

## Homicide and Capital Punishment

### HOMICIDE AND CAPITAL PUNISHMENT

CJS 3320

The University of Texas at Dallas

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#### Description

This course is a general examination of the nature, extent, and distribution of Criminal Homicide. It is designed to introduce the student to definitions of homicide, empirical trends and patterns, and victim offender relationships.

The course offers an analysis of the administration of Capital Punishment (i.e., the Death Penalty) as a “just, fair, and effective” societal response to the crime of capital murder. Course material will cover (1) the use of Capital Punishment history; (2) US Supreme Court cases concerning the constitutionality of Capital Punishment, (3) and contemporary problems in administering Capital Punishment.

The primary focus of this course is the examination of the contemporary controversy surrounding the alleged selectivity of the use of Capital Punishment and the extent to which it continues to be so arbitrary and capricious, that it may once again violate the Eighth Amendment of the US Constitution.

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#### Prerequisites

Six hours of sophomore English. Concurrent enrollment will be accepted with approval of instructor.

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#### Objectives and Activities

1. Obtain knowledge and understanding of the legal definitions of criminal homicide.
2. Obtain knowledge and understanding of the patterns and trends of criminal homicide.
3. Analyze the victim/offender relationships in criminal homicide.
4. Describe major historical Capital Punishment cases (e.g., Furman V. Georgia, Gregg v. Georgia, etc.).
5. Describe contemporary Capital Punishment Cases (e.g., Juries, Juveniles, Mentally Retarded, etc.).
6. Examine the “Fairness” of Capital Punishment.
7. Examine the “Effectiveness” of Capital Punishment.
8. Define Texas’ Capital Punishment procedures.
9. Analyze punishment phase of a capital murder trial.
10. Analyze the contemporary problems surrounding use of Capital Punishment in Texas.

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#### Faculty

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**Materials**

To see a complete list of materials needed for your course, as well as any important notes and instructions provided by your instructor, visit the [UTTC Bookstore](#).

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**Links referenced**

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