



Course: CRIM 3309 Media and Crime
Instructor: Brooke Miller
Term: Fall 2011
Meetings: Tuesday 8:30-9:45am
Classroom: SOM 2.103

Instructor's Contact Information

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All e-mail communication must be via your UTD e-mail account and students must email the instructor through eLearning.

Office Location GR 2.510 Main Campus

Office Hours by appointment

Course Pre-requisites

There are no formal pre-requisites for this class.

Course Description

This course examines the media's image of crime and the criminal justice system. Emphasis is placed on how various types of media constructs or perceptions of criminal activities and 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

Upon successful completion of the course, students will be able to:

- 1) Describe and identify the ways in which the media construct crime as a social problem.
- 2) Critically assess the relationship between media and crime.
- 3) Develop the analytical tools necessary to think critically about how various forms of media influence public opinion about crime and criminals, individual behavior, and social policy.
- 4) Examine the social implications of mass media reports of crime and crime television and film.

Required Textbooks and Materials

There are 2 required text for this class:

Surette, Ray. (2011). *Media, Crime and Criminal Justice*. Belmont, CA:
Wadsworth, Cengage.
ISBN# 978-0495809142

Rafter, Nicole (2006). *Shots in the Mirror: Crime Films and Society*. Oxford
University Press.
ISBN# 978-0195175066

Additional readings may be discussed/assigned during class. You may be required to visit the university library to obtain additional readings throughout the semester.

Assignments & Academic Calendar

Dates, topics, and exams are listed below. Students are expected to have read the assigned chapters prior to coming to class. This is a tentative schedule that may be changed throughout the semester if needed. Students will be informed of any schedule changes either in class, eLearning, and/or by e-mail.

	Dates	Topics	Readings	Assignments due
Week 1	Aug 25	Syllabus and Introduction		
Week 2	Aug 30	Predators, Pictures and Policy	Surette: Chapter 1	
	Sept 1	Social Constructionism The History of Crime Films	Surette: Chapter 2 Rafters: Chapter 1	
Week 3	Sept 6	The History of Crime	Film	
	Sept 8	The History of Crime	Film	
Week 4	Sept 13	Crime and Criminality Why They Went Bad: Criminology in Crime Films	Surette: Chapter 3 Rafters: Chapter 2	
	Sept 15	Why They Went Bad	Film	
Week 5	Sept 20	Why They Went Bad	Film	
	Sept 22	Crime Fighters Cop and Detective Films	Surette: Chapter 4 Rafters: Chapter 4	
Week 6	Sept 27	Crime Fighters	Film	
	Sept 29	Crime Fighters	Film	
Week 7	Oct 4	Review		
	Oct 6	Exam 1	Exam 1	Exam 1
Week 8	Oct 11	The Courts Criminal Law Films	Surette: Chapter 5 Rafters: Chapter 5	
	Oct 13	The Courts	Film	
Week 9	Oct 18	Corrections Prison and Execution Films	Surette: Chapter 6 Rafters: Chapter 6	
	Oct 20	Corrections	Film	
Week 10	Oct 25	Corrections	Film	
	Oct 27	Review		

Week 11	Nov 1	Exam 2	Exam 2	Exam 2
	Nov 3	Crime Control	Surette: Chapter 7	
Week 12	Nov 8	Media and Criminal Justice Policy	Surette: Chapter 8	
	Nov 10	Media and Policy	Film	
Week 13	Nov 15	Media and Crime	Surette: Chapter 9	
	Nov 17	No class ASC		
Week 14	Nov 22	Justice in the Twenty-First Century	Rafter: Chapter 7	
	Nov 24	No class thanksgiving		
Week 15	Nov 29	Justice	Film	
	Dec 1	Justice	Film	
Week 16	Dec 6	Review		
	Dec 8	No class	Reading day	
Week 17	Dec 13	Final exam	Final exam	Final exam

Grading Policy

There will be 2 exams and a comprehensive final, each of which will be completed during class. Students are expected to come to class on test days prepared with a scantron and pencil.

