Course Description: This course is designed to examine the “genesis of violence and its expression in criminal and noncriminal forms; theories of violence; the subculture of violence; victim-offender interactions; distribution of violent crimes; gender, class, race, and crime; and proactive and reactive measures to control violent crimes. This course may focus predominately on one or a few types of violent crime in detail.” This course is 100% online using Blackboard.

Course Objectives:

Goal 1: The student will develop and apply knowledge regarding the different types of violent crime, national trends and patterns, and theoretical explanations for violent crime.

Objective A: The student will complete assigned readings and be prepared to discuss these readings within Blackboard’s Discussion Board.

Objective B: The student will be expected to demonstrate an understanding of the assigned material through online examinations and a quiz.

Goal 2: The student will develop and improve communication, critical thinking and writing skills.

Objective A: The students will discuss class material within Blackboard’s Discussion Board.

Required Textbooks:


*The ISBNs are from Amazon
Class Map: a.k.a. How to Navigate this Class in Blackboard

- The Syllabus is posted under the “Syllabus” button.
- Be sure to check the “Announcements” page regularly for important class/schedule information/changes.
- All assignments for the semester will be posted under the “Assignments/Calendar” button. This page will include all assignments including weekly textbook readings, the course schedule/calendar by week, and due dates for each assignment. Open/close dates for the quiz and the exams are also posted on the Assignments/Calendar page.
- Instruction sheets detailing requirements, expectations, and grading information for each assignment will be posted under the “Instructions” button.
- Access to Exams can be found by clicking on the “Exams” button. Exam reviews will also be posted under this button.
- Access the Quiz by clicking on the “Quiz” button.
- Discussion Questions can be accessed by clicking on the “Discussion Board” button. Your Biographical Paragraph will be turned in using the Discussion Board.
- Follow your grade throughout the semester using Gradebook.
- PowerPoint outlines of assigned textbook chapters can be accessed by clicking on the “PowerPoints” button.
- Videos that correspond with class material are posted under the “Videos” button.
- Websites that correspond with class material are posted under the “Web-Links” button.
- Interact with your fellow students using the optional “Blog” button.

Course Requirements/Policy:

1) Be an Active Learner: I want all of you to be an “active learner.” What this means is that you buy/rent the required textbooks, keep up with all of the assigned text readings, review all instruction sheets carefully, and ask the professor if you have any questions about readings or assignments. Being an active learner also means that you check Blackboard regularly (and your UTRGV email) for class announcements and newly posted course information. Being an active learner means that you put the effort into earning your class grade and your degree. Don’t wait until the last week of class to worry about your grade—be an active learner throughout the semester—this is especially important if you are graduating. Your grade will reflect the amount of work and effort you put into this class—Do not ask your professor to “bump up” your grade at the end of the semester. There is no extra credit. Be sure to also pay attention to assignment/exam/quiz due dates/times. Assignments and exams for this class typically close/are due by 11:59pm on the assigned day (see the Course Calendar).

2) Class Participation: Being an Active Learner also means that you are participating in class—in a non-online class, this would include attendance, but for an online class, this means that you are keeping up with your assignments, and logging into our class Blackboard site regularly. If you have to miss an assignment due to an emergency, contact your professor. If you miss three assignments in a row without contacting the professor, you may be dropped from the class for non-participation. Blackboard has a feature that allows professors to view the level of student activity in the course.

3) Biographical Paragraph: Students will be required to post a biographical paragraph (minimum of 100 words) within the Discussion Board. The purpose of this assignment is to introduce yourself to the class—what is your name, where are you from, what you want to do with your degree when you graduate, your goals, etc. You can include a picture of yourself if you wish. Do not attach your Bio as a Word doc—just type in the box provided. Remember—this posting will be within the Discussion Board and will be viewable by all of your fellow class members, so don’t post anything that you feel is too private to share! Detailed instructions including grading information will be posted within Blackboard.

4) Discussion Questions: Discussion Questions can be accessed by clicking on the “Discussion Board” button in Blackboard. Post your answers to each discussion question within the Discussion Board. Each original Discussion Board post must be a minimum of 400 words in length. You are also required to post a reply to at least one other students’ posting. Click on their post and hit the “reply” button. This is your chance to interact with your fellow students. Remember to be respectful when discussing other student postings. Your reply to a fellow-student’s post must be a minimum of 50 words in length (do you agree/disagree with their post and why). Do not re-type the original questions—
just answer the questions as a comprehensive whole (a mini-essay), and be sure to follow the basic rules of writing (complete sentences, paragraph breaks, correct spelling/grammar, etc.). Adding headings or citations (which you do not need) or your name will not be counted toward the total required word count. Please do not number or bullet-list your responses. Do not use quotes from the textbook—paraphrase the material—it is always better to use your own words! Never plagiarize—plagiarism will result in a zero. Instructions for use of the Discussion Board are posted under the “Instructions” button, and detailed instructions for each question, including grading information will be posted in Blackboard under the “Discussion Board” button. The Discussion Board is set up so that you will not be able to view your fellow student’s posts until you have posted your original post 1st—in other words, answer the discussion questions first and then you will be able to reply to a fellow student. I will not accept emailed assignments.

