Victim Advocacy
CCJS498T
Criminology & Criminal Justice Studies
University of Maryland, Shady Grove Campus

Meeting time and location: TH 9:30-12:00  Bldg. III Room 3240

Course Syllabus
It is the responsibility of each student to carefully review the course syllabus. The content is subject to revision with notice.

Course Instructor
Heidi Bresee, Adjunct Professor, Criminal Justice Dept., U of MD, Shady Grove
Contact: 240-372-5053
Email: hbresee@ahm.com or through ELMS
Office hours: Available by email and phone M-F; Tuesday’s 12:00-3:00 p.m.
Teacher’s Assistant (TA):  Rana 240-751-0407

Introduction

Students will be prepared to work in victim advocacy arenas such as domestic violence shelters, crisis centers, crisis hotlines, and with state and county governments to assist crime victims in progressing through the criminal justice system and toward successful recovery.

Course Description

Course topics include history of the crime, victims’ rights movement in the United States, victims’ rights law in the United States, impact of crime on victims, navigating the justice system, legal terminology, communication with victims and survivors, direct services, community and grief counseling, crisis intervention, victimology, cultural and spiritual competence, ethics in victim services, developing resilience, and resources for victim advocates. It also covers counseling skills for victims of assault, battery, robbery, domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse, murder and homicide.

Learning Objectives
Upon completion of CCJS 498T, students will be able to:
• Detail the history of crime victim’s rights in the U.S.
• Discuss victim’s rights laws in the U.S.
• Review and discuss the psychodynamics of trauma
• Describe in detail the assessment of a victim of crime
• Define and distinguish how victims navigate through the justice system
• Understand how to communicate with victim’s and survivor’s of crime
• Describe and define direct services offered victims of crime
• Review and discuss the cultural and spiritual competencies of treating victims of crime
• Discuss the ethical dilemmas of victim services
• Recognize key components of developing resilience
• Differentiate and describe various resources for victim advocates
• Relate and detail the impact of crime on victim’s and survivor’s

Course Text:
Required textbooks:


Online Handbook:


Handbook provided by the National Victim Assistance Training Institute through the Office for Victims of Crime.

Optional Textbooks:


Canvas

I will be using Canvas for email and to post the syllabus, grades, and handouts. Go to http://www.elms.umd.edu/ and log in with your Directory ID (logon ID) and password to use this feature.

Emergency Protocol

Class cancelation and emergency notifications will be provided through University of Maryland Emergency Preparedness. Class weather and other emergency cancellations will be reported through the Campus notification system. My cell phone is preferred method of communication for personal emergencies.

Expectations

The following summaries the expectations for this undergraduate course:
**The instructor will:**
- Provide clear and concise information on all assignments and assessment methods
- Respond to queries within 48 hours
- Treat all students fairly and respectfully
- Do everything reasonable possible to facilitate learning
- Uphold the level of academic excellence expected of all University of Maryland faculty
- Conduct her/himself respectfully in classroom and online communications and contribute constructive relevant knowledge

**The student will:**
- Be actively engaged in the course by reading and using the required textbooks and online resources
- Be actively engaged in the course by interacting with the instructor, TA and classmates
- Communicate effectively to instructors and TA in person and via email
- Attend class regularly
- Be expected to be proactive and take responsibility for their education
- Be expected to submit all assignments and complete all assessments by the date specific by instructors
- Be expected to immediately notify the instructor and your course assistant via email if an unavoidable emergency prevents the timely submission of an assignment or completion of an assessment
- Understand that late, incomplete, or missing assignments will adversely affect their grade and will result in an automatic 10% reduction
- Conduct themselves respectfully in classroom discussions and contribute constructive relevant knowledge
- Be expected to maintain the highest levels of academic integrity, honesty, ethical behavior, and honor throughout the course
- Be expected to adhere to all University of Maryland policies regarding academic integrity, attendance, plagiarism, use of technological resources and online content
- Be expected to submit her/his own work unless the instructor permits collaboration
- Exams and all assignments are considered to be Major Scheduled Graded Events and therefore the University medical excuse policy, which allows one student signed honor statement attesting to illness does not apply to them.
- Exams must be taken in the class you are registered for
- Assignments must be turned in the class you are registered for