There will be 2 short written assignments. Details of these assignments, including due dates, will be discussed in class. These assignments will be accepted as a hard copy during class only. All material should be cited in accordance with APA standards.

Exam1 = 25 possible points

Exam2 = 25 possible points

Exam3 = 40 possible points

Writing assignments = 10 possible points

Total points possible = 100

No extra credit will be offered during this course.

****Grades will be posted to eLearning throughout the course***

Grade Scale

Grades will be calculated using the following scale:

A+ = 98-100	B+ = 88-89	C+ = 78-79	D+ = 68-69	F = 59 or below
A = 93-97	B = 83-87	C = 73-77	D = 63-67	
A- = 90-92	B- = 80-82	C- = 70-72	D- = 60-62	

Course Policies

Make-up exams

Students are expected to contact the instructor prior to scheduled exam periods if an exam must be missed. Make-up exams will only be considered in cases where there is a documented University excused absence. If you are scheduled to be away for work, vacation etc. please take this into consideration prior to registering for this course.

Late assignments

Late assignments are not accepted.

Class Attendance

Students should attend class every day having completed and being prepared to discuss the readings for that week. While attendance is not mandatory, students will be tested over materials covered in the assigned readings, during class, etc. If students miss a class, they should discuss the missed materials with a classmate as the instructor will not repeat information covered in class due to absence.

Classroom Citizenship

Cell phones and pagers must be turned off before class, and audio equipment may not be played during class, with or without headphones. Tape, audio, and/or video recorders are not permitted during class. Students may use laptops during class, however usage must be limited to class related activities so as not to disrupt other students. Recording devices may not be used during class.

Students who are actively engaged learn more, earn better grades, and are better informed citizens of their university and communities. You are actively encouraged to be an engaged and positive participant in our classroom. Our classroom is a safe space to share your experiences, thoughts, and critiques of criminological research and topics. I encourage critical thinking and welcome open discussions of the material we will review. We will discuss many sensitive topics during the semester. I expect everyone to participate in the discussions in an appropriate manner. Maintaining a different viewpoint does not require negative behavior or disrespectful comments. If a student is disrespectful in their behaviors or language, I will address the issue in a timely manner. If a student's negative behavior and/or language is addressed and it continues, the student will be asked to leave the class and will suffer a deduction in their grade.

Students may NOT record the instructor in any manner. You may NEVER sell your PowerPoint presentations, notes, online or personal study guide materials or any other class materials (except the purchased required textbooks).

Course Disclaimer

During the semester, we will watch videos pertaining to the various topics. These videos may contain explicit material including hard language, intense or persistent violence, sexually-oriented nudity, drug abuse or other elements, and could be considered offensive to some viewers.

Due to the sensitive nature of the material addressed in this course, students may have a desire to share their personal experiences. Student should know that this is a perfectly normal and reasonable response given the subject matter. I encourage students to bring personal experiences to class discussion. Although I encourage class discussions, some material may illicit uncomfortable memories or a need to discuss these experiences with someone outside of class. There are several resources available to students at UTD:

The Galerstein Women's Center <http://www.utdallas.edu/student/womensctr/>
The Student Counseling Center <http://www.utdallas.edu/counseling/index.html>
The Student Health Center <http://www.utdallas.edu/healthcenter/>

***Before class starts please turn off (or silence) your cell phones. Plan to attend class the entire scheduled time for each day per your course calendar. Excused absences are limited to observed religious holidays or official UTD events (athletics, debate, etc.) that students notify me of IN ADVANCE via email or during class time. Students on official UTD business should bring me an official notice from your organization of class conflicts so that alternative arrangements can be made. Students who have a conflict due to religious practices need to get with me at the beginning of the semester and let me know what these dates will be so that alternate arrangements can be made for exams or other assignments.

***Students are required to check eLearning for class announcements and course materials. I will post all announcements in eLearning. The class schedule and lectures may change without prior notice. Readings outside the textbooks will be available via eLearning. It is your responsibility to download and read these articles prior to their assigned due date and come to class prepared to critically discuss them along with the text chapters.