*Do not plagiarize—this means you must do your own work and use your own words—never use another student’s work, and never copy from any other source. For more information about how to avoid plagiarism, go to: http://sja.ucdavis.edu/files/plagiarism.pdf

*A Note on Discussion Board Assignments & Late Work Policy: You may turn in written work early, but turning in an assignment early does not guarantee that it will be graded early. Be sure to look carefully at the dates/times that assignments are due—all of this information is in the class “Assignments/Calendar” page. Not all online classes follow the same schedule or the same format—each professor is different. If you miss the deadline for a Discussion Board assignment, you may turn it in LATE (after the posted deadline), but you will lose 10 points for each day the assignment is late, including weekends. An assignment is considered late even if it is turned in one minute past the deadline. Be sure to double check that your Discussion Board posting was successful—if it is blank I cannot grade it. If you submit the wrong assignment (or a blank post) it will be considered late until the correct assignment is submitted. You will also lose 5 points if your 1st post is blank, even if it is turned in before the deadline—double check your work to make sure it is submitted correctly.

5) Quiz: There is a Quiz over the class Syllabus. The Quiz consists of 10 multiple choice and true/false questions, and is timed at 10 minutes. Access the quiz by clicking on the “Quiz” button—the quiz is not open notes/Syllabus/textbook/Internet, etc. The Syllabus quiz will cover general policy information from the class Syllabus. Questions appear all at once and you must complete the quiz in one sitting. The quiz will automatically close after the time is up whether you have finished or not. You must complete the Quiz within the posted date/time range—it will be left open across several days, so you may not take it late.

6) Exams: There are a total of two examinations—A Midterm Exam and a Final Exam. Exams can be accessed by clicking on the “Exams” button in Blackboard. Exam Reviews will also be posted under the “Exams” button. Each exam will consist of 50 multiple choice and True/False questions. The exams are NOT open book/notebook/Internet, etc. Examinations will only be open during the specific dates/times posted within the “Assignments/Calendar” page. Students must take and submit their exams within the specified time periods—you may not take them late. Each exam is timed at 50 minutes and must be completed in one attempt—you cannot start the exam and save it and pick it up later—it will automatically close when the timer has run out, even if you have not finished. The exams automatically tell you when you are running out of time, and if you have left any questions blank. Exams are left open across several days to accommodate differing student schedules. Do NOT wait until the last minute to attempt the exams because you never know when your Internet may go out or your computer may experience problems, or you feel sick, etc. If you have a medical emergency, you must email the professor and provide valid documentation within two days. Take exams using a computer with a fast and reliable Internet connection—do not attempt exams on a Smartphone or tablet device. The exam will close if you navigate outside the exam window. Cheating will be reported to the Dean of Students and result in a zero for the exam.

*A Note on Exams & the Quiz: Exams and the Quiz must be completed during the designated time period detailed in the “Assignments/Calendar” page. Be sure to look carefully at the times that the Quiz and the exams open and close—all of this information is in the class “Assignments/Calendar” page. Not all online classes follow the same schedule or the same format—each professor is different.
*Contacting the Professor:* Either e-mail me at Deborah.Hartley@utrgv.edu or call my office at 956-882-7266, or come to my office during scheduled office hours. I will be sending out class e-mails throughout the semester using Blackboard. If you e-mail me, I will always reply promptly (typically within 24-48 hours) to let you know that I received your e-mail. I do not check my UTRGV e-mail through my personal cell phone, meaning, be patient. If you do not receive an e-mail reply from me within 24-48 hours, your e-mail did not reach me. Remember—UTRGV only uses official UTRGV emails—be sure you are using and checking your official UTRGV email (so in other words, no emails will be sent to your gmail, yahoo, etc.). This is your responsibility—you don’t want to miss important deadlines or other class announcements.

**GRADING:**

*Detailed expectations and grading guidelines will be given to students within each assignment instruction sheet. Detailed instruction sheets will be posted for each assignment under the “Instructions” button in Blackboard. Instructions for each Discussion Question can also be found under the “Discussion Board” button. Contact me if you have any questions. There is no extra credit in this course.*

* Follow your grades using Gradebook in Blackboard. Assignments for this class will be graded using numbers on a 100 point scale, but each assignment will be given a different weight (percentage), which will be used to determine your final course grade. Your final course grade will not be based on total points—it will be calculated using grade weights/percentages (see the column in Gradebook called Final Grade %):

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<th>Assignment:</th>
<th>Assignment Weight/%:</th>
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**University Grading Scheme:**

