



Course Syllabus
CJUS 4650.001
Victimology
Fall 2026

Course Information

Course Number: CJUS 4650¹
Course Title: Victimology
Section: 001
Semester: Fall 2026
Time: MWF 2:30-3:20
Location: Wooten Hall Room 316
Credit Hours: 3

Instructor Details

Instructor: Marissa Hayes, M.S.
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Office: Hurley Administration Building, 102E (remote Mondays/Thursdays)
Office Hours: 1-2; 3:30-4:30pm, Fridays (in person); or by appointment

Connect with me through email and/or by attending office hours. During busy times, my inbox becomes rather full, so if you contact me and do not receive a response within two business days, please send a follow up email. A gentle nudge is always appreciated. Office hours offer you an opportunity to ask for clarification or find support with understanding class material. Come visit me! I encourage you to connect with me for support. Your success is my goal!

Course Description

Historically, criminology and criminal justice scholars have focused on the study of offenders and the criminal justice system, while paying less attention to victims. The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the field of victimology with an emphasis on criminal victimization, though the study of victimization can include a broader range of victims, and we will not cover all of them.

As part of your introduction to the science of victimology, we will examine a range of topics that include, but are not limited to: the emergence of the victim rights movement and the field of victimology; the nature and extent of victimization (e.g., types of victimization, measurement of victimization); characteristics of victims; theories of victimology; government and non-governmental responses to victimization (e.g., victim services, victim rights); child abuse and neglect; intimate partner violence; rape and sexual assault; stalking; hate crimes, and more.

¹ The instructor reserves the right to modify this document as needed.



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Course Prerequisites

None

Course Learning Outcomes

By the conclusion of the course, students should be able to:

- Describe the nature and extent of victimization
- Understand criminological theories of victimization
- Identify strengths and weaknesses of victimization data
- Describe the rise of the victims' rights movement
- Examine the roles of the government and the criminal justice system as it pertains to victims of crime
- Identify the scope of the problem of victimization in different contexts (i.e., homicide, intimate partner violence, sexual assault/rape, child abuse and school violence, hate crimes, fraud/cybercrime/economic crime, and human trafficking), trends and practices, and different actors involved at all levels
- Assess government and nongovernmental responses to victimization.

Textbook and/or Resource Materials

Burgess, A.W. (2017). *Victimology: Theories and applications* (3rd edition). Jones and Bartlett Learning. *
[ISBN-10: 1284130193; ISBN-13: 978-1284130195]

- Other readings, materials, and YouTube clips as assigned and provided by the instructor in Canvas learning modules.

*A student of this institution is not under any obligation to purchase a textbook from a university-affiliated bookstore. The same textbook may also be available from an independent retailer, including an online retailer.

Communication Expectations

Class Community Expectations: I strive to provide an inclusive, safe, and fun learning environment, whether the setting is online or face-to-face. I expect my students to treat each other, including guest speakers and myself, with respect. As an in-person course, we will engage in sensitive discussions in which individuals may have strong opinions regarding the content at hand. Our classroom is a collaborative environment where every student should feel comfortable expressing ideas and opinions and engaging in thoughtful discussions. Students will respect the views and opinions of others at all times; name-calling and personal attacks are not permitted. Students engaging in disruptive or disrespectful behavior in the classroom will be given one warning through an email from



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the instructor. A second violation will result in the student being locked out of future discussions, eliminating their ability to participate in future discussions or earn additional discussion points for the course. No hate speech or discrimination will be tolerated at any point in class (e.g., during discussions or in assignments).

Canvas: I will use the Canvas system (<https://canvas.unt.edu>) to post course information, assignment details, and any news or updates regarding class. Students are expected to check Canvas frequently in order to receive important course announcements, including updates to the course schedule, and to complete all required coursework via Canvas. For additional information about Canvas, including how to log on, please use the following resources:

The University of North Texas provides student technical support in the use of Canvas and supported resources. The student help desk may be reached at:

Email: helpdesk@unt.edu

Phone: 940-565-2324

In Person: Sage Hall, Room 130

UNT Technical Support: <https://it.unt.edu/helpdesk>

Canvas Student Guides: <https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10701>

Canvas Video Guides for Students:

https://community.canvaslms.com/community/answers/guides/video-guide#jive_content_id_Students

Basic Technical Requirements for Canvas: <https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10721>

Canvas VPAT: <https://www.canvaslms.com/accessibility>

Email correspondence: The university assigned email account is the university's official means of email communication with students, faculty, and staff at UNT. Individuals are responsible for all information sent to them via their university assigned email account. Any class announcements sent via email will be sent to the student's UNT email account ONLY so it is expected that you will check your email account frequently during this course.

Email is the preferred method of getting in touch with me outside of class. You should sign any email correspondence with your full name and include your course number because at times it may be difficult to determine a student's name from an email address.

When emailing me regarding the class, you should be using your student UNT email. This is the email address that class announcements will be sent to, and students are responsible for checking this account. I will not generally respond to emails regarding class matters from personal or work email accounts. **Please do not use the messaging function in Canvas; I will not respond to direct messages in Canvas.**



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Course Modality and Requirements

In-Class Participation & Assignments: These assignments will vary from week to week. You will be divided into groups at the beginning of the semester and will continue working in your group for the rest of the term. You will work with your group to complete in-class assignments from week to week, which will have you receive a brief, have class time to work on it together, and then discuss your work with the class. We may not have them every week, but will be as time allows. These assignments will be graded as part of your class participation, which is why it is so important for you to attend class regularly.

Reading Quizzes: There will be 10 total reading quizzes throughout the semester. Each reading quiz will consist of 10 questions (1 pt. per question) derived from the text or other assigned reading and lectures. This will assess how well you are reading the chapters and digesting the information as well as your regular attendance in class. Reading quizzes will be done online via Canvas. You may use your book, but it will be timed to 20 minutes, so prepare adequately beforehand.

Current Events Assignments: Crime and victimization are frequent topics of discussion across news outlets and internationally. Throughout the semester, there will be **three current event assignments, with the two (2) highest scores** counting toward your grade for a total of 100 points (each worth 50 points).

For these assignments, you will need to identify an article from the *Associated Press News* and write a short response in which you summarize the article and connect it to different topics that we have covered in the course. These assignments are designed to increase your ability to research current events related to crime and victimization and to practice applying the course materials to real work issues. The due dates for these assignments are listed in the course calendar below.

Presentation: Each student will complete a research project that will culminate in a PowerPoint presentation, uploaded to Canvas and presented to the class.

The subject of the presentation may be any topic on victimology that we have not already discussed in detail in the course. Prior to choosing your topic, you should ensure that there is sufficient academic research available to you in order to complete the project by searching the academic databases for peer-reviewed research articles and other academic readings.

As part of the project, each student will:

- **Turn in a topic proposal and annotated bibliography**, via upload to Canvas. This should include:
 - A 2-paragraph description (minimum) of your topic and how you are going to address it.



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- An annotated bibliography in APA format of at least 5 academic research articles that you will use to inform your topic.
- **Create a PowerPoint presentation and present it to the class.**
 - Your presentation should be approximately 20 minutes in length. You may have 2 minutes of leeway to either side (i.e., 18 minutes or 22 minutes) without losing points, but if your presentation is any shorter or longer than these outward limits, you will lose 2 points per minute under/over time. This does **not** include time for questions from your peers after the presentation has concluded.
 - More detail will be provided in Canvas.

Course Assessment

Your grade in this course will be based on the following: attendance/participation in our in-person weekly class meetings, current event assignments, and your final presentation with topic selection:

- **Attendance & In Class Participation/Assignments** (Learning objectives 1-7)—Students are required to participate in weekly assignments in class. You are expected to come to class each week for our in-person meetings. Your grade will be reduced if you do not attend classes and participate in our discussions. You need to let me know if you need to miss class for a valid reason so that I can arrange a makeup for you. Makeup assignments may be given for missed classes, but are solely at my discretion to award to those students whose grade has been impacted by lack of attendance. If you communicate with me about your absences, I will work with you.
- **Reading Quizzes** (Learning objectives 1-7)—Students will take a weekly reading quiz to assess their reading of the textbook and digesting the information.
- **Current Events Assignments (Learning objectives 1-7)**—Students will do a brief write up of a current event that they collect from the news. Three will be assigned, and the lowest grade will be dropped.
- **Class Presentation** (Learning objectives 1-7)—Students are required to give a presentation in person during our regularly scheduled class meeting. More detail on the presentation is under the Course Requirements section above.
- **Bonus Points:** I might (or might not) distribute occasional bonus points based on my discretion to students who contribute above and beyond to classroom discussion.