Lectures

All PowerPoint presentations may be posted on eLearning. These will not be inclusive of all required information from lectures. Students who miss class are responsible for getting any information and notes from a classmate. Please do NOT contact me and ask me to send you the notes from my lectures that you have missed.

Please note that while I allow students to use laptops to take notes during class lectures, any abuse of this privilege will result in all computers being banned during class time.

During films all laptops must be put away. I reserve the right to change this policy at anytime.

Technical Support

If you experience any problems with your UTD account you may send an email to: assist@utdallas.edu or call the UTD Computer Helpdesk at 972-883-2911.

Field Trip Policies

Off-campus Instruction and Course Activities

Off-campus, out-of-state, and foreign instruction and activities are subject to state law and University policies and procedures regarding travel and risk-related activities. Information regarding these rules and regulations may be found at the website address http://www.utdallas.edu/BusinessAffairs/Travel_Risk_Activities.htm. Additional information is available from the office of the school dean. Below is a description of any travel and/or risk-related activity associated with this course.

Student Conduct & Discipline

The University of Texas System and The University of Texas at Dallas have rules and regulations for the orderly and efficient conduct of their business. It is the responsibility of each student and each student organization to be knowledgeable about the rules and regulations which govern student conduct and activities. General information on student conduct and discipline is contained in the UTD printed publication, *A to Z Guide*, which is provided to all registered students each academic year.

The University of Texas at Dallas administers student discipline within the procedures of recognized and established due process. Procedures are defined and described in the *Rules and Regulations, Series 50000, Board of Regents, The University of Texas System*, and in Title V, Rules on Student Services and Activities of the university's *Handbook of Operating Procedures*. Copies of these rules and regulations are available to students in the Office of the Dean of Students, where staff members are available to assist students in interpreting the rules and regulations (SU 1.602, 972/883-6391) and online at <http://www.utdallas.edu/judicialaffairs/UTDJudicialAffairs-HOPV.html>

A student at the university neither loses the rights nor escapes the responsibilities of citizenship. He or she is expected to obey federal, state, and local laws as well as the Regents' Rules, university regulations, and administrative rules. Students are subject to discipline for violating the standards of conduct whether such conduct takes place on or off campus, or whether civil or criminal penalties are also imposed for such conduct.

Academic Integrity

The faculty expects from its students a high level of responsibility and academic honesty. Because the value of an academic degree depends upon the absolute integrity of the work

done by the student for that degree, it is imperative that a student demonstrate a high standard of individual honor in his or her scholastic work.

Scholastic Dishonesty, any student who commits an act of scholastic dishonesty is subject to discipline. Scholastic dishonesty includes but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts.

Plagiarism, especially from the web, from portions of papers for other classes, and from any other source is unacceptable and will be dealt with under the university's policy on plagiarism (see general catalog for details). This course will use the resources of turnitin.com, which searches the web for possible plagiarism and is over 90% effective.

Copyright Notice

The copyright law of the United States (Title 17, United States Code) governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted materials, including music and software. Copying, displaying, reproducing, or distributing copyrighted works may infringe the copyright owner's rights and such infringement is subject to appropriate disciplinary action as well as criminal penalties provided by federal law. Usage of such material is only appropriate when that usage constitutes "fair use" under the Copyright Act. As a UT Dallas student, you are required to follow the institution's copyright policy (Policy Memorandum 84-I.3-46). For more information about the fair use exemption, see <http://www.utsystem.edu/ogc/intellectualproperty/copypol2.htm>

Email Use

The University of Texas at Dallas recognizes the value and efficiency of communication between faculty/staff and students through electronic mail. At the same time, email raises some issues concerning security and the identity of each individual in an email exchange. The university encourages all official student email correspondence be sent only to a student's U.T. Dallas email address and that faculty and staff consider email from students official only if it originates from a UTD student account. This allows the university to maintain a high degree of confidence in the identity of all individual corresponding and the security of the transmitted information. UTD furnishes each student with a free email account that is to be used in all communication with university personnel. The Department of Information Resources at U.T. Dallas provides a method for students to have their U.T. Dallas mail forwarded to other accounts.

