

SOC 4530 - Sociology of Murder
3 Credit Hours

Course Description:

This course provides an analytical study of murder and violence in the United States. As such, course topics include: different types of homicide, offender characteristics, etiological considerations of becoming an offender or victim, the role of social profiling in the investigation of various types of murder, theoretical approaches to the study of murder, and patterns and sources of violence. Taking into account the grisly topic, students that are disturbed by particularly heinous crimes should avoid enrolling in this course.

Course Outcomes:

At the end of this course, students should be able to:

1. Understand and apply the sociological perspective to homicide and murder.
2. Understand sociological explanations for the occurrence of homicide in the United States.
3. To apply sociological explanations to particular types of homicide as well as particular examples of murder.
4. To understand and be able to critique the various sources of information on homicide as well as what these sources tell us about offenders, victims, weapons, locations, motives etc.
5. To understand the stages, processes, offenders, victims, and settings of a typical homicide.
6. To understand the sources, patterns, and explanations of various types of murder.
7. To understand criminal behavior profiling as well as the role it can play in solving homicides.

Prerequisites and Corequisites:

SOCI 1010 or CRMJ 1010

Course Topics:

1. Definitions and Legal Degrees of Murder
2. Theoretical Perspectives and Measurement Issues in the Study of Murder
3. Societal Influences on Homicide
4. Intimate Partner Homicide
5. Murder of Children
6. Children who Kill
7. Serial Murder & Mass Murder
8. Homicide Investigation

Specific Course Requirements:

None

Required Textbooks:

Please visit the [Virtual Bookstore](#) to obtain textbook information for this course. Move your cursor over the "Books" link in the navigation bar and select "Textbooks & Course Materials." Select your Program, Term, Department, and Course; then select "Submit."

Supplementary Materials:

Articles provided by the instructor on course website

Hardware and Software Requirements:

Minimum hardware requirements can be found [here](#).

Minimum software requirements can be found [here](#).

Common applications you might need:

To read a PDF file download the latest version of [Adobe Reader here](#)

Don't have Microsoft Word? Explore an alternative [OpenOffice here](#)

Accessing a PowerPoint file? Download the [PowerPoint Viewer here](#)

Web Resources:

Purdue [OWL Online Writing Lab](#) (for APA, MLA, or Chicago style)

The Writing Center [Online Writer's Handbook](#)

Student Resources:

- Technical support information can be found on the [TN eCampus Help Desk](#) page.
- Smarthinking virtual tutoring is available **FREE** of charge. to access Smarthinking, visit the course homepage and select Smarthinking under Course Resources. You also view [sample sessions](#) to see what Smarthinking offers and how it works.
- Information on other student issues or concerns can be located on the [TN eCampus Student Resources](#) page.

Instructor Information:

Please see "Instructor Information" in the Getting Started Module for instructor contact information, virtual office hours, and other communication information. You can expect to receive a response from the instructor within 24-48 hours unless notified of extenuating circumstances.

Testing Procedures:

This course utilizes randomized quizzes to assess student learning at the end of each topic. During these quizzes, browsers will not be locked down. However, quizzes must be completed by their designated "close" date in order to be considered for points. Quizzes will be comprised of fill-in-the-blank, multiple-choice, short essay, and true/false questions.

Grading Procedures:

Final Grade	%
A	89.5 – 100%
B	79.5 – 89.4%
C	69.5 – 79.4%
D	59.5 – 69.4%
F	0.0 – 59.4%

Assignments and Projects:

Assignment	Possible Points
Active Learning Assignments (8 topics @ 20 points each)	100
Book Report (1 report @ 100 points)	100
Discussions (8 topics @ 10 points each)	80
Quizzes (8 topics @ 20 points each)	160
Total	500

Class Participation:

Although this course does follow a set schedule, this is a student-driven course. In other words, the onus is on YOU to participate and be engaged virtually with the class.