**Final Grades:**

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<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tr>
<td>70-72</td>
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<td>67-69</td>
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<td>D-</td>
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Assessment of Knowledge and Skills

Victim Assessments (4) 25 Points each
Midterm 75 Pts
Final 100 Pts
Paper 100 Pts

Participation 30 Pts

TOTAL POINTS: 330 Points

COURSE SCHEDULE AND READING LIST

Week 1 – January 26, 2017
Introduction
Readings
   Chapter 1 “A Victim’s Story” Brown, S. Counseling Victims of Violence
   (pages 8-11)
History of Crime Victim’s Rights in the U.S.
Readings:
   Chapter 2 HANDBOOK
   Review Landmarks in Victims’ Rights and Services. Link below
   https://victimsofcrime.org/docs/ncvrw2013/2013ncvrw_5_landmarks.pdf?sfvrsn=0

Week 2 – February 2, 2017
Victim’s Rights laws in the United States
Readings:
   Chapter 3 HANDBOOK
   Review The legal rights and needs of victims of human trafficking in the United States at the link below:
   https://ovc.ncjrs.gov/humantrafficking/Public_Awareness_Folder/Fact_Sheet/HT_Legal_Rights_Needs_fact_sheet-508.pdf
   Watch the following video:
   Video – A Victim’s Story of Sexual Assault

Week 3 – February 9, 2017 – Victim Assessment #1 Due
Impact of Crime on Victims
Readings:
   Chapter 4 HANDBOOK
   “Into the Dead of the Night” Chapter 10, Somebody’s Daughter listed in FILES
   Showing: Audrie and Daisy
Week 4 – February 16, 2017
The Psychodynamics of Trauma
Readings

Week 5 – February 23, 2017 – Victim Assessment #2 Due
The Assessment
Readings
Chapter 3 Counseling Victims of Violence

Week 6 – March 2, 2017
Navigating the Justice System
Readings
Chapter 5 HANDBOOK
Potential guest – Victim Advocate

Week 7 – March 9, 2017
Communication with Victim’s and Survivor’s
Dealing with Difficult Clients
Readings
Chapter 6 HANDBOOK
Chapter 4 Moral Wages – Difficult Clients

Week 8 – March 16, 2017 – MIDTERM EXAM
Direct Services
Readings
Chapter 8 HANDBOOK

Week 9 – SPRING BREAK
Take care of YOU! Take time to relax, stare at the sky, and let the warm air in.

Week 10 – March 30, 2017 – Victim Assessment #3 Due
Cultural and Spiritual Competence
Readings
Chapter 9 HANDBOOK

Week 11 – April 6, 2017
Ethics in Victim Services
A Victim’s Story – Judy Malinowski
Readings
Chapter 10 HANDBOOK
Video – Watch and prepare to discuss in class

**Week 12 – April 13, 2017**
Developing Resilience
A Caregiver’s Story
Readings
Chapter 11 HANDBOOK

**Week 13 – April 20, 2017—Paper Due**
Resources for Victim Advocates
Guest – A Crime Victim’s Story
Readings
Chapter 12 HANDBOOK

**Week 14 – April 27, 2017**
Taking it all back home
Measuring outcomes
Readings
Chapter 13 HANDBOOK

**Week 15 – May 4, 2017 – Victim Assessment #4 Due**
Empowerment in Practice
Connecting the Dots
Readings
Chapter 4 HANDBOOK
Chapter 3 Moral Wages
Chapter 8 Quality Victim Advocacy (located in FILES section)

**Week 16 – May 11, 2017**
Guest – Crime victim shares story

**FINAL – Week of May 13th – 19th, 2017**
Date to be announced

Please see: (http://www.ugst.umd.edu/courserelatedpolicies.html) for a complete list of policies.

