

CRIM3309 Fall 2023 Syllabus

Course Information

Course Number/Section CRIM 3309.0w1
Course Title Media & Crime
Term Fall 2023

Professor Contact Information

Professor Ms. Kate Wilds
Email Address katherine.wilds@utdallas.edu
Office Location GR 2.510
Online Office Hours Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday from 10:00-1:00
or by appointment on MSTeams
Other Information Only use your **UTD email address** to email the instructor.
Communication from a non-UTD email address is against UTD
privacy policies and cannot receive a response.

****Please do not use the eLearning message platform as I will not be checking this regularly****

Course Pre-requisites, Co-requisites, and/or Other Restrictions

None

Course Description

Examines the media's image of crime and the criminal justice system. An emphasis is placed on how various types of media construct or perceive criminal activities, how the media influences public policy and shapes perceptions of crime as a social problem. Topics include crime news, films and television dramas depicting crime and criminals, the media as a cause, consequence and cure for crime and news-making criminology.

Student Learning Objectives/Outcomes

1. To understand the importance of the relationship between media, crime, and criminal justice.
2. Appreciate how criminal justice policy is impacted by the media.
3. To understand and identify the differences between the types of media.
4. To understand the history of crime-and-justice media.
5. To critically assess how the media portrays various aspects of the criminal justice system such as prisoners, correctional officers, correctional institutions, courts, and actors in court.

Required Textbooks and Materials

Grubb, J.A. & Posick, C. (2021). *Crime TV: Streaming Criminology in Popular Culture*. NYU Press. (Available on Amazon <https://a.co/d/bR0nvSQ>)
ISBN-13: 978-1479884971 ISBN-10: 1479884979

Robinson, M.B. (2018). *Media Coverage of Crime and Criminal Justice. 3rd Edition*. Carolina Academic Press. (Available on Amazon <https://a.co/d/9luPWLu>)
ISBN-13: 978-1531006013 ISBN-10: 1531006019

Additional Materials

Students will need to create an account with **Flip** (<https://info.flip.com/en-us.html>) and join the class group on Flip: **group code 613bb155** to complete assignments.

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Course Access and Navigation

This course can be accessed using your UT Dallas NetID account on the [eLearning](#) website. Please see the course access and navigation section of the [Getting Started with eLearning](#) webpage for more information.

To become familiar with the eLearning tool, please see the [Student eLearning Tutorials](#) webpage. UT Dallas provides eLearning technical support 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The [eLearning Support Center](#) includes a toll-free telephone number for immediate assistance (1-866-588-3192), email request service, and an online chat service.

Course Policies

Extra Credit & Special Assignments

There may or may not be extra credit assignments available throughout the semester. If that occurs, you will be notified with ample time to complete the assignment if you choose to do so.

Late Work & Make-Up Exams

While not encouraged, late work will be accepted, but will be subject to a **5% reduction per day past the due date**. It is preferred that you contact me by email as soon as possible when you know your assignment will be late, but given the nature of life, it is not required. Keep in mind that 5% is half a letter-grade per day it is late, so do try to be on time!

Flip General Discussion Channel

There will be a Flip channel (General Discussion) dedicated to any questions that you may have throughout the course. You can leave a message on that channel and either your peers will answer, if they know that is, or I will. **I will remove inaccurate information if it is posted at any time**

Classroom Citizenship

In addition to the UTD policies on student conduct and discipline, please note I have the following policies:

1. Always show respect for your fellow students in your correspondence on our boards and chat rooms.
2. Text messaging language is not appropriate anywhere in our virtual class spaces.
3. Do not abbreviate, use work acronyms, or professional language that is not understood by someone outside of your occupation.
4. Do not use profanity, slang, or incomplete sentences in any of your postings or emails.
5. Do not use personal attacks, inflammatory, racist, or sexist language on our class boards, assignments, or in any class discussions. Be respectful of each other, even if you disagree. **Any student who abuses these privileges will have their final grade penalized accordingly and at my discretion.**
6. Please do not use the discussion boards or email system in this class for anything not related to the course.
7. Do not under any circumstances engage in academic dishonesty. I will refer all questions of academic dishonesty directly to disciplinary proceedings.
8. Please **DO** email me if you have any questions, at any time. I will always respond to you.

Supplemental Materials, Technical Requirements, Participation, & Recordings

See page 6 for more information

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Grading Policy

Grades will be calculated out of 260 total possible points.

Percent Score Range	Grade
98.0 +	A+
93.0-97.9	A
90.0-92.9	A -
87.0-89.9	B+
83.0-86.9	B
80.0-82.9	B -
77.0-79.9	C+
73.0-76.9	C
70.0-72.9	C -
66.0-69.9	D+
60.0-65.9	D
0-59.9	F

Assignments

Introduction Assignment

10 Points

Create a short introduction so we can get to know you and put a face to your name! Please include the following information: your **name**, **major**, and your **answer** to the question:

You have been given your own late night talk show, who do you invite as your first guest?
(This can be anyone! Someone famous alive or dead, a friend, a cartoon character, a political figure or talk show host, an actor/actress, singer, royalty... the possibilities are endless!)

