental illness  Express your views on victim related issues in writing and in virtual discussion
Week 14 (April 22 – 26)	Chapters 13 and 14  Comparative Victimology  Contemporary Issues in Victimology	Discussion Board  Exit Ticket	Wednesday 11:59pm  Friday 11:59pm	Understand victimology from a comparative (international) perspective  Understand the risks, dynamics, and consequences of hate crime, terrorism, and human trafficking  Express your views on victim related issues in writing and in virtual discussion
Week 15 (April 29 – May 3)	Final Quiz, Final Reflection, and Course Evaluations!	Exit Ticket  <b>Quiz #4</b>	Friday 11:59pm  Friday 11:59pm	Reflect on what you have learned in this course.  Assess your knowledge of the material in Chapters 11-14