

Virginia Commonwealth University
Senior Seminar CRJS480, Section C01
Fall Semester 2024 (3 Credits)
100% Asynchronous Instruction, RON-L

Professor: Dr. Christina Mancini, Associate Professor of Criminal Justice
GTA: Nick Devlin, M.S.
Off. Location: Raleigh Building, Room 2016B
Off. Hours*: Wednesdays, 1pm-2pm (virtual)
<https://vcu.zoom.us/j/86027865445>
*Or email Dr. Mancini or Nick to make an appointment for another time.
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COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

Welcome to CRJS480, Senior Seminar! CRJS 480 is the Criminal Justice Program’s capstone course designed to assist students to apply and to think critically about current knowledge regarding crime, crime trends, law, law enforcement, the adjudication process, corrections and crime prevention. Together, we will explore and engage in scenarios, research, and evaluation of different viewpoints concerning campus crime to develop competencies to advance effective argumentation and appreciate the diversity of thought and inquiry in justice studies.

Under that backdrop, campus crime is an important issue to understand and address given that members of the university community—students, faculty, and staff—should feel safe on campus, should feel comfortable in expressing diverse viewpoints, and should feel protected when crime threats emerge.

The goals of this course are two-fold: (1) to introduce students to research about crimes that occur on college campuses, and (2) to increase understanding of the policies that have been implemented to reduce misconduct and campus violence. By the end of this course, students will be able to *demonstrate an understanding of:*

- the nature, extent, and reporting of campus/university crime;
- policies and practices designed to reduce campus violence;
- “what works” in crime prevention on the college campus;
- the importance of social activism and the exchange of ideas on the college campus

Moreover, upon completion of this course, students will master *specific skills:*

- how to identify empirical research relevant to a topic of interest;
- how to summarize large bodies of knowledge;
- how to synthesize a variety of studies;
- how to undertake and complete a literature review on a specific topic related to campus crime;
- how to conduct interviews of practitioners and professionals in the field;
- how to communicate findings from their research evaluation

After successfully completing this course, students should be able to appreciate the growing body of research that has been devoted to this topic. Moreover, given the focus on writing, communication, and application, students should be better prepared to debate and discuss the logic behind campus-based initiatives to reduce campus violence.

This course is designated as RON-L (100% asynchronous delivered) course, meaning we will NOT meet at scheduled times or in-person. Rather, there will be a series of assignments, assessments, and modules that students will complete on their own time. Dr. Mancini recognizes this can be a challenging delivery. For this reason, she has designed the course with several “touch points” in mind and provides a range of dates to complete assignments and review modules. Even so, students should ensure they are ready for this style of delivery. All course units and due dates for assignments and assessments can be found under the “Course Overview and Schedule” of this Syllabus. Note that while we do not meet in person, this Course Overview and Schedule does rely on the “Tuesday”/“Thursday” schedule. However, students should rest assured that they will have time to work on each assessment (i.e., a range of time is given in which an assignment or activity “opens” and when it closes/is due).

When in doubt, please ask! Dr. Mancini and Nick are more than happy to chat with you and make sure you are on the right path.

PREREQUISITES

Students must have successfully completed CRJS 181, 355, and 380. Students should consult their advisors for any specific questions about prerequisites or other related administrative policies.

TEXTS AND READINGS

Mancini, Christina. 2021. Campus Crime and Safety, 2nd Edition. Dubuque, IA: Kendall Hunt. (Required)

Houglund, Steven, and Jennifer M. Allen. 2020. The SAGE Guide to Writing in Criminal Justice. Thousand Oaks, CA: SAGE. (Required).

Both texts are available at the VCU Barnes and Noble; for Mancini (2021), you can find a direct link to the publisher here: https://he.kendallhunt.com/mancini_crime

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND POLICIES

Content Exams (52.8 percent of grade). There will be three required exams given during the semester. Students are expected to read assigned material prior to the due date in the course calendar. Some chapters/readings will be covered fully in class, while others may not. *However, the instructor reserves the right to include all readings and lecture material on exams.* Each exam will consist primarily of multiple choice, fill-in-the-blank, true-false (objective), as well as short answer and essay questions covering the course material (i.e., lectures, discussions, and readings). Failure to complete the exam by the due date (see Course Calendar and Overview). For unexcused absences, Dr. Mancini will allow a make-up the with a late point penalty (-20 points and exam may be in a different format). For absences because of a university-approved reason (see “Makeup Policy” sub-

section below), a makeup (with no penalty) will be permitted. In either case, students must notify Dr. Mancini and the GTA as soon as possible.

Term Paper (24.2 percent of grade). Over the course of the semester, students will work independently in preparing an APA formatted 6-8 page paper (title page and references not included in total page length), double-spaced, Times New Roman (12 point font) that critically examines an issue related to campus crime and safety, the theme of our course. *Your topics are restricted to the following: 1) alcohol/drug use/misuse, 2) sexual misconduct/assault/Title IX, 3) hazing, and 4) school shootings.* The paper must be submitted online via a plagiarism detector (Canvas submission) by 12/3. In taking this course, the student acknowledges and accepts that their paper will be submitted to a plagiarism detector (e.g., TURNITIN, SAFEASSIGN). Plagiarism is a very serious academic offense. Refer to the University's academic dishonesty policy which outlines the severe sanctions associated with plagiarism. Dr. Mancini is happy to clarify the University's plagiarism policy and the process for plagiarism detection. Please also see the resources below to ensure you avoid plagiarism:

<http://guides.library.vcu.edu/integrity>
<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/589/1/>
<http://library.duke.edu/research/plagiarism>

Field Code Changed

The library has excellent resources to help you write with integrity. Additionally, consider contacting the Writing Center (<http://uc.vcu.edu/learning-support/writing-center/>).

Students must have prior topic approval early in the semester (topic should be submitted via Canvas-Assignments-Paper Topic by 8/30, 11:59 pm). They should submit a proposal of their paper no later than 9/6, 11:59 pm. The proposal should include all of the required headings (see p. 2 of the rubric) and a brief overview of what each section will cover. Students should also provide THREE APA references (i.e., examples of the scholarly research, such as peer-reviewed articles) that will be incorporated in the paper). Finally, the proposal should include a listing of THREE databases (e.g., ProQuest, see also, <https://apps.library.vcu.edu/dblist/category/133>) that students will use to identify scholarly work for their citations. Paper resources are posted on Canvas (under "Modules," "Term Paper").

The final draft of the term paper is due by 12/3, 11:59 pm. Not meeting these deadlines will delay our feedback. While students do not receive a grade for the proposal, not submitting one will likely adversely impact the score of the finalized draft. The amount of credit will depend on the thoroughness and rigor of the paper, as well as the organization of the main ideas. In addition, the paper will be graded on spelling, grammar, and formatting. In order to receive full credit, students are encouraged to follow the rubric guide posted on Canvas (under "Modules," "Term Paper"). Students should feel free to contact Nick or Dr. Mancini for any clarification or assistance in starting their paper. They are also happy to review preliminary drafts with at least 48 hours' notice (excluding weekends and holidays). Late papers will be docked one letter grade for each business day not received.

Note that the University requires you sign the following waiver (below) to participate in experiential activities like our practitioner interview exercise. Dr. Mancini will remind you of this waiver and provide it via Canvas, but if you would like to submit it now, the link is below:

<https://powerforms.docusign.net/4cc1add4-b306-4b0c-8ab2-7d3c7fc14679?env=na3&acct=b97497cf-0191-4ed3-a961-d4621f97f439&accountId=b97497cf-0191-4ed3-a961-d4621f97f439>

Group Projects (3 percent of grade). During the semester, the instructor will assign a series of group exercises. Groups are randomly assigned. Early on, group members should communicate about what type of schedule works best for them. There needs to be some type of interaction (e.g. Zoom discussion, discussion board chat, etc.) that will be submitted along with the completed assignment. Each student is graded individually so all work/documentation should be submitted for each group member. Within the group setting, students will tackle a specific prompt/exercise designed to replicate a “real-world” dilemma in the field (see “Course Overview and Schedule” for due dates). ALL group members must make meaningful contributions. Students who do not do so will face a loss of points. Dr. Mancini and Nick expect that students will interact with each other in a respectful and effective manner. Any deviation from this should be reported ASAP to both Dr. Mancini and Nick.

Students who miss the deadlines for any of these assignments for legitimate reasons (e.g., illness that requires a doctor’s visit, being involved in a car accident) and present documentation to the instructor within ONE week of “returning” to the University will be allowed to complete an alternate assignment (which may include a 2-3 page paper). Work-related responsibilities (with the exception of military, federal, or state service), weddings, parties, vacations, or other social activities not described in the University Attendance Policy are NOT considered legitimate excuses, and in these cases, students will receive a grade of “zero” for any missed quizzes or group assignments.

Since students will be required to complete several online assignments, it is imperative that they ensure their work has been properly submitted to Canvas. In rare cases of technical problems, students should immediately email Dr. Mancini (within five minutes of experiencing the problem) and thoroughly explain the issue they have experienced. They must also contact VCU’s helpIT Center (<http://www.ts.vcu.edu/helpit-center/>). In consultation with VCU’s IT staff, Dr. Mancini will decide whether the problem was severe enough to prevent the student from completing the assignment on time. In instances where evidence exists that this is the case, she will allow a re-take of a quiz, or a makeup of any assignment. **MULTIPLE ALLEGATIONS OF EXPERIENCING TECHNICAL PROBLEMS WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED. IN THESE CASES, STUDENTS SHOULD COMPLETE THEIR WORK AT A VCU COMPUTER LAB.**

Reflection Assignments (2 percent of grade). Toward the latter part of the semester—when the course explores “special topics” concerning campus crime—students will be responsible for completing a series of “reflections” which require review of a media source or documentary. Students should then record their reactions to the content (see Canvas, “Assignments” tab for further information). Due dates for these assessments can be found on the Canvas Assignments tab or