Crime in the Media
Summer I 2016
CRIJ 4390-002

Instructor: Dr. Wendi Pollock
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Email: wendi.pollock@tamucc.edu
Class Hours: Monday – Thursday, 10:00 – 11:55 A.M.
Classroom: CI 102
Office Hours: Monday – Thursday, Noon – 1 P.M., or by appointment

Required Text:

There is no required book for this course. You will be required to watch television shows, movies, and news stories, both in class and on your own. Accessing these things may require a cost.

Course Description:

This course will cover the portrayal of crime, criminals, the criminal justice system, and criminal justice practitioners in the media. Specifically, the course will address the goals of the media and how those affect their coverage of crime and the CJ system.

Learning Objectives and outcomes:

The course objectives are:
1. To improve students’ understanding of criminal justice careers, and how those differ from their portrayal on television.
2. To provide students with a better understanding of the components of the criminal justice system.
3. To encourage students to think critically about information they are given and about the sources of that information.

**Learning Outcomes** - By the end of the course, *the student* should be able to:

1. Critically evaluate information given to them about crime and the criminal justice system from a variety of television sources (news, movies, true-crime shows, etc.).
2. Locate information on crime and the criminal justice system to compare with information given on television.
3. Be able to articulate the goals of the media and how those might affect coverage of crime and the criminal justice system.

**Grading:**

There will be five assignments worth 20% of your grade each. To put that differently, the grades on all five of your assignments will be averaged together to achieve your final grade.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Grade Range</th>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>90 – 100</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>80 – 89</td>
<td>B</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>70 – 79</td>
<td>C</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>60 – 69</td>
<td>D</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>59 &amp; Below</td>
<td>F</td>
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**Assignments:**

Students will be given assignments in class on the Thursdays marked in the schedule below. As a general rule, each assignment will be due on the following Tuesday (Again, see the schedule below for exact due dates). For each of these, students will be given the assignment in writing, with specific instructions included. On average, these assignments will require about two pages of writing each. See the “Make-Up Exams/Assignments” section below for the class policy on late assignments. The final assignment will be due during final exam week and will be submitted via email on the exam day.

**Make-Up Exams/Assignments:**

Since you will not be given traditional exams, there are no make-up exams. Assignments can be turned in one class day late for a 20 point deduction, but will not be accepted after that. The professor can waive this point deduction in cases in which the student could not attend because they were hospitalized or some other comparable emergency (with proof).
Participation & Attendance:

You are expected to be in class daily, on time. **Individuals who are more than ten minutes late will not be allowed to enter the classroom.** Though attendance is not an official part of your grade, it will be taken daily for two reasons: (1) the information is reported to the university and can be used against you in future determinations of financial aid allowances, and (2) if you do not attend, you will be responsible for what you miss. Taking attendance allows me to know if you simply need more explanation or if you are asking questions because you were not there when the topic was covered. Please make sure that a classmate will be getting you notes and assignment information before you miss a class.

Academic Honesty:

The Faculty of the College of Liberal Arts expects students to conduct their academic work with integrity and honesty. Acts of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated and can result in the failure of a course and dismissal from the University. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating on a test, plagiarism, collusion – the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing work offered for credit, the abuse of resource materials, and misrepresentation of credentials or accomplishments as a member of the college.

Cellphones, Laptops, Ipads Etc.:

All communication style or general noise making devises should be off or on silent during class. If you have an emergency situation or if you are on call from a professional position, please let me know before class begins. Some exceptions will, of course, be allowed in these cases. If you decide that, for any reason, you must send or receive a call or text, please leave the classroom to do so. **If you are texting in my class, I consider this rude and I reserve the right to ask you to leave my class.** This will, undoubtedly result in embarrassment for you and a time delay for me, so you want to avoid this.

Student Behavior:

**All students are expected to be respectful to others and the instructor at all times.** Class discussions may include controversial topics. Students should be respectful of others’ viewpoints and opinions, even those that they may not agree with. Any conduct deemed by the instructor to be disruptive to the class may result in the student’s removal from the class.
Disability Services:

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please call or visit Disability Services at (361) 825-5816 in Corpus Christi Hall, Room #116.

If you are a returning veteran and are experiencing cognitive and/or physical access issues in the classroom or on campus, please contact the Disability Services office for assistance at (361) 825-5816.

Academic Advising:

The College of Liberal Arts requires that students meet with an Academic Advisor as soon as they are ready to declare a major. Degree plans are prepared in the CLA Academic Advising Center. The University uses an online Degree Audit system. Any amendment must be approved by the Department Chair and the Office of the Dean. All courses and requirements specified in the final degree plan audit must be completed before a degree will be granted. The CLA Academic Advising Office is located in Driftwood #203. For more information please call (361) 825-3466.

Grade Appeals Process:

Students who feel that they have not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in this class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details on the process of submitting a formal grade appeal, please visit the College of Liberal Arts website, cla.tamucc.edu/students/studentinfo.html For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Associate Dean’s Office.

Course Calendar:

Please note that this schedule is tentative as we may need to spend more time on some topics than others.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>May 31</td>
<td>-Introduction and syllabus</td>
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June 1 - Organization, ownership, and goals of the media
June 2 - Organization, ownership, and goals of the media
(Assignment 1 Given Out)
June 6 - Media portrayal of crime and criminals
(ASSIGNMENT 1 DUE)
June 7 - Media portrayal of crime and criminals
June 8 - Example of media portrayal of crime and criminals
June 9 - Example of media portrayal of crime and criminals
(Assignment 2 Given Out)
June 13 - Media portrayal of crime and police
(ASSIGNMENT 2 DUE)
June 14 - Media portrayal of crime and police
June 15 - Example of media portrayal of police
June 16 - Example of media portrayal of police
(Assignment 3 Given Out)
June 20 - Courts in the media
(ASSIGNMENT 3 DUE)
June 21 - Courts in the media
June 22 - Example of courts in the media
June 23 - Example of courts in the media
(Assignment 4 Given Out)
June 27 - Media coverage of corrections
(ASSIGNMENT 4 DUE)
June 28 - Media coverage of corrections
June 29 - Crime as entertainment
June 30 - Example of media coverage of corrections
July 1 - FINAL ASSIGNMENT (5)
(In-Class. This will count as your final exam)