

CRM 3760
Crime & Media

Spring 2020
Credit Hours: 3
Online

Instructor: Dr. Stevens

Email: jstevens3@eiu.edu

Office Location: Blair 3148

Phone: 217-581-3123 (Department Office)

Office Hours: Mondays, 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.; Tuesdays and Thursdays, 12:15 – 1:45 p.m.
By appointment

Required Texts:

Surette, Ray. 2015. Media, Crime, and Criminal Justice: Images, Realities, and Policies. 5th ed.
Stamford, CT: Cengage Learning.

Course Description:

This course focuses on the intersection of crime, the criminal justice system, and the media. Areas of emphasis will include media representations of crime and criminal justice, the social construction of reality, and the influence of representations of crime on societal views and public policy.

Learning Objectives:

In this course, students will:

- Learn the role that the media plays in the social construction of crime
- Identify the frames that the media uses in portraying crime
- Evaluate the accuracy of media coverage of crime
- Understand how media influences the criminal justice process

Course Expectations:

Students are expected to complete all assignments and be prepared for discussions and assignments. Respect for the instructor and other classmates should be demonstrated at all times. Failure to be respectful, particularly in discussion boards, could result in a loss of points. Be professional at all times. Keep in mind that because all communication is done online in this class, it can be difficult to interpret your tone. Be mindful of that when writing discussion posts/responses and emails.

This course is set up in weekly units. Each of the weekly units begins on Monday at 12:01 a.m. Central Time and ends on Sunday night at 11:59 p.m. Central Time. Keep that in mind when completing your weekly timeline. You are expected to complete each unit's work within that week. If you need to work ahead due to scheduling conflicts, that is fine, however, discussions must be completed within their assigned unit week to receive credit. Assignments will not be graded early if you submit them early. They will be graded with the rest of the class to maintain consistency.

Because this is an online class, you are expected to have regular access to the Internet. You will be required to complete weekly assignments and log on multiple times per week. Make sure that you have access to the Internet in order to do that. Historically, I have found that D2L works best on a Windows-based desktop or laptop. You may not be able to access all features on a phone, tablet, or Mac computer. If you try to access D2L on a phone, table, or Mac and cannot access all of the information, the next step should be to try a Windows-based computer (available in university computer labs). If you have concerns about the technology, please contact EIU's IT Help Desk at 217-581-4537 or support@eiu.edu. Technical issues will not be considered an excused reason for submitting assignments late.

As a note, there is a common conception that online classes are less rigorous and require less work than face-to-face classes. The expectations for this course are the same as they are for a face-to-face class and students are expected to spend the same amount of time completing work for an online class as they do in a face-to-face class. According to EIU's policies, this is an average of 7.5 hours per week (see: http://castle.eiu.edu/auditing/046_1.php). The time that you would normally spend inside the classroom will be used to study and read on your own. This class requires a lot of reading, writing, and independent study. You should carefully consider whether you can be successful in an online learning environment before proceeding in the class.

Course Communication:

Email through Panthermail is the best method for reaching me. Email me through Panthermail instead of D2L email. I check Panthermail far more frequently, so you will receive a faster response through Panthermail. If an emergency arises and you do not have access to email, please call the Sociology and Anthropology office and leave a message. If I need to contact you regarding the course, I will use your EIU email. Please make sure to check that account regularly. I strive to answer all emails within 24 hours during the business week. If you have a question about an assignment, I strongly encourage you to email me at least 24 hours in advance during the business week. (If you have an assignment that is due on Sunday, I strongly encourage you to email me by 4 p.m. on the Friday before.)

Grade Postings/Concerns:

All grades will be posted on D2L. If a student has a concern about a grade or feels that there is a discrepancy between the posted grade and the grade awarded, the instructor must be contacted via email within one week of when the grade was posted. Grade concerns will not be considered after one week has passed. It is your responsibility to follow the progress of your own grades. Please do not ask me to calculate your grade. This can be done at any time by viewing your grades on D2L. I use a weighted grade system, which is described below. If you are not familiar with how to calculate weighted grades, you can use this online calculator: <https://apps.mercer.edu/registrarcalc/weightedaverage.html>

Late Work:

Due to the nature of the course, discussion posts, including discussion leader posts, quizzes, reaction papers, and exams will not be accepted after the deadlines. I strongly encourage you to check each week's assignments at the beginning of the week so that you can set up a timeline for completion. Again, do not wait until Sunday evening to try to complete your work. As stated

earlier, if you need to work ahead, that is fine (except for discussions, which must be completed during their assigned weeks). Vacations, work schedules, lack of Internet access, technology issues, etc. will not be considered excused reasons to submit late work. Stay on top of your assignments and do not wait until the last minute. Because I know that things come up from time to time, your lowest weekly quiz grade will be dropped at the end of the semester. For the final project, there is a 10% penalty for each day that the assignment is late beginning immediately after the deadline. If the paper is one minute to 24 hours late, that is subject to a ten percent penalty, 24 hours and one minute to 48 hours late is a 20% penalty, 48 hours and one minute to 72 hours late is a 30% penalty. These assignments will not be accepted after 72 hours beyond the deadline.

Plagiarism and Academic Dishonesty:

Academic dishonesty in any form (plagiarism, cheating, lying, stealing, etc.) will **NOT** be tolerated in this course. Students who turn in the work of other students either past or present will be in violation of this policy. The regulations for academic conduct set forth in the Code of Conduct will be strictly enforced. If you are found to be violating these expectations, you could fail the assignment, fail the course, and/or be reported to the Office of Student Standards. All assignments will be submitted through TurnItIn to check for plagiarism. Not properly citing your work is a form of plagiarism and will be treated as such.

All work in this class should be original. Work for other classes current or past should not be submitted for this course.

Students with Disabilities:

If you are a student with a documented disability in need of accommodations to fully participate in this class, please contact the Office of Student Disability Services (OSDS). All accommodations must be approved through OSDS. Please stop by Ninth Street Hall, Room 2006, or call 217-581-6583 to make an appointment.

The Student Success Center:

Students who are having difficulty achieving their academic goals are encouraged to contact the Student Success Center (www.eiu.edu/~success) for assistance with time management, test taking, note taking, avoiding procrastination, setting goals, and other skills to support academic achievement. The Student Success Center provides individualized consultations. To make an appointment, call 217-581-6696, or go to 9th Street Hall, Room 1302.

Assignment Submission:

All written assignments (not including discussion posts) must be submitted in Microsoft Word documents via D2L. Microsoft Word is the only acceptable format for submitting assignments (not Microsoft Works, Pages, or PDFs). If assignments are not submitted in Microsoft Word, they will be considered late. Do not wait until the last minute to submit assignments as this is when problems are most likely to occur. Back up your work and have a “Plan B” if your computer malfunctions. If you submit a paper to an assignment dropbox, I will assume that this is your final paper and is ready to be graded. I may grade a paper prior to the deadline if it is submitted early, so make sure to submit your final version the first time. If you submit multiple

versions of the same paper to a dropbox before I grade it, I will assume that the most recent version is the one that you would like to be graded.

Course Requirements:

Grades will be assigned based on the following requirements.

Weekly Discussions

Each week, students will be required to respond to a discussion board prompt. In order to receive full credit for the discussion board, make sure that you:

- Post a substantive response to the weekly discussion question by Wednesday night at 11:59 p.m. Central Time. Substantive means that you should fully answer all parts on the question based on the weekly lesson. Demonstrate that you have read and understand the material. Include credible support and in-text citation.
- Respond to at least two classmates' posts by Sunday night at 11:59 p.m. Central Time. Again, your comments should be substantive and go beyond saying, "I agree" or "good point." Think of this discussion as though you were having an in-class discussion and support your points.

My expectation is that all posts and responses will be 1-2 paragraphs long at minimum and will include support from the textbook and other credible sources. Any resources (including the textbook) should be properly cited.

All posts need to be completed during the unit week. You will not receive credit for posts/responses that occur before or after the unit week. (In other words, Week 1 discussion posts must occur during Week 1.) Discussion boards are set up so that you must post first before seeing other students' responses to the question.

All assignments are expected to be written in complete sentences and free of errors. Proofread carefully!

Discussion Leader

In each week of the course, one or more students will be assigned the task of being a discussion leader. For this assignment, the discussion leader must post a discussion leader post by Monday at 11:59 p.m. Central of their assigned week. This post should include a description of what the discussion leader found to be the three most important points from the reading. Additionally, the leader should include a recommendation for a piece of media (newspaper article, specific TV show episode, etc.) that relates to the weekly reading with a paragraph description of how this piece of media fits into the weekly topic. A link to the media should be included and should be accessible to all. (Therefore, leaders should avoid shows from Netflix, movies currently in theaters, DVDs, etc. as they might not be accessible to all.) Throughout the week, the discussion leader is expected to take a more active role in the discussion and ask follow up questions, respond to more students' posts, and otherwise keep the discussion flowing. Think of this as leading a discussion in class. There should be ample evidence of leadership in the discussion and consistent participation from the discussion leader throughout the week. The discussion

leader will still be responsible for responding to the prompt and responding to at least two students as normally required in addition to his/her discussion leader duties.

Reaction Papers

Throughout the course of the semester, you will be required to write two response papers on the weekly topics. These papers should be 500-700 words and address a critical thinking question that is posed for the week. *Your response should incorporate the information that you have been assigned to read and be thoughtful and well-supported. I encourage you to use information from the textbook and other outside sources to support your arguments.* Support for your argument and connection to/incorporation of the weekly readings will be an important part of your grade. These papers will be due on Sunday of their given units by 11:59 p.m. Central. You can choose which weeks you would like to react. However, at least one paper must be submitted before the first exam in Weeks 2 - 7. You may only submit one paper per week. Since you can choose which weeks you would like to react, these papers will not be accepted late for any reason. (This means that if you wait until the last minute, you are taking a chance!) The papers should follow APA or ASA style and include appropriate citations. They must be submitted in a Word document via D2L to be considered. Only your first two papers will count toward your grade. In other words, you may not complete three reaction papers and only count the two highest grades. Failure to submit at least one paper before the first exam will result in a zero for the paper(s) not submitted.

Reaction paper topics will be available in Weeks 2-7 and Weeks 9-12. At least one paper must be submitted during Weeks 2-7.

Quizzes

Students are required to take weekly D2L quizzes over the readings. Each unit will include a quiz that corresponds with the assigned reading(s). Each quiz is multiple choice and contains 10 questions worth one point each. The questions come from a pool, which means that not everyone will have the same questions. All questions are of equal difficulty. In order to take the quizzes, you will be required to download the Respondus Lockdown Browser (See: <https://www.respondus.com/lockdown/download.php?id=134612535>).

Quizzes will become unavailable at the end of their assigned units and cannot be made up for any reason.

Exams

There will be two exams to allow students to demonstrate their mastery of the information from the class. These exams may consist of multiple choice, true/false, short answer, and essay questions. The exams are not cumulative, including the second exam which will take place during finals week. The exams will only be open for a specific period of time and students will only be able to take them during that window. Each exam may only be attempted once and will be timed. Students should complete these exams on their own without the aid of assistance from any other people. Collaborating with others on the exam will be considered a form of cheating and will be treated as such.

Research Project

Students will be required to complete a research project on a topic related to crime and media. More details will be available later in the class.

Citation

Please note that ALL work in this class should use proper citation – including discussions, reaction papers, and final projects – even if you are using the textbook for this course. ASA and APA citation styles are the accepted forms of citation for the course. If you are not familiar with in-text citation, I strongly encourage you to visit the Writing Center and/or to find an online tutorial that addresses citation. The Purdue OWL is a great site for learning more about how to properly cite your work. Citation is required any time you bring in another person's ideas, whether those are paraphrased, summarized or quoted.

Extra Credit

Throughout the course, extra credit opportunities may arise. These will be announced via D2L if they occur. *Extra credit cannot be made up for any reason.* Extra credit assignments will be made available to the whole class. Any requests for individual extra credit will be denied to be fair to the entire class. Please note: Extra credit can help raise your grade, but it cannot be used to pass the class. In other words, extra credit will not be used to raise your grade from an F to a passing grade.

The final course grade will be composed of:


Two Exams @ 10% each	= 20%
Weekly Discussions	= 20%
Discussion Leader	= 5%
Weekly Quizzes	= 10%
Reaction Papers	= 20%
Final Project	= 25%

Grading Scale

90-100%	= A
80-89%	= B
70-79%	= C
60-69%	= D
0 – 59%	= F

Course Schedule*:

Date	Topics/Readings	Assignments Due
Week 1 1/13 – 1/19	<i>Social Problems Process</i> Read: The Social Problems Process and Overview of Criminological Theories (Posted in Week 1 folder)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion Post Due Wednesday at 11:59 p.m. Central • Syllabus Quiz Due Sunday at 11:59 p.m. Central
Week 2 1/20 – 1/26	<i>Crime, Justice, and Media</i> Read Surette: Ch. 1 Citation Reading (Posted in Week 2 folder)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion Post Due Wednesday at 11:59 p.m. Central • Discussion Responses to Two Classmates & Chapter Quiz Due Sunday at 11:59 p.m. Central • Reaction paper due Sunday at 11:59 p.m. Central (if one of your selected weeks to react).
Week 3 1/27 – 2/2	<i>New Media and Social Constructionism</i> Read Surette: Ch. 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion Post Due Wednesday at 11:59 p.m. Central • Discussion Responses to Two Classmates & Chapter Quiz Due Sunday at 11:59 p.m. Central • Reaction paper due Sunday at 11:59 p.m. Central (if one of your selected weeks to react).
Week 4 2/3 – 2/9	<i>Images of Crime and Criminality</i> Read Surette: Ch. 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion Post Due Wednesday at 11:59 p.m. Central • Discussion Responses to Two Classmates & Chapter Quiz Due Sunday at 11:59 p.m. Central • Reaction paper due Sunday at 11:59 p.m. Central (if one of your selected weeks to react).
Week 5 2/10 – 2/16	<i>Criminogenic Media</i> Read Surette: Ch. 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion Post Due Wednesday at 11:59 p.m. Central • Discussion Responses to Two Classmates & Chapter Quiz Due Sunday at 11:59 p.m. Central • Reaction paper due Sunday at 11:59 p.m. Central (if one of your selected weeks to react).
Week 6 2/17 – 2/23	<i>Crime Fighters</i> Read Surette: Ch. 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion Post Due Wednesday at 11:59 p.m. Central • Discussion Responses to Two Classmates & Chapter Quiz Due Sunday at 11:59 p.m. Central

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reaction paper due Sunday at 11:59 p.m. Central (if one of your selected weeks to react).
Week 7 2/24 – 3/1	<i>The Courts</i> Read Surette: Ch. 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussion Post Due Wednesday at 11:59 p.m. Central Discussion Responses to Two Classmates & Chapter Quiz Due Sunday at 11:59 p.m. Central Reaction paper due Sunday at 11:59 p.m. Central (if one of your selected weeks to react).
Week 8 3/2 – 3/8	Exam 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exam 1 available from Wednesday at 12:01 a.m. – Friday at 11:59 p.m.
Week 9 3/9 – 3/15	<i>Corrections</i> Read Surette: Ch. 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussion Post Due Wednesday at 11:59 p.m. Central Discussion Responses to Two Classmates & Chapter Quiz Due Sunday at 11:59 p.m. Central Reaction paper due Sunday at 11:59 p.m. Central (if one of your selected weeks to react).
Week 10 3/16 – 3/22		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No assignments due
Week 11 3/23 – 3/29	<i>Crime Control</i> Read Surette: Ch. 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussion Post Due Wednesday at 11:59 p.m. Central Discussion Responses to Two Classmates & Chapter Quiz Due Sunday at 11:59 p.m. Central Reaction paper due Sunday at 11:59 p.m. Central (if one of your selected weeks to react).
Week 12 3/30 – 4/5	<i>Media and Crime Fighting Technology</i> Reading in weekly folder	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussion Post Due Wednesday at 11:59 p.m. Central Discussion Responses to Two Classmates & Chapter Quiz Due Sunday at 11:59 p.m. Central Reaction paper due Sunday at 11:59 p.m. Central (if one of your selected weeks to react).
Week 13	<i>Media and Public Opinion</i> Reading in weekly folder	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussion Post Due Wednesday at 11:59 p.m. Central

4/6 – 4/12		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion Responses to Two Classmates & Chapter Quiz Due Sunday at 11:59 p.m. Central • Reaction paper due Sunday at 11:59 p.m. Central (if one of your selected weeks to react).
Week 14 4/13 – 4/19	<i>The Media and Criminal Justice Policy</i> Read Surette: Ch. 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion Post Due Wednesday at 11:59 p.m. Central • Discussion Responses to Two Classmates & Chapter Quiz Due Sunday at 11:59 p.m. Central
Week 15 4/20 – 4/26	<i>New Media, Crime, and Justice</i> Read Surette: Ch. 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion Post Due Wednesday at 11:59 p.m. Central • Discussion Responses to Two Classmates & Chapter Quiz Due Sunday at 11:59 p.m. Central • Final Project Due Friday (4/24) at 5:00 p.m. Central
Week 16 4/27 – 5/3	<i>New Media, Crime, and Justice in the Twenty-First Century</i> Read Surette: Ch. 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion Post Due Wednesday at 11:59 p.m. Central • Discussion Responses to Two Classmates & Chapter Quiz Due Sunday at 11:59 p.m. Central
Finals Week 5/4 – 5/8	Exam 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exam 2 available from Monday at 12:01 a.m. – Tuesday at 11:59 p.m.

*I reserve the right to make changes to this course outline as needed. Any changes made will be posted on D2L.