Grading Policy

Please refer to the current University Catalog for additional information regarding grades and course withdrawal policies. For this course, your grade will be determined in the following manner:



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Assessment	% of Final Grade	Points Possible
Attendance:	20%	43 points
Class Participation:	20%	86 points
Reading Quizzes:	15%	100 points
Current Events Assignments:	20%	100 points
Topic Proposal/Bibliography:	5%	50 points
Class Presentation:	20%	100 points
		100% 479 points

The final grade will be assigned as follows, although the instructor reserves the right to lower the limits slightly at their discretion considering factors such as student attendance:

- A = 90% or above
- B = 80% - 89%
- C = 70% - 79%
- D = 60% - 69%
- F = below 60%

Attendance & Participation Policy

Attendance is mandatory and will be graded. I will take attendance at the start of every class period; please try to be on time. Your attendance grade will be counted up so that at the end of the semester, your attendance will total 100; the more you attend class, the higher that percentage will rise, and the more you miss class, the more you will see it drop. Pay attention to this in the gradebook. **This is 20% of your overall grade.**

You will also receive 2 points for your participation grade for each class you attend, and a 0 for any class that you miss without valid documentation for why you missed the class. **This is 20% of your overall grade.**

Students are expected to attend class meetings regularly and to abide by the attendance policy established for the course. It is important that you communicate with me prior to being absent, so that we can discuss and mitigate the impact of the absence on your attainment of your course learning goals. Please let me know if you are unable to attend class meetings because you are ill, in mindfulness of the health and safety of everyone in our community.

Students are expected to manage all other absences, such as minor illnesses, travel, car trouble, etc., as they would in a professional work environment. I will give you a fixed number of excused absences (**three**). You should use these like personal days in a work environment. If you miss an assessment or assignment, I will work with you to make up



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what you missed. Keep in mind that this is a fixed number so you should use them judiciously.

Authorized Absences: Absences are authorized only in cases to participate in school sponsored activities and/or religious holidays. For an excused absence due to a school sponsored activity, students must be approved in advance. Students who wish to request an excused absence for religious holidays can do so and will be excused from class if they make a request within the required time frame set by the university (see the most recent undergraduate catalog). Notification must be in writing so that I may have it for my records. You must arrange to make up any work missed during the excused religious absence or school sponsored activity.

Students who have fallen behind, are failing/or choose to not complete the coursework for the semester, are responsible for officially withdrawing themselves from the course; failure to do so will result in a performance grade of "F." Check the calendar for the last day to drop with a "W."

Make-Up Policy: Those in athletics, those who are absent for religious holidays, and/or those involved in other school supported activities that require being absent from class will be allowed to make up assignments if proper procedures are followed in requesting an excused absence. I must have written documentation in advance that you will be away from class for the absence to be excused (e.g., traveling for a basketball game, observing a religious holiday). If you are ill in such a way that you could not complete any required assignment or exam, you must contact me via email **within 3 calendar days**. It is up to my discretion whether I will be willing to offer a make-up assignment depending on the situation.

Grade-related questions or concerns must be addressed within 1 week of the grade being posted to Canvas. Quiz grades are posted immediately with correct responses available after the quiz close date. Students should email me with quiz questions after they have reviewed the correct responses within one week of the grade being posted. Questions related to the quiz will not be answered while the quiz is still available. Do not wait until the end of the semester or halfway through the semester to ask questions about previous assignments. Students are expected to stay on top of their grades as well as their course standings and ask questions promptly.

Final grades are determined based on the point total listed in the syllabus. Students should do their best on each assignment and submit all completed assignments on time to maximize their performance and earn points for the final course grade. Time management is an important skill for academic performance and in a professional environment. If a student will be out of town on vacation, work-related travel, or other reasons, the student should plan accordingly to complete any assignments before leaving. I reserve the right to consider extreme circumstances and modify this rule.



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A Grade of “Incomplete” (“I”): An Incomplete Grade (“I”) is a non-punitive grade given only during the last one-fourth of a term/semester and only if a student (1) is passing the course and (2) has a justifiable and documented reason, beyond the control of the student (such as serious illness or military service), for not completing the work on schedule; and (3) arranges with the instructor **before the end of the semester** to finish the course at a later date by completing specific requirements that the instructor must list on the grade sheet. All work in the course must be completed within the specified time (not to exceed one year after taking the course). If you do not meet the specifications for this grade, you will need to see the Registrar’s office about resigning from the University.

Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI)

It is important to understand my expectations of students related to the use of Generative AI in this course, and the possible consequences of unauthorized use. I expect you to generate your own work in this class. When you submit any kind of work, you are asserting that you have generated and written the text unless otherwise indicated by the use of quotation marks and proper citation. Submitting content that has been generated by someone other than you or was created or assisted by a computer application or tool, including AI tools such as ChatGPT, is cheating and constitutes an academic integrity violation. You may use simple word processing tools to update spelling and grammar in your assignments, but you may not use AI tools to draft your work, even if you edit, revise, or paraphrase it.

Authorized use of Generative AI is this Course:

- Exploring information related to course concepts
- Helping you determine your presentation topic
- Developing skills related to course concepts
- Personalizing your learning experience

Unauthorized use of Generative AI is this Course:

- Using any AI tool to complete any assignment by copying and pasting information from a generative AI tool into an assignment
- Citing information from a generative AI tool in a written assignment. Like Wikipedia, information from a generative AI tool is not a credible source.

Possible Consequences of Unauthorized use Generative AI is this Course:

Generative AI is not a replacement for the student’s own thinking, and assignments need to reflect the student’s knowledge of the subject. If I have reasonable suspicion to believe that an assignment might not reflect the student’s knowledge of the



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subject, then I may require the student to complete an alternative assignment to demonstrate the student's knowledge of the subject.

Unauthorized use of generative AI is a form of academic dishonesty. If a student has questions related to the role of generative AI in this course, the student should contact me before using generative AI in this course.

Technology Support and Learning Resources:

Please see Canvas for links related to these topics.

University Policies

Academic Integrity Statement and Policy

Standards of academic integrity are expected with regard to any course- related work or submission. Students should consult the UNT website for questions, guidelines, appeals, and other information related to these policies:

http://policy.unt.edu/sites/default/files/untpolicy/pdf/7-Student_Affairs-Academic_Integrity.pdf

An academic violation of UNT policy consists of the following:

- A. **Cheating.** The use of unauthorized assistance in an academic exercise, including but not limited to:
 - 1. Use of any unauthorized assistance to take exams, tests, quizzes or other assessments;
 - 2. Dependence upon the aid of sources beyond those authorized by the instructor in writing papers, preparing reports, solving problems, or carrying out other assignments;
 - 3. Acquisition, without permission, of tests, notes, or other academic materials belonging to a faculty or staff member of the University;
 - 4. Dual submission of a paper or project or re-submission of a paper or project to a different class without express permission from the instructor;
 - 5. Any other act designed to give a student an unfair advantage on an academic assignment.
- B. **Plagiarism.** Use of another's thoughts or words without proper attribution in any academic exercise, regardless of the student's intent, including but not limited to:
 - 1. The knowing or negligent use by paraphrasing or direct quotation of the published or unpublished work of another person without full and clear acknowledgment or citation.



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2. The knowing or negligent unacknowledged use of materials prepared by another person or by an agency engaged in selling term papers or other academic materials.
- C. **Forgery.** Altering a score, grade, or official academic university record or forging the signature of an instructor or other student.
- D. **Fabrication.** Falsifying or inventing any information, data, or research as part of an academic exercise.
- E. **Facilitating Academic Dishonesty.** Helping or assisting another in the commission of academic dishonesty.
- F. **Sabotage.** Acting to prevent others from completing their work or willfully disrupting the academic work of others.

Any violation of academic integrity will be handled on a case-by-case basis. At a minimum, the student will receive a zero on the assignment in question, but more serious academic violations may be subject to the assignment of a failing grade for the course. Please do not hesitate to contact the instructor with questions related to citations or other academic integrity concerns.

Emergency Notification & Procedures: UNT uses a system called Eagle Alert to quickly notify students with critical information in the event of an emergency (i.e., severe weather, campus closing, and health and public safety emergencies like chemical spills, fires, or violence).

In the event of a university closure, please refer to the UNT Learning Management System (LMS) for contingency plans for covering course materials.

Student Resources

Links to Academic Support Services, such as Office of Disability Accommodation, Counseling and Testing Services, UNT Libraries, Online Tutoring, UNT Writing Lab and Math Tutor Lab are available on the university website.

UNT Portal: <http://my.unt.edu>

UNT Library On & Off Campus Access - University Libraries - UNT

UNT HelpDesk | University of North Texas

Resources - Academic | University of North Texas (unt.edu)

Student Computer Lab | University of North Texas (unt.edu)

UNT strives to offer a high-quality education in a supportive environment where you can learn, grow, and thrive. As a faculty member, I am committed to supporting you, and I want to remind you that UNT offers a range of mental health and wellness services to help maintain balance and well-being. Utilizing these resources is a proactive way to support your academic and personal success. To explore campus resources designed to support you, check out [mental health services](https://clear.unt.edu/student-support-services-) (<https://clear.unt.edu/student-support-services->



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[policies](#)), visit unt.edu/success, and explore unt.edu/wellness. To get all your enrollment and student financial-related questions answered, go to scrappysays.unt.edu.

Survivor Advocacy: UNT is committed to providing a safe learning environment free of all forms of sexual misconduct, including sexual harassment, sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. Federal laws (Title IX and the U.S. Violence Against Women Act) and UNT policies prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex and therefore prohibit sexual misconduct. If you or someone you know is experiencing sexual harassment, relationship violence, stalking, and/or sexual assault, there are campus resources available to provide support and assistance. UNT's Survivor Advocates can assist a student who has been impacted by violence by filing protective orders, completing crime victim's compensation applications, contacting professors for absences related to an assault, working with housing to facilitate a room change where appropriate, and connecting students to other resources available both on and off campus. The Survivor Advocates can be reached at SurvivorAdvocate@unt.edu or by calling the Dean of Students Office at 940-565-2648. Additionally, alleged sexual misconduct can be non-confidentially reported to the Title IX Coordinator at oeo@unt.edu or at (940) 565 2759.

Mandatory Reporting: All faculty and staff are mandatory reporters under Senate Bill 212. This means that if we learn about something that might be sex discrimination (e.g., sexual harassment, sexual assault, intimate partner violence, stalking, pregnancy discrimination, LGBTQ discrimination), then we must report what we know to the Title IX Office. Usually, reports will only leave a record of concern, but sometimes, a report can be escalated into an investigation without a victim's consent. Mandatory reporters are expected to share information learned in all settings, including during class activities, assignments, office hours, and outside of class.

I WILL LISTEN AND BELIEVE YOU IF SOMEONE IS THREATENING YOU. – Lauren's Promise

ADA Statement and Disabled Student Policy

The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic accommodations for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Access (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide you with an accommodation letter to be delivered to the faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course.

You may request accommodations at any time; however, ODA notices of accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of accommodation for every semester and must meet (i.e., electronically, by phone, or in person) with each faculty member before implementation in each class. For additional information, see the Office of



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Disability Access website at <http://disability.unt.edu/>. You may also contact them by phone at 940-565-4323.

Course Evaluations

Student feedback is important and an essential part of participation in this course. The student evaluation of instruction is a requirement for all organized classes at UNT. The survey will be made available during weeks 13, 14 and 15 of the long semesters to provide students with an opportunity to evaluate how this course is taught. Students will receive an email from "UNT SPOT Course Evaluations via IASystem Notification" (no-reply@iasystem.org) with the survey link. Students should look for the email in their UNT email inbox. Simply click on the link and complete the survey. Once students complete the survey, they will receive a confirmation email that the survey has been submitted. For additional information, please visit the SPOT website at spot.unt.edu or email spot@unt.edu.

Course Schedule

This schedule is tentative. The instructor reserves the right to modify this schedule as needed. Please check your UNT email and Canvas frequently for announcements and important information.

Week/Module #	In-Class Meetings	Topic	Textbook Chapter Assigned Reading	Assignment
1	8/17, 8/19, 8/21	Introductions, Syllabus Overview Victimology and Crime	1	Pre-Assessment
2	8/24, 8/26, 8/28	Victimology Theory	3	Group Activity & Reading Quiz
3	8/31, 9/2, 9/4	Measurement of Crime and Victimization	2	Group Activity & Reading Quiz Current Event #1 due 9/4
4	NO CLASS 9/7 9/9, 9/11	Victims' Rights and Services	4	Group Activity & Reading Quiz



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5	9/14, 9/16, 9/18	Justice Systems	5	Group Activity & Reading Quiz Current Event #2 due 9/18
6	9/21, 9/23, 9/25	Homicide Victims	13	Group Activity & Reading Quiz
7	9/28, 9/30, 10/2	Intimate Partner Violence	9	Group Activity & Reading Quiz Current Event #3 due 10/2
8	10/5, 10/7, 10/9	Sexual Assault	11	Group Activity & Reading Quiz
9	10/12, 10/14, 10/16	Stalking	10	Group Activity & Reading Quiz Topic Proposal & Bibliography due 10/16
10	10/19, 10/21, 10/23	Hate Crimes & Financial Crimes	14	Group Activity & Reading Quiz
11	10/26, 10/28, 10/30	School Violence, Child Abuse & Abduction, and Online Crime	8, 6, 7	Group Activity & Reading Quiz
12	11/2, 11/4, 11/6	Victimology: Applications	None	Group Activity Presentation Slide Deck Due 11/6
13	11/9, 11/11, 11/13	Final Presentations	None	Final Presentations
14	11/16, 11/18, 11/20	Final Presentations	None	Final Presentations
15	11/23, 11/25, 11/27	NO CLASS THANKSGIVING BREAK	None	None
16	11/30, 12/2 12/4: NO CLASS	Final Presentations	None	Final Presentations