Crime in the Media
Summer I 2020
CRIJ 3370.W01

Instructor: Dr. Wendi Pollock
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Email: wendi.pollock@tamucc.edu
Class Hours: Online - https://bb9.tamucc.edu/
Classroom: Online
Office Hours: I will be communicating regularly with you through Blackboard discussion board posts and by email. If you need to contact me beyond that, simply send me an email. If needed, I can set up a web chat with you as well. I will reply to all messages in a timely manner Monday – Fridays 8AM – 5PM.

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.

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Assignments:

Students will be given assignments weekly. Assignments will open in Blackboard, course content tab, on the Monday of each week. They are due by 11:59 PM that Friday. On average, these assignments will require about two pages of writing each. Read the instructions on each assignment carefully because they vary by assignment.

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 submit because of a serious emergency.
Make-Up Exams/Assignments:

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

Participation & Attendance:

You are expected log in to Blackboard and complete materials weekly. If you do not, you will not pass this course. Participation is not, however, a separate grade in the class. It will be measured in the quantity and quality of weekly assignments turned in.

Academic Honesty:

Definition: In an instructional setting, plagiarism occurs when a writer deliberately uses someone else’s language, ideas, or other original (not common-knowledge) material without acknowledging its source. Plagiarism is a violation of academic expectations, but it is sometimes difficult to understand what plagiarism actually is. Often, students commit unintentional plagiarism (not citing sources properly, for example), because they are unaware of the standards that apply. Plagiarism includes:

- Using the work of another as your own,
- Downloading or purchasing ready-made essays off the web and using them as your own,
- Using resource materials without correct documentation,
- Using the organization or language of a source without using quote marks and proper citation.
- Turning in a researched project without citing sources in an appropriate documentation style.

When you are confused about citation of quotes or ideas, please visit the Writing Center or me to get help. Information on MLA documentation rules and APA documentation rules is available at Purdue University’s OWL: http://owl.english.purdue.edu/, and from our local Writing Center at CASA.

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.

Disabilities Accommodations
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.C0.03, Student Grade Appeal Procedures, 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.C0.03, Student Grade Appeal Procedures. For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Dean's office in the college in which the course is taught or the Office of the Provost. These documents are accessible through the University Rules Web site at: [http://academicaffairs.tamu.edu/rules_procedures/assets/13.02.99.c0.03_student_grade_appeals.pdf](http://academicaffairs.tamu.edu/rules_procedures/assets/13.02.99.c0.03_student_grade_appeals.pdf).

**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 19th, 2020, is the last day to drop a class with an automatic grade of “W” for the Summer I 2020 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.

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**Week 1 (June 1 – 4):** Watch video on class introduction and video lecture on the organization, ownership, and goals of the media. Complete assignment 1. Post on the discussion board prompt if you have any questions about this week’s content or assignment. I will pop in periodically each day and answer those questions or address concerns. Note: Do not wait too long to start this week’s assignment because it requires some media viewing to complete. As a result, you will not be able to do that, and write up the answers in a short time period. **Assignment 1 is due June 5th by 11:59 PM.**

**Week 2 (June 8-11):** Watch video lecture on the media portrayal of crime. Complete assignment 2. Post on the discussion board prompt if you have any questions about this week’s content or assignment. I will pop in periodically each day and answer those questions or address concerns. Reminder: Do not wait too long to start this week’s assignment because it requires some media viewing to complete. As a result, you will not be able to do that, and write up the answers in a short time period. **Assignment 2 is due June 12th by 11:59 PM.**

**Week 3 (June 15-18):** Watch video lecture on the media portrayal of police. Complete assignment 3. Post on the discussion board prompt if you have any questions about this week’s content or assignment. I will pop in periodically each day and answer those questions or address concerns. Reminder: Do not wait too long to start this week’s assignment because it requires some media viewing to complete. **Assignment 3 is due June 19th by 11:59 PM.**

**Week 4 (June 22-25):** Watch video lecture on the courts and the media. Complete assignment 4. Post on the discussion board prompt if you have any questions about this week’s content or assignment. I will pop in periodically each day and answer those questions or address concerns. Reminder: Do not wait too long to start this week’s assignment because it requires some media viewing to complete. **Assignment 4 is due June 26th by 11:59 PM.**

**Week 5 (June 29-July 3):** Watch video lectures (2) on the media and corrections, and on crime as entertainment. Complete assignment 5. Post on the discussion board prompt if you have any questions about this week’s content or assignment. I will pop in periodically each day and answer those questions or address concerns. Reminder: Do not wait too long to start this week’s assignment because it requires some media viewing to complete. **Assignment 5 is due July 3rd by 11:59 PM.**