Course Ground Rules:

The following two statements (1., 2.) were derived from the TBR System-wide Student Rules document, released January 2012:

**RULES OF THE TENNESSEE BOARD OF REGENTS STATE UNIVERSITY AND
COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM OF TENNESSEE SYSTEMWIDE STUDENT RULES**

CHAPTER 0240-02-03 STUDENT CONDUCT AND DISCIPLINARY SANCTIONS

[Read the document in its entirety here.](#)

1. Standards of Conduct:

- Students are required to adhere to the same professional, legal and ethical standards of conduct online as on campus. In addition, students should conform to generally accepted standards of "netiquette" while sending e-mail, posting comments to the discussion board, and while participating in other means of communicating online. Specifically, students should refrain from inappropriate and/or offensive language, comments and actions.

2. [Review the TN eCampus Academic Integrity/Academic Honesty Policy:](#)

- In their academic activities, students are expected to maintain high standards of honesty and integrity. Academic dishonesty is prohibited.

Such conduct includes, but is not limited to:

- an attempt by one or more students to use unauthorized information in the taking of an exam
- to submit as one's own work, themes, reports, drawings, laboratory notes, computer programs, or other products prepared by another person,
- or to knowingly assist another student in obtaining or using unauthorized materials.

Plagiarism, cheating, and other forms of academic dishonesty are prohibited.

Students guilty of academic misconduct, either directly or indirectly through participation or assistance, are subject to disciplinary action through the regular procedures of the student's home institution. Refer to the student handbook provided by your home institution to review the student conduct policy.

In addition to other possible disciplinary sanctions that may be imposed, the instructor has the authority to assign an "F" or zero for an activity or to assign an "F" for the course.

Other Course Rules:

Students are expected to:

- Participate in all aspects of the course
- Communicate with other students
- Learn how to navigate in Brightspace
- Keep abreast of course announcements

- Use the assigned course management (Brightspace) email address rather than a personal email address
- Address technical problems immediately:
 - [Contact Technical Support](#)
 - [View Term Calendar here](#)
- Observe course netiquette at all times.

Guidelines for Communications:

Email:

- Always include a subject line.
- Remember without facial expressions some comments may be taken the wrong way. Be careful in wording your emails. Use of emoticons might be helpful in some cases.
- Use standard fonts.
- Do not send large attachments without permission.
- Special formatting such as centering, audio messages, tables, html, etc. should be avoided unless necessary to complete an assignment or other communication.
- Respect the privacy of other class members

Discussions:

- Review the discussion threads thoroughly before entering the discussion. Be a lurker then a discussant.
- Try to maintain threads by using the "Reply" button rather starting a new topic.
- Do not make insulting or inflammatory statements to other members of the discussion group. Be respectful of other's ideas.
- Be patient and read the comments of other group members thoroughly before entering your remarks.
- Be cooperative with group leaders in completing assigned tasks.
- Be positive and constructive in group discussions.
- Respond in a thoughtful and timely manner.

Library:

The [Tennessee Virtual Library](#) is available to all students enrolled in TN eCampus programs and courses. Links to library materials (such as electronic journals, databases, interlibrary loans, digital reserves, dictionaries, encyclopedias, maps, and librarian support) and Internet resources needed by learners to complete online assignments and as background reading will be included within the course modules. To access the Virtual Library, go to the course

homepage and select the ***Virtual Library*** link under Course Resources.

Students with Disabilities:

Qualified students with disabilities will be provided reasonable and necessary academic accommodations if determined eligible by the appropriate disability services staff at their home institution. Prior to granting disability accommodations in this course, the instructor must receive written verification of a student's eligibility for specific accommodations from the disability services staff at the home institution. It is the student's responsibility to initiate contact with their home institution's disability services staff and to follow the established procedures for having the accommodation notice sent to the instructor.

Syllabus Changes:

The instructor reserves the right to make changes as necessary to this syllabus. If changes are necessitated during the term of the course, the instructor will immediately notify students of such changes both by individual email communication and posting both notification and nature of change(s) on the course bulletin board.

Disclaimer

The information contained in this syllabus is for general information purposes only. While we endeavor to keep this information up-to-date and accurate, there may be some discrepancies between this syllabus and the one found in your online course. The syllabus of record is the one found in your online course. Please make sure you read the syllabus in your course at the beginning of the semester. Questions regarding course content should be directed to your instructor.