A = 100-90  
B = 89-80  
C = 79-70  
D = 69-60  
F = 59 and below

*The Course Calendar with all weekly readings, assignments, and due dates can be found under the “Assignments/Calendar” button in Blackboard.*

**UTRGV—UNIVERSITY POLICY:**

**STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:**

If you have a documented disability (physical, psychological, learning, or other disability which affects your academic performance) and would like to receive academic accommodations, please inform your instructor and contact Student Accessibility Services to schedule an appointment to initiate services. It is recommended that you schedule an appointment with Student Accessibility Services before classes start. However, accommodations can be provided at any time. **Brownsville Campus:** Student Accessibility Services is located in Cortez Hall Room 129 and can be contacted by phone at (956) 882-7374 (Voice) or via email at ability@utrgv.edu. **Edinburg Campus:** Student Accessibility Services is located in 108 University Center and can be contacted by phone at (956) 665-7005 (Voice), (956) 665-3840 (Fax), or via email at ability@utrgv.edu.

**MANDATORY COURSE EVALUATION PERIOD:**

Students are required to complete an ONLINE evaluation of this course, accessed through your UTRGV account (https://my.utrgv.edu/home); you will be contacted through email with further instructions. Students who complete their evaluations will have priority access to their grades.
ATTENDANCE:
Students are expected to attend all scheduled classes and may be dropped from the course for excessive absences. UTRGV’s attendance policy excuses students from attending class if they are participating in officially sponsored university activities, such as athletics; for observance of religious holy days; or for military service. Students should contact the instructor in advance of the excused absence and arrange to make up missed work or examinations. Professor Policy—see above.

SCHOLASTIC INTEGRITY:
As members of a community dedicated to Honesty, Integrity and Respect, students are reminded that those who engage in scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and expulsion from the University. Scholastic dishonesty includes but is not limited to: Cheating, plagiarism, and collusion; 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. Since scholastic dishonesty harms the individual, all students, and the integrity of the University, policies on scholastic dishonesty will be strictly enforced (Board of Regents Rules and Regulations and UTRGV Academic Integrity Guidelines). All scholastic dishonesty incidents will be reported to the Dean of Students.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT, DISCRIMINATION, and VIOLENCE:
In accordance with UT System regulations, your instructor is a “responsible employee” for reporting purposes under Title IX regulations and so must report any instance, occurring during a student’s time in college, of sexual assault, stalking, dating violence, domestic violence, or sexual harassment about which she/he becomes aware during this course through writing, discussion, or personal disclosure. More information can be found at www.utrgv.edu/equity, including confidential resources available on campus. The faculty and staff of UTRGV actively strive to provide a learning, working, and living environment that promotes personal integrity, civility, and mutual respect in an environment free from sexual misconduct and discrimination.

COURSE DROPS:
According to UTRGV policy, students may drop any class without penalty earning a grade of DR until the official drop date. Following that date, students must be assigned a letter grade and can no longer drop the class. Students considering dropping the class should be aware of the “3-peat rule” and the “6-drop” rule so they can recognize how dropped classes may affect their academic success. The 6-drop rule refers to Texas law that dictates that undergraduate students may not drop more than six courses during their undergraduate career. Courses dropped at other Texas public higher education institutions will count toward the six-course drop limit. The 3-peat rule refers to additional fees charged to students who take the same class for the third time.

UTRGV EMERGENCY NOTIFICATIONS SYSTEM:
The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley has a new emergency alert notification system. UTRGV students, faculty and staff across all campuses will now receive emergency alerts from Everbridge.net. These are official UTRGV emergency alert notifications. Alerts will be sent as texts, emails, and phone calls. You may be asked to confirm that you received the message. Once you confirm, the system will stop sending you alerts for that specific notification. For more information, please contact the Office of Emergency Management at 956-665-2658.

UTRGV CJ Student Learning Outcomes:
*1-4 do not all apply to every class. The SLOs are set by the CJ Department.
1. Demonstrate knowledge of the structure, operations, and practices of the major components of the criminal justice system, which includes police, courts, corrections, and law.
2. Explain the fundamentals of research methods and statistical techniques used in criminal justice research.
3. Apply critical thinking, creativity, problem solving, and communication skills through classroom assignments.
4. Demonstrate knowledge of criminological theory and crime control techniques.
*The course schedule will be posted under the “Assignments/Calendar” button in Blackboard.

**UTRGV Help Desk for Technical Difficulties: (Blackboard)**

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<th>COLTT Help Desk</th>
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<td><strong>Hours:</strong>  Monday - Friday, 7:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.</td>
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**Location:** Brownsville Campus, Rusteberg 108, (956) 882-6792  
Edinburg Campus, Education Complex 2.202, (956) 665-5327

**Submit a ticket:** [https://colttapps.utrgv.edu/helpme](https://colttapps.utrgv.edu/helpme)

**Email:** COLTThelp@utrgv.edu

**Website:** [www.utrgv.edu/online](http://www.utrgv.edu/online)