Crime in the Media
Summer I 2019
CRIJ 3370.001

Instructor: Dr. Wendi Pollock
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Class Hours: Monday – Thursday, 12:00-1:45 P.M.
Classroom: CI-106
Office Hours: Monday – Thursday, 2 – 3 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>Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<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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<td>3</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>70 – 79</td>
<td>C</td>
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<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>
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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 Monday (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.

**Late Assignments:**

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).
**Make-Up Exams/Assignments:**

Since you will not be given traditional exams, there are no make-up exams.

**Participation & Attendance:**

You are expected to be in class daily, on time. 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. If you are more than 15 minutes late for an exam, you will not be allowed to take the exam and you will receive a zero. Please make sure you are on time to class, particularly on exam day.

**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 set to off or 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.** Because of the capabilities of modern cell phones, **if you have a phone out on your desk for any reason, during an exam, it is assumed that you are cheating on the exam** and will result in a zero on that test.

**Student Behavior:**

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, as an academic community, requires that each individual respect the needs of others to study and learn in a peaceful atmosphere. Under Article III of the Student Code of Conduct, classroom behavior that interferes with either (a) the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or (b) the
ability of other students to profit from the instructional program may be considered a breach of the peace and is subject to disciplinary sanction outlined in article VII of the Student Code of Conduct. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior may be instructed to leave the classroom. This prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including classrooms, electronic classrooms, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc.

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi has a diverse student population that represents the population of the state. Our goal is to provide you with a high quality educational experience that is free from repression. You are responsible for following the rules of the University, city, state and federal government. We expect that you will behave in a manner that is dignified, respectful and courteous to all people, regardless of sex, ethnic/racial origin, religious background, sexual orientation or disability. Behaviors that infringe on the rights of another individual will not be tolerated.

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 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:

As stated in University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.03, Student Grade Appeals, a student who believes that he or she has not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in the class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. The burden of
proof is upon the student to demonstrate the appropriateness of the appeal. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details, including the responsibilities of the parties involved in the process and the number of days allowed for completing the steps in the process, see University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.03, Student Grade Appeals. These documents are accessible online at: http://academicaffairs.tamucc.edu/rules_procedures/assets/13.02.99.C0.03_student_grade_appeals.pdf. For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Associate Dean’s office in the college in which the course is taught. For complete details on the process of submitting a formal grade appeal in CLA, please visit the College of Liberal Arts website, http://cla.tamucc.edu/about/student-resources.html.

**Dropping a Class**

I hope that you never find it necessary to drop this or any other class. However, events can sometimes occur that make dropping a course necessary or wise. **Please consult with your academic advisor, the Financial Aid Office, and me, before you decide to drop this course.** Should dropping the course be the best course of action, you must initiate the process to drop the course by going to the Student Services Center and filling out a course drop form. Just stopping attendance and participation WILL NOT automatically result in your being dropped from the class. **June 21st, 2019, is the last day to drop a class with an automatic grade of “W” for the Summer I 2019 term.**

**Inclusive Excellence**

The Criminal Justice Program is committed to University Values as stated in the Momentum 20/20 Strategic Plan. It values Inclusion, “to foster an environment of mutual respect that values and engages diverse people, ideas, views, and practices.” With the University, the Program believes “we must foster a campus climate with an ethos of respect, inclusion, empowerment, shared responsibility and social justice for all.”

**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>June 3</td>
<td>-Introduction and syllabus</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 4</td>
<td>-Organization, ownership, and goals of the media</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 5</td>
<td>-Organization, ownership, and goals of the media</td>
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June 6  
- Media portrayal of crime and criminals  
(ASSIGNMENT 1 DUE)

June 10  
- Media portrayal of crime and criminals

June 11  
- Example of media portrayal of crime and criminals

June 12  
- Example of media portrayal of crime and criminals
(Assignment 2 up on Blackboard)

June 13  
- Media portrayal of crime and police
(ASSIGNMENT 2 DUE)

June 17  
- Media portrayal of crime and police

June 18  
- Example of media portrayal of police

June 19  
- Example of media portrayal of police
(Assignment 3 up on Blackboard)

June 20  
- Courts in the media
(ASSIGNMENT 3 DUE)

******************************Last day to drop a class is June 21st******************************

June 24  
- Courts in the media

June 25  
- Example of courts in the media

June 26  
- Example of courts in the media
(Assignment 4 up on Blackboard)

June 27  
- Media coverage of corrections
(ASSIGNMENT 4 DUE)

July 1  
- Media coverage of corrections

July 2  
- Crime as entertainment

July 3  
- No Class – Begin work on final assignment
(Final assignment (5) up on Blackboard)

July 4  
- No class – Independence Day Holiday
July 5

**FINAL ASSIGNMENT (5)**
(Done and submitted online. This will count as your final exam – No class on this day)