Syllabus: CRJ 778: VICTIMOLOGY

Course Description

Examines patterns and trends in victimization. Identifies the categories of people facing the greatest risks and assesses victim-blaming arguments that invoke facilitation, precipitation and provocation. Analyzes the handling of street crime victims by the criminal justice system and explores new rights pledging fair treatment, empowerment in decision making, restitution and compensation.

Course Learning Outcomes:
• To master familiarity with basic terms, concepts, and ideas in Victimology in Spanish and English.
• To gain a thorough knowledge of the core literature and debates that make up the discipline of Victimology.
• To master the ability to understand methods to measure victimization
• To understand the interactions between victims and offenders, victims and the criminal justice system, and victims and the larger society in the U.S. and Spain.
• To understand the nature, types, and prevalence of family abuse and family violence in the US and Spain.
• To understand and evaluate services available to victims in the U.S. and Spain.
• To understand of the major theoretical explanations of criminal victimization.
• To understand the historical development of Victimology and its sub-fields.
• To develop Spanish language competency in the area of victimology and criminal justice, for future use as a career skill

Course prerequisites: None.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

REQUIRED TEXTS


READINGS: Students are expected to complete the readings prior to class. Lectures will follow the readings and students are expected to participate in class discussions.

ATTENDANCE: Students are required to attend ALL scheduled classes, to arrive on time, and stay for the duration of the class. Absences and lateness will affect your final grade, as will more than two absences. Three late arrivals will be considered equivalent to one absence. Students are
considered late if they arrive after attendance has been taken. Students should discuss any extenuating circumstances that impede class attendance with the professor.

CLASSROOM BEHAVIOR: Students will observe rules common to classroom rules in the United States as well as Spain. Please be respectful to your professor and your fellow classmates. Once class has started, refrain from using cell phones, computers (unless taking notes), and other electronic devices. Students should be careful to respect all opinions and to refrain from interrupting the professor. In addition, students should come to class with tidy appearance, avoid obvious displays of stretching or yawning, and keep all feet off the class furniture. The classroom in Spain is not a place to ‘relax.’ Unless otherwise instructed, students should address all professors using the formal you, “usted”.

CLASS PARTICIPATION: Student participation is class is required. This includes involvement in any group work as well as individual contributions to class discussions. Class participation can only improve your final grade.

GRADING

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Paper Project</td>
<td>40</td>
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<tr>
<td>Journal</td>
<td>30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Group Presentation</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Individual Presentation</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Attendance/Participation</td>
<td>20</td>
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<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>100</td>
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PAPER PROJECT: You are required to complete a paper project in English. This is a cross-national comparative project whereby you incorporate material from the course (readings, lectures, class discussions, field trips) and synthesize it into a set of recommendations on what the international community can learn about the treatment of victims from the US and Spanish experiences. This paper should be 15 pages double-spaced. It must be correctly referenced using APA style, 12-point font, standard margins, double-spaced, spell checked and proofread. It is due the last day of class via Blackboard. 40 points.

POLICY ON LATE HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENTS: Assignments handed in late will only be eligible to earn half the possible points. An assignment is “late” when it is handed in any time after the end of the class period in which it was due.

JOURNAL: Please purchase a notebook prior to your trip to contain at least 20 full pages. You will keep a journal on your guest lecture and field trips in Spanish. Detailed instructions will be supplied at the start of the course. 30 points.

GROUP PRESENTATION: You will be assigned a group presentation in Spanish at the beginning of the course which will be due the last week of class. 10 points.

INDIVIDUAL PRESENTATION: You will be assigned an article to present to the class via a summary and critique, in Spanish or English. 10 points.

POLICY ON INCOMPLETES: According to John Jay College policy, an Incomplete Grade can be given only to those students who would pass the course if they were to satisfactorily complete course requirements. It is within the discretion of the faculty member as to whether or not to give the grade of Incomplete.
ACCESSIBILITY SERVICES
Qualified students with disabilities will be provided reasonable academic accommodations if determined eligible by the Office of Accessibility Services (OAS). Prior to granting disability accommodations in this course, the instructor must receive written verification of a student’s eligibility from the OAS which is located at 1L.66.00 (212-237-8031). It is the student’s responsibility to initiate contact with the office and to follow the established procedures for having the accommodation notice sent to the instructor prior to departure.

PLAGIARISM
Below is the John Jay policy on plagiarism. Make sure you read through it and understand the penalties involved if you plagiarize. If after you read this material you still have questions, please speak with me.

Statement of the College Policy on Plagiarism
Plagiarism is the presentation of someone else’s ideas, words, or artistic, scientific, or technical work as one’s own creation. Using the ideas or work of another is permissible only when the original author is identified. Paraphrasing and summarizing, as well as direct quotations require citations to the original source.

Plagiarism may be intentional or unintentional. Lack of dishonest intent does not necessarily absolve a student of responsibility for plagiarism.

It is the student’s responsibility to recognize the difference between statements that are common knowledge (which do not require documentation) and restatements of the ideas of others. Paraphrase, summary, and direct quotation are acceptable forms of restatement, as long as the source is cited.

Students who are unsure how and when to provide documentation are advised to consult with their instructors. The Library has free guides designed to help students with problems of documentation. (John Jay College of Criminal Justice Undergraduate Bulletin, http://www.jjay.cuny.edu/academics/654.php, see Chapter IV Academic Standards)

Course Outline:

1. The Rediscovery of Crime Victims
2. Victimization in the United States and Spain
3. Victims’ Contribution to the Crime Problem (in Spanish)
4. Victims and the Criminal Justice System: Criminal Law (partly in Spanish)
5. Victims and the Criminal Justice System: Criminal Process (partly in Spanish)
6. Victims of Violence: Terrorism (in Spanish)
7. Violence Against Women: Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault (partly in Spanish)
8. Victims and Historical Memory (in Spanish)
9. Victims Rights in Comparative European Context (in Spanish)
10. Victim Assistance

11. Restorative Justice and Mediation

12. Special groups of victims (traffic accidents, etc.)

13. Victims and crime prevention

Reading List for both courses:


