

Florida Atlantic University

School of Criminology & Criminal Justice



CCJ 4032: Media & Crime
3 Credit Hours

FALL 2019

- I. COURSE TITLE:** CCJ4934: Media & Crime
Section: 014
Days: Tuesday
Time: 4:20pm-7:00pm
Location: Davie West 103
Course start and end dates: January 5-May 3, 2019
- II. PROFESSOR:** Dr. Kendra Gentry
E-mail: gentryk@fau.edu (reply within 48 hours)
Phone: 561-297-2878
Office: SO 271
Office Hours: Mon: 2:00pm-3:30pm (Boca)
Tues: 10:30am-11:00am (Boca)
Tues: 7:00pm-8:00pm (Davie)
Thurs: 2:00pm-3:30pm (Boca)
Other times by appointment
- III. COURSE DESCRIPTION:**
Students in this course learn how the criminal justice system is portrayed in television, movies, print, social media, radio and more. The finale to this course has students selecting a recent significant CJ media event/case and presenting a comparison of how it was covered in two media outlets. This allows students to recognize media frames, claims makers and narratives.
- IV. LEARNING OUTCOMES:**
1. Describe and characterize various media formats and their contributions to American society's understanding of the criminal justice system.
- V. REQUIRED TEXTS & MATERIALS:**
- Title: Media, Crime and Criminal Justice: Images, Realities, and Policies (5th Edition)
 - Author: Surette, Ray
 - Publisher: Cengage
 - ISBN-13: 9781285459059

VI. COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND POLICIES

Course Attendance:

- Class attendance is **mandatory**. There is a **zero tolerance** for tardiness.
- Should you miss class, it is also your responsibility to ask a classmate or the professor what was missed. If you miss class the day an assignment is due, the assignment must be submitted to the professor's email inbox **before** class begins.
- **IMPORTANT: Late or missing assignments will not be accepted and a score of zero will be assigned. No exceptions are made for individual students, no matter the circumstances.**
- University Approved Absence Policy Statement: In accordance with rules of FAU, students have the right to reasonable accommodations to participate in University approved activities, including athletic or scholastics teams, musical and theatrical performances and debate activities. It is the student's responsibility to notify the course instructor at least one week prior to missing any scheduled class or assignment/exam.
- Religious Accommodation Policy Statement: In accordance with rules of the Florida Board of Education and Florida law, students have the right to reasonable accommodations from the University in order to observe religious practices and beliefs with regard to admissions, registration, class attendance and the scheduling of examinations and work assignments.

Canvas:

This course utilizes the Canvas learning management system for the dissemination of supplemental materials. Canvas allows for additional communication between the students as well as the professor. Students should check Canvas regularly for email announcements, handouts, articles, etc. that may be posted by the professor.

Examinations:

Students are required to take exams during the assigned day and time as scheduled on the course syllabus. No make-up exams will be offered.

Grades:

Individual grades on assignments are posted in Canvas in order to assist students in monitoring their academic progress throughout the semester. Borderline final grades will be determined based on in-class participation, attendance and the completion/submission of all assignments.

Extra Credit:

Any extra credit opportunities will be discussed in class. If offered, extra credit will be available to all students in the course, not individual students.

Plagiarism:

Plagiarism is generally defined as the presentation of the ideas and/or the words of someone else as one's own. Examples of plagiarizing material include using a person's written words or ideas from a variety of different sources (internet, classmate's paper, book, journal article, etc.) without proper documentation. Plagiarism is taken very seriously and the student will be fully punished if caught plagiarizing material within this course. This course uses plagiarism software, which is integrated within Canvas.

You commit plagiarism if you use, copy and paste or paraphrase:

- **Any part of an assignment submitted by a student from a previous semester**
- **Any part of an assignment written by/shared with a current classmate (collaboration work, group work and split work are NOT allowed)**
- **Any part of another person's written words without correct documentation**
- **Any part of another person's ideas without correct documentation, including any part of a website, book, encyclopedia, magazine article, journal article, newspaper article or any other source used without correct documentation.**
- **Plagiarism is punished in a variety of ways. If collaboration/shared work is found, BOTH the student who copied and the student who allowed their work to be copied will be reported. The student(s) may fail the assignment and/or the entire course. The Dean may take additional actions.**
- **To avoid such punishments: do not plagiarize others and do not allow other students/friends to view your work at any time, no matter the circumstances.**

For a detailed description of plagiarism and its potential consequences and penalties, consult the FAU Code of Academic Integrity: http://www.fau.edu/ctl/4.001_Code_of_Academic_Integrity.pdf

Electronic Policy:

Laptop computers may be used during class time, for the purpose of taking electronic notes only. Students should not access the internet or play games during class. If a student is found using their laptop for activities not pertaining to taking electronic notes, the student will lose their privilege of using their laptop during class for the remainder of the semester/term.

NO electronic communication devices or music devices are to be used in this class during class time. This includes cell phones, tablets, laptops, iPods, etc.

- Students must turn off all electronic devices during class. Should there be an extenuating circumstance, which requires the potential use of a cell phone during class, please notify the professor prior to class.
- Should your electronic device go off during class, you will be asked to leave the class. This is disruptive to your fellow students and the classroom environment. Laptops should be closed during student presentations and guest speakers

Classroom Rules:

- Students are free to discuss individual thoughts and opinions during class discussion periods, however, be sure to be courteous to your fellow classmates and professor.
- Please be tolerant toward comments and opinions for which you do not agree; tolerance is a reciprocal process for all students. The professor will not tolerate any remarks that are personally demeaning, or offensive.
- Students who become disruptive in class will be asked to stop the behavior immediately.
- If the behavior continues, the student(s) will be asked to leave the classroom immediately and for the rest of the class period.
- If asked to leave, a student(s) will not be allowed back in the classroom until he/she/they meet with the professor in her office to discuss the disruptive behavior.
- If the disruptive behaviors arise in class and/or in the online discussion board again, the student(s) will be asked to leave and cannot return until he/she/they meet with the professor and the School Director to discuss dropping the student(s) from the course.

VII. COURSE SCHEDULE AND TOPIC OUTLINE *subject to modification, with notification
Late submissions are NOT accepted and a grade of “zero” will be recorded.

Date	Task	Topic	Due / Important
Tues. 1/8	Introduction Film	Syllabus, Canvas <i>Nightcrawler</i>	
Tues. 1/15	Chapter 1 Chapter 2	Crime, Justice and Media New Media and Social Constructionism Moral Panics	
Tues. 1/22	Film	<i>Witch Hunt</i> (in-class) <i>Deadly House of Cards</i> (at-home)	
Tues. 1/29	Chapter 3 Chapter 4	Images of Crime and Criminality Criminogenic Media	Reaction #1 (2pm)
Tues. 2/5	Chapter 5 Film	Crime Fighters & CSI Effect <i>Flashpoint</i>	
Tues. 2/12	NO CLASS		
Tues. 2/19	Film	<i>Adam Ruins Everything</i> (Forensic Science) <i>Adam Ruins Everything</i> (Justice) <i>Adam Ruins Everything</i> (Prison)	
Tues. 2/26	Chapter 6 Film	The Courts <i>True Hollywood Story: Casey Anthony</i> <i>Casey Anthony – How Did We Get Here?</i> (at home)	Reaction #2 (2pm)
Tues. 3/5	NO CLASS	SPRING BREAK	
Tues. 3/12	Chapter 7 Film	Corrections <i>60 Days In</i> <i>First and Last: Days in Jail</i> (at home - Netflix)	Project Topic (Start of class)
Tues. 3/19	Chapter 8 Chapter 9 Chapter 10	Crime Control The Media and Criminal Justice Policy New Media, Crime and Justice	Reaction #3 (2pm)
Tues. 3/26	Presentations	Student Project Presentations	PPT slides (2pm)
Tues. 4/2	Presentations	Student Project Presentations	
Tues. 4/9	Presentations	Student Project Presentations	
Tues. 4/16	Presentations	Student Project Presentations (if necessary)	
Tues. 4/30	FINAL EXAM	Chapters 1-10, films	4:00pm-6:30pm

VIII. DESCRIPTION OF CLASS ASSIGNMENTS AND REQUIREMENTS

1. Reaction Papers: 3 x 50 points each (150 points)

CONTENTS:

- The purpose of your reaction paper is to connect guest speaker discussions and film plots with what we have mentioned in class and the textbook.
- Provide your reaction to the recent guest speaker or film and how the message received shapes your understanding of media and crime. Discuss how this new piece of knowledge relates to concepts we have covered in the class – by referencing the textbook (**including page numbers**).
- Your reaction to the speaker or film should be analytical. Focus on what you learned from the speaker or film and explain how this has expanded, changed, reinforced or contradicted what the textbook states or what we discussed in class.
- **Do not** write a book report, summary, synopsis or chronological play-by-play of what happened or what was said. Assume that I have already heard the guest speaker and watched the film. Focus on applying/connecting class material.

