Seminar in Crime & Deviance: Homicide

Sociology 538
Section 01
3 Credits
Tuesday and Thursday 2:00 PM – 3:20 PM

Instructor Information
Professor: Mark Heirigs, PhD
Office: Social Science Building 323
Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM and by appointment
E-Mail: mark.heirigs@umontana.edu

Required Texts
https://he.kendallhunt.com/product/homicide

Additional readings will be assigned.

Course Description
This course is a specialized introduction and overview of homicide as a societal and criminological phenomenon. The course focuses broadly on both criminological, interdisciplinary, and psychiatric perspectives about homicide offending and victimization. Students are responsible for all material covered in lecture, films, and the text. Some discussion in films and the text may include potentially offensive and stark language and graphic violence.

Learning Goals
- Gain an understanding of the major issues surrounding homicide
- Read and understand primary research articles
- Develop the skill of identifying key concepts from readings
- Enhance oral communication skills through active participation in class and presenting your project
- Advance writing skills through summaries of readings and your final project

Course Expectations
This is a seminar course so participation is vital to create a productive learning environment. The topics may be controversial so it is of the upmost importance that you are respectful toward each other. It is okay to express a variety of opinions regarding this topics so long as we are focused on using evidence and logic. Using respect as the foundation for discussion will create an environment for a lively, stimulating, and intellectually challenging semester.
Academic Integrity
You must practice academic honesty in this course. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and/or disciplinary sanction by the University. All students need to be familiar with the Student Conduct Code, which is available for review online (http://www.umt.edu/student-affairs/dean-of-students/default.php).

Disability Services
The University of Montana assures equal access to instruction through collaboration between students with disabilities, instructors, and Disability Services for Students. If you have a disability that adversely affects your academic performance, and you have not already registered with Disability Services, please contact Disability Services in Lommasson Center 154 or 406.243.2243. I will work with you and Disability Services to provide an appropriate modification.

Regarding Name, Gender Identity and Gender Expression
Class rosters are provided to the instructor with the student's legal name. I will gladly honor your request to address you by an alternate name or gender pronoun. Please advise me of this preference early in the semester so that I may make appropriate changes to my records. For information about name changes at the University of Montana, please go here: https://www.umt.edu/registrar/students/name-change/default.php.

Discrimination and Harassment
The U.S. Department of Education’s Office for Civil Rights enforces Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972. Title IX protects people from discrimination based on sex in education programs or activities that receive Federal financial assistance. Title IX states that: “No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance.” If any employee of UM, including instructors and teaching assistants, learns of any potential gender-based discrimination (e.g., sexual violence, sexual harassment, rape, sexual assault, domestic violence, and/or stalking), they are required to notify the Title IX Coordinator, Jessica Weltman (406-243-5710, Main Hall Room 006), immediately. Once an incident is reported to Title IX, the student will be contacted by the Title IX Coordinator for follow up. Students can also report directly to the Title IX coordinator in regards to any gender-based discrimination.

Confidential Resource
The Student Advocacy Resource Center (SARC) provides free and confidential support and brief counseling services for students who have experienced gender-based discrimination. SARC is located in Curry Health Center, Room 108, and their number is 406-243-4429. Students are also welcome to call their 24-hour support line 406-243-6559. Speaking with a confidential resource
does not disqualify students from making a formal report to the Title IX Coordinator if and when they are ready. In the confidential setting, students will be made aware of available resources and reporting options. An advocate is available for all students upon request through SARC.

**Promoting Student Health & Wellness**

Any student who faces challenges securing food or housing, and believes that this could affect their performance in this course, is urged to contact any or all of the following campuses resources

**Food Pantry Program**

UM offers a food pantry that students can access for emergency food. The pantry is open Tuesday, 9:00-2:00 & Friday, 10:00-5:00. The pantry is located in UC 119 (in the former ASUM Childcare offices). Pantry staff operate several satellite food cupboards on campus (including one at Missoula College). For more information about this program, email umpantry@mso.umt.edu, visit the pantry’s website ([https://www.umt.edu/uc/food-pantry/default.php](https://www.umt.edu/uc/food-pantry/default.php)), or contact the pantry on social media (@pantryUm on twitter, @UMPantry on Facebook, um_pantry on Instagram).

**ASUM Renter Center**

The Renter Center has compiled a list of resources for UM students at risk of homelessness or food insecurity ([http://www.umt.edu/asum/agencies/renter-center/default.php](http://www.umt.edu/asum/agencies/renter-center/default.php)). Students can schedule an appointment with Renter Center staff to discuss their situation and receive information, support, and referrals.

**TRiO Student Support Services**

TRiO serves UM students who are low-income, first-generation college students, or have documented disabilities. TRiO services include a textbook loan program, scholarships and financial aid help, academic advising, coaching, and tutoring. Students can check their eligibility for TRiO services online ([http://www.umt.edu/triosss/apply.php#Eligibility](http://www.umt.edu/triosss/apply.php#Eligibility)).

**Late Assignments & Make Up Policy**

Late Assignments will be accepted for up to a week after they are due with a 10% penalty per day. It is up to the student to provide documentation and contact the professor with information about why they missed the exam and when they can make it up. *Accepting late assignments and administering make up exams is ultimately up to the instructor’s discretion.*

**Technology Policy**

The use of laptops to take notes is permitted so long as this is not a distraction to others. However, it is expected that the use of phones and headphones will not be used during class
time. Violation of this policy may result in being asked to leave class. If there is a personal reason for you needing to check your phone please let me know before class.

**Article Summaries**

We will have a variety of additionally readings related to each subtopic that we will discuss in the course. These are met to be a supplement to the reading from the textbook. This will allow you to get a look at what researchers are actually doing to examine this social phenomenon. Summaries should be 1-2 pages double spaced and typed (Times New Roman, 12-point font, 1 inch margins). Citations should be done using APA. Summaries should be printed and be ready to get turned in at the start of each class. We will use these too share what we thought about the article.

**Paper**

The paper comprises the largest part of your grade and will be done in parts throughout the semester. The paper is designed to allow you to explore a topic that you find interesting in greater detail. The paper encompasses 4 parts: topic, annotated bibliography, first draft, and final draft. Hard copies of each of the assignments will be due at the start of each class the day they are due. The hard copy of the revised paper will be given back to you and turned in with the final paper.

**Presentation**

The purpose of the presentation is to share what you learned through your paper with the class. This will allow us to learn from each other and give you an opportunity to get comfortable presenting. Attendance will taking during the presentations.

**Reflections**

Toward the end of class I will pose a question for you to reflect on regarding a topic or concept from class that day. These will be used as a way for you to critically analyze a topic and practice your writing. This will be roughly 1 page in length and may also be used for discussion.

**Readings**

We will have readings associated with each day. The PDF of each article will be posted online for you. On days that we have two readings you will only be responsible for one of them. We will divide the readings up the class before so that everything will be covered when we discuss them. We will conduct class in a jig-saw format where you teach each other about the article that you read for that class and then we will discuss as a large group. However, most of the time we will have one article for discussion and we will discuss it as a large group. Readings will range from 13 to 30 pages.

**Discussion**

As graduate students I expect you to take a major role in the discussion during class. We will do discussion about the articles we had for the given topic of the day. I want to see you critically
analyze the authors writing style, methods, findings, and conclusion. Also, if you have discussion questions that can help add to the conversation that would be ideal.

**Grading**

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Course Schedule

**Week 1**

**August 20**
Course Introduction and Overview

**Week 2**

**August 25**
Types and Correlates of Homicide (Chapter 1)

**August 27**
Interactionist and Regional Perspectives (Chapter 2-3)

*Homicide and the Interactionist Perspective*

*Homicide and the Regional Perspective*

**Week 3**

**September 1**
Code of the Street and Lifestyle Perspectives (Chapters 4-5)

*Homicide and the Code of the Street Perspective*

*Homicide and the Lifestyle Perspective*

**September 3**
Self-Control Perspectives (Chapters 6)

*Homicide and the Self-Control Perspective*
Week 4

September 8th
Writing and Researching

September 10th
Writing and Researching

Week 5

September 15th
Social Control Perspective (Chapter 7)

Homicide and the Social Control Perspective

September 17th
Institutional Anomie Perspective (Chapter 8)

Homicide and the Institutional Anomie Perspective

Week 6

September 22nd
Social Learning Perspective (Chapter 9)

Homicide and the Social Learning Perspective

September 24th
General Strain Perspectives (Chapter 10)

Homicide and the General Strain Perspective
Week 7

September 29th
Structural Perspectives (Chapter 11) – Paper Topic Due

Homicide and the Structural Perspective

October 1st
Individual Meetings about Paper Topics

October 6th
Individual Meetings about Paper Topics

October 8th
Social Disorganization Perspectives (Chapter 12)

Homicide and the Social Disorganization Perspective

Week 8

October 13th
Personality Perspectives (Chapter 13)

Homicide and the Personality Perspective

October 15th
Evolutionary Perspectives (Chapter 14) – Annotated Bibliography Due

Homicide and the Evolutionary Perspective
Week 10

October 20th
Epidemiological Perspectives (Chapter 15) & Biosocial Perspectives (Chapter 16)

Homicide and the Epidemiological Perspective

October 22nd
Victimology Perspectives (Chapter 17)

Homicide and the Victimology Perspective

Week 11

October 27th
Criminal Career Perspectives (Chapter 18) – Rough Draft Due

Homicide and the Criminal Career Perspective

October 29th
Individual Meetings to Discuss Revising First Draft

Week 12

November 3rd
Election Day – No Classes

November 5th
Individual Meetings to Discuss Revising First Draft

Introduction to Juvenile Delinquency
Heirigs
Page 9
Week 13

November 10th
Psychopathy and Antisocial Personality Disorder Perspectives (Chapter 19 and 23)

Homicide and the Psychopathy Perspective

November 12th
Substance Abuse Perspective (Chapter 20)

Homicide and the Substance Abuse Perspective

Week 14

November 17th
Bipolar Disorder and Schizophrenia Perspectives (Chapter 21 and 22) – Final Paper Due

Homicide and the Schizophrenia Perspective

November 19th
Presentations Day 1

Week 15

November 24th
Presentations Day 2

*****SYLLABUS IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE*****