Make-Up Policy
I have a very strict policy regarding makeup exams or assignments. These will only be given in cases of excused absences and official documentation is required. Excuses absences are: illness with a doctor’s note, death in the immediate family, required school
activities, and required court appearance. I will not accept a Health Center honor statement to verify an illness. If you know in advance that you will be absent for an exam or an assignment due date with an approved absence, you will be expected to take the exam or turn in the assignment prior to the exam/assignment due date.

**Use of Technology**
In this class students will be permitted to use their personal computers to take class notes. If a student is found to be using personal technology devices in any way that is not related to taking class notes, the student will lose the privilege of using any personal technology device for the duration of the semester.

**Disability Support**
I will make every effort to accommodate students who are registered with the Disability Support Services (DSS) Office and who provide me with a University of Maryland DSS Accommodation form must be presented to me no later than September 8, 2016. I will not be able to accommodate students who are not registered with DSS or who do not provide me with documentation that has not been reviewed by DSS after September 9, 2016. DSS students who are requesting to take their exams at the DSS Center need to provide me with a testing form for each exam that must be turned in to me no later than 1 week prior to each exam. The student is expected to take the exam at the same time as the rest of the class.

**Religious Observances**
If you are unable to take any exam due to a religious observance, you will need to discuss this with me by February 2, 2017.

**Academic Integrity**
Academic dishonesty of any form will absolutely NOT be tolerated. Academic dishonesty encompasses the traditional statements, etc., but also includes activities such as possessing and/or reviewing previous semester’s exams and assignments. Additionally, students will be asked to write the University approved Honor Pledge on each exam and paper. The University of Maryland, Shady Grove has a Student Honor Council. This Code sets standards for academic integrity at Maryland for all undergraduate and graduate students. As a student you are responsible for upholding these standards for consequences of cheating, fabrication, facilitation, and plagiarism. For more information on the Code of Academic Integrity or the Student Honor Council, please visit: http://www.studenthonorcouncil.umd.edu/whatis.html.

**Classroom Code of Conduct**
The success of this class is dependent not only on my abilities and talents as an instructor to communicate new and complicated ideas, but also on our ability as a class to work together to create an environment conducive to learning. As a Department and University, we expect the faculty and students to be prepared for class and to be actively engaged in the classroom activities. Unfortunately, disruptive behaviors in the classroom cheat other students out of opportunities to learn. The University of Maryland’s Code of Academic Integrity defines classroom disruption as “behavior a reasonable person would
view as substantially or repeatedly interfering with the conduct of a class.” Examples would include coming late to class, repeatedly leaving and entering the classroom without authorization, making loud or distracting noises, and persisting in speaking without being recognized. As the instructor of this class, I also find the following distracting: reading outside material, sleeping, side conversations, text messaging and using laptops for non-academic functions (IM, e-mail, surfing, etc.). I also request that you turn cell phones/pagers on vibrate or silent during class.

Students are expected to treat each other with respect. Disruptive behaviors of any kind will not be tolerated. Students who are unable to show civility with one another, the teacher’s assistant, or instructor will be subject to referral to the Office of Student Conduct or to Campus Police. You are expected to adhere to the Code of Student Conduct.

Copyright
The lectures I prepare and deliver in this class and federal copyright law as my original works protects the course materials I create and distribute. My lectures are recorded or delivered from written lectures in order to ensure copyright protection. You are permitted to take notes of my lectures and to use course materials for your use in this course. You may not record, reproduce, or distribute my lectures/notes for any commercial purpose without my written consent. Persons who sell or distribute copies or modified copies of my course materials, possess commercial copies of my notes, or assist another person or entity in selling or distributing those materials may be considered in violation of the University Code of Student Conduct, Park 9 (k).

Course Evaluation
Your feedback about this course is extremely important to me and therefore I stress the importance of completing the course evaluation upon completion.