REQUIREMENTS:

- ✓MS Word: 500-750 words
- ✓Times New Roman, 12 pt font
- ✓Double-spaced, 1-inch margins
- ✓No title or reference page
- ✓Paragraph format – NO bullets/lists
- ✓See template on Canvas

2. Final Exam: (100 points)

- Chapters 1-11, lecture slides, supplemental materials, films, guest speakers

3. Class Project & Presentation: (100 points)

CONTENTS:

- This project will focus on a symbolic crime event and its portrayal in the media. You will present your findings in class with a PowerPoint presentation.
- Select a recent crime or criminal justice-related event.
- Explain the similarities and differences in how 2 news outlets (or other media/content type) constructed the event within a similar time frame.
- Compare the types of claims makers the outlets used, as well as the frames and narratives implied in the coverage. (See Chapter 2.)

REQUIREMENTS:

- ✓You must submit your PowerPoint slides by 9am on your assigned presentation day
- ✓8 minutes PowerPoint presentation (template on Canvas); 1-2 minutes Q&A

4. Attendance & Discussion Participation: (50 points)

- In addition to attending class and arriving on time, you will be expected to submit questions for guest speakers and engage in classroom discussions throughout the semester. See Canvas to submit posts.

5. Grading Criteria:

Your final grade will be determined by is determined by the following criteria:

Graded Item	Points Possible	Points Earned
Reaction Paper #1	50	
Reaction Paper #2	50	
Reaction Paper #3	50	
Final Exam	100	
Project / Presentation	100	
Attendance & Participation	50	
TOTAL	400	

Final Grading Scale

Points Earned	Final Grade
372-400	A
360-371	A-
348-359	B+
332-347	B
320-331	B-
308-319	C+
292-307	C
280-291	C-
268-279	D+
252-267	D
240-251	D-
239 or below	F

7. Final Grade Policy:

The professor is available to discuss all grades except the final grade. As per FAU policy, the final grade will not be discussed with the student until after the student has retrieved the final grade from Canvas. As such, the professor will not email grades to the student.

IX. UNIVERSITY POLICY STATEMENTS

Course Withdrawal: To withdraw from a course, it is not sufficient simply to stop attending class or to inform the professor of your intention to withdraw. In accordance with university policy, you must contact the Registrar office to begin the withdrawal process.

<http://www.fau.edu/registrar/registration/faqs.php>

Course Prerequisites, Credit Hours, and Time Commitment: There are no prerequisites for this course. This is a 3-credit hour course. According to Florida State Statute 6A-10.033, students must spend a minimum 2,250 minutes of in class time during a 3-credit course. Additionally, students enrolled in a 3-credit course are expected to spend a minimum of 4,500 minutes of out-of-class-time specifically working on course-related activities (i.e., reading assigned pieces, completing homework, preparing for exams and other assessments, reviewing class notes, etc.) and fulfilling any other class activities or duties as required. The course schedule for this course reflects this expectation of students.

Student Support Services: All University services are available to all students.

Online Help Desk:

<https://helpdesk.fau.edu/>

FAU Libraries:

<https://www.fau.edu/library/>

Center for Learning and Student Success:

www.fau.edu/CLASS/

University Center for Excellence in Writing:

www.fau.edu/UCEW/

Office of Undergraduate Research and Inquiry:

www.fau.edu/ouri/

Student Accessibility Services:

www.fau.edu/sas/

Disability Policy Statement: In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADAAA), students who require reasonable accommodations due to a disability to properly execute coursework must register with Student Accessibility Services (SAS) and follow all SAS procedures. SAS has offices across three of FAU's campuses – Boca Raton, Davie and Jupiter – however disability services are available for students on all campuses. For more information, please visit the SAS website at www.fau.edu/sas/

Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) Center: Life as a university student can be challenging physically, mentally and emotionally. Students who find stress negatively affecting their ability to achieve academic or personal goals may wish to consider utilizing FAU's Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) Center. CAPS provides FAU students a range of services – individual counseling, support meetings, and psychiatric services, to name a few – offered to help improve and maintain emotional well-being. For more information, go to <http://www.fau.edu/counseling/>

Grade Appeal Process: A student may request a review of the final course grade when s/he believes that one of the following conditions apply:

- There was a computational or recording error in the grading.
- Non-academic criteria were applied in the grading process.
- There was a gross violation of the instructor's own grading system.
- Procedures for a grade appeal may be found in Chapter 4 of the University Regulations <http://www.fau.edu/regulations/chapter4/index.php>