Withdrawal from Class

The administration of this institution has set deadlines for withdrawal of any college-level courses. These dates and times are published in that semester's course catalog. Administration procedures must be followed. It is the student's responsibility to handle withdrawal requirements from any class. In other words, I cannot drop or withdraw any

student. You must do the proper paperwork to ensure that you will not receive a final grade of "F" in a course if you choose not to attend the class once you are enrolled.

Student Grievance Procedures

Procedures for student grievances are found in Title V, Rules on Student Services and Activities, of the university's *Handbook of Operating Procedures*.

In attempting to resolve any student grievance regarding grades, evaluations, or other fulfillments of academic responsibility, it is the obligation of the student first to make a serious effort to resolve the matter with the instructor, supervisor, administrator, or committee with whom the grievance originates (hereafter called "the respondent"). Individual faculty members retain primary responsibility for assigning grades and evaluations. If the matter cannot be resolved at that level, the grievance must be submitted in writing to the respondent with a copy of the respondent's School Dean. If the matter is not resolved by the written response provided by the respondent, the student may submit a written appeal to the School Dean. If the grievance is not resolved by the School Dean's decision, the student may make a written appeal to the Dean of Graduate or Undergraduate Education, and the dean will appoint and convene an Academic Appeals Panel. The decision of the Academic Appeals Panel is final. The results of the academic appeals process will be distributed to all involved parties.

Copies of these rules and regulations are available to students in the Office of the Dean of Students, where staff members are available to assist students in interpreting the rules and regulations.

Incomplete Grade Policy

As per university policy, incomplete grades will be granted only for work unavoidably missed at the semester's end and only if 70% of the course work has been completed. An incomplete grade must be resolved within eight (8) weeks from the first day of the subsequent long semester. If the required work to complete the course and to remove the incomplete grade is not submitted by the specified deadline, the incomplete grade is changed automatically to a grade of **F**.

Disability Services

The goal of Disability Services is to provide students with disabilities equal educational opportunities. Disability Services provides students with a documented letter to present to the faculty members to verify that the student has a disability and needs accommodations. This letter should be presented to the instructor in each course at the beginning of the semester and accommodations needed should be discussed at that time. It is the student's responsibility to notify his or her professors of the need for accommodation. If accommodations are granted for testing accommodations, the student should remind the instructor five days before the exam of any testing accommodations that will be needed. Disability Services is located in Room 1.610 in the Student Union. Office hours are

Monday – Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., and Friday 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. You may reach Disability Services at (972) 883-2098.

Guidelines for documentation are located on the Disability Services website at <http://www.utdallas.edu/disability/documentation/index.html>

Religious Holy Days

The University of Texas at Dallas will excuse a student from class or other required activities for the travel to and observance of a religious holy day for a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property tax under Section 11.20, Tax Code, Texas Code Annotated.

The student is encouraged to notify the instructor or activity sponsor as soon as possible regarding the absence, preferably in advance of the assignment. The student, so excused, will be allowed to take the exam or complete the assignment within a reasonable time after the absence: a period equal to the length of the absence, up to a maximum of one week. A student who notifies the instructor and completes any missed exam or assignment may not be penalized for the absence. A student who fails to complete the exam or assignment within the prescribed period may receive a failing grade for that exam or assignment.

If a student or an instructor disagrees about the nature of the absence [i.e., for the purpose of observing a religious holy day] or if there is similar disagreement about whether the student has been given a reasonable time to complete any missed assignments or examinations, either the student or the instructor may request a ruling from the chief executive officer of the institution, or his or her designee. The chief executive officer or designee must take into account the legislative intent of TEC 51.911(b), and the student and instructor will abide by the decision of the chief executive officer or designee.

These descriptions and timelines are subject to change at the discretion of the Professor.