Please complete this **after** you have reviewed this syllabus so that you can ask any questions you may have on the information it contains and, even if you don't have any questions, you must **comment on the instructor's Flip** with the color for each assignment in the syllabus. Your introduction and comment on the instructor's flip is due **August 27th by 11:59PM**

Media Journals

100 Points

Students will submit a "journal entry" at least **one-page** long (two pages max) over a short media clip posted on eLearning for that section of the course (i.e., the first media journal due 09/10 will likely be discussing a video clip pertaining to corporate crime). The journal entry consists of two aspects, **1) what the student learned in the chapter(s)** for that section of the course, **2) a discussion on how the video clip connects to concepts** covered in the chapter(s).

There will be **six media journals due by 11:59PM** on the following dates: **09/10; 09/24; 10/15; 10/29; 11/12; 12/03**. Each media journal is worth 20 points with the lowest journal grade dropped at the end of the course.

Midterm Flip Presentation

50 Points

The Midterm Flip Presentation will be a **popular press critique presentation**. Students will be tasked with selecting **one news report on a crime-related topic** (i.e., an article or a video from a

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news media source), summarizing what was covered, analyzing how the topic was portrayed to audiences, and comparing/contrasting the information within the news report against what you have learned thus far in the course. Students should use the textbook(s) and, while not required, may also use outside academic sources. The Flip Presentation should be **no more than 5 minutes** and is due October 7th by 11:59PM and is worth 40 points. Students will also comment on a **minimum of three of their peers' presentations** worth 10 points due **October 13th by 11:59PM**. If you have any questions regarding this assignment and/or the Flip platform, please contact me ASAP.

Final Paper

100 Points

Students will complete and submit a **six to eight-page** term-paper at the end of the semester over representations of crime, criminality, and/or the criminal justice system in the media. For example: a critical review of a specific crime-related event in the media, including what the media **did** and/or **did not** include in their coverage. Students will submit a **topic statement** in advance to ensure their topic is appropriate for the paper. Additionally, students will implement one of three techniques for analyzing the media from our Robinson textbook in their paper (the five propaganda filters; five stages of the social construction of knowledge; and the five frames and/or narratives). Students should use the textbook(s) from the course and are required to **select three peer-reviewed scholarly articles** to include in their paper that pertain to their topic. For example: if your topic is a critical review of the coverage of a crime-related event, you might select three peer-reviewed articles that provide evidence on the underlying causal factors that were missing from the media coverage. The abstracts for the three articles you select will be submitted to the instructor on the date below for approval and to ensure student success in their final paper submission.

The final paper grade will consist of three components.

- 1) A **topic statement**, consisting of one paragraph outlining your topic of choice and why it is important to cover, including any reasons you are drawn to the topic. This portion will count towards **5%** of the final paper grade and is **due October 1st by 11:59PM**.
- 2) An **abstract submission** of **three peer-reviewed articles** (these can be copy/pasted over or through screenshots into a Word doc, followed by a properly formatted APA citation) which counts towards **5%** of the final paper grade and is **due November 19th by 11:59PM**.
- 3) The remaining **90%** of the final paper grade will be over the paper itself, including grammar, formatting, and assessment of the substantive content of the paper (i.e., explanation of Robinson concepts, literature review, and explanation of their topic matter). A rubric outlining these criteria will be provided later in the course. The final paper will be **due December 13th by 11:59PM**.

Academic Calendar

WEEK/ DATES	TOPIC/LECTURE	READING	ASSESSMENT / ACTIVITY	DUE DATE
1 08/21-08/25	Penal Utopias & <i>Game of Thrones</i>	G&P Ch 1	Introduction Assignment	08/27 by 11:59PM
2 08/28-09/01	The Media: Ownership, Goals, What they do, & how they do it!	Robinson Ch 1&2		
3 09/05-09/08	<i>Follow the Money & Mr. Robot</i>	G&P Ch 8&11	Media Journal Submission	09/10 by 11:59PM
4 09/11-09/15	Lawmaking & Crime	Robinson Ch 3&4		
5 09/18-09/22	<i>American Crime & Westworld</i>	G&P Ch 5&16	Media Journal Submission	09/24 by 11:59PM
6 09/25-09/29	Policing: Effective Enforcer, Bad Cops, & Prevention	Robinson Ch 5	Topic Statement	10/01 by 11:59PM
7 10/02-10/06	Midterm Flip Project due 10/07 by 11:59PM Peer Responses due 10/13 by 11:59PM			
8 10/09-10/13	Courts & <i>Black Mirror</i>	Robinson Ch 6 G&P Ch 9	Media Journal Submission	10/15 by 11:59PM
9 10/16-10/20	Social Bonds, Failure, & Coping <i>13 Reasons Why & Breaking Bad</i>	G&P Ch 2&3		
10 10/23-10/27	Corrections: Life in Prison & Punishment	Robinson Ch 7	Media Journal Submission	10/29 by 11:59PM
11 10/30-11/03	Labeling & <i>Criminal Minds</i> <i>Archer</i> & Neutralization	G&P Ch 12&13		
12 11/06-11/10	Radical Feminism & Masculinity <i>Handmaids Tale & It's Always Sunny</i>	G&P Ch 6&15	Media Journal Submission	11/12 by 11:59PM
13 11/13-11/17	Radical Social Change: <i>The Walking Dead</i>	G&P Ch 10	Abstract Submission	11/19 by 11:59PM
14 11/20-11/24	Fall/Thanksgiving Break! Gobble, Watch Parades, & Eat, Eat, Eat!			
15 11/27-12/01	Cultural Criminology & Conflict Theory	G&P Ch 7&14	Media Journal Submission	12/03 by 11:59PM
16 12/4-12/08	Reform of the Media	Robinson Ch 8		
Finals Week	Final Paper due 12/13 (Taylor Swift's Birthday) by 11:59PM			

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Supplemental Readings

Digital copies of any other required course readings or materials will be provided by the instructor via eLearning. These materials may be downloaded during the course; however, these materials are for registered students' use only. Classroom materials may not be reproduced or shared with those not in class or uploaded to other online environments except to implement an approved Office of Student AccessAbility accommodation. Failure to comply with these University requirements is a violation of the [Student Code of Conduct](#).

Technical Requirements

In addition to a confident level of computer and Internet literacy, certain minimum technical requirements must be met to enable a successful learning experience. Please review the important technical requirements on the [Getting Started with eLearning](#) webpage.

Class Participation

Regular class participation is expected. Students who fail to participate in class regularly are inviting scholastic difficulty. A portion of the grade for this course is directly tied to your participation in this class. It also includes engaging in group or other activities during class that solicit your feedback on homework assignments, readings, or materials covered in the lectures. Successful participation is defined as consistently adhering to University requirements, as presented in this syllabus. Failure to comply with these University requirements is a violation of the [Student Code of Conduct](#).

Class Recordings

Students are expected to follow appropriate University policies and maintain the security of passwords used to access recorded lectures. Unless the AccessAbility Resource Center has approved the student to record the instruction, students are expressly prohibited from recording any part of this course. Recordings may not be published, reproduced, or shared with those not in the class, or uploaded to other online environments except to implement an approved AccessAbility Resource Center accommodation. Failure to comply with these University requirements is a violation of the [Student Code of Conduct](#).

The instructor will record lectures for this course. These recordings will be made available to all students registered for this class if the intent is to supplement the classroom experience. If the instructor or a UTD school/department/office plans any other uses for the recordings, consent of the students identifiable in the recordings is required prior to such use unless an exception is allowed by law.

Communication

This course utilizes online tools for interaction and communication. Some external communication tools such as regular email and a web conferencing tool may also be used during the semester. For more details, please visit the [Student eLearning Tutorials](#) webpage for video demonstrations on eLearning tools.

Student emails and discussion board messages will be answered within 3 working days under normal circumstances.

Distance Learning Student Resources

Online students have access to resources including the McDermott Library, Academic Advising, The AccessAbility Resource Center, and many others. Please see the [eLearning Current Students](#) webpage for more information.

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Server Unavailability or Other Technical Difficulties

The University is committed to providing a reliable learning management system to all users. However, in the event of any unexpected server outage or any unusual technical difficulty which prevents students from completing a time sensitive assessment activity, the instructor will provide appropriate accommodation based on the situation. Students should immediately report any problems to the instructor and also contact the online [eLearning Help Desk](#). The instructor and the eLearning Help Desk will work with the student to resolve any issues at the earliest possible time.

Comet Creed

This creed was voted on by the UT Dallas student body in 2014. It is a standard that Comets choose to live by and encourage others to do the same:

“As a Comet, I pledge honesty, integrity, and service in all that I do.”

Academic Support Resources

The information contained in the following link lists the University’s academic support resources for all students.

Please go to [Academic Support Resources](#) webpage for these policies.

UT Dallas Syllabus Policies and Procedures

The information contained in the following link constitutes the University’s policies and procedures segment of the course syllabus. Please review the catalog sections regarding the [credit/no credit](#) or [pass/fail](#) grading option and withdrawal from class.

Please go to [UT Dallas Syllabus Policies](#) webpage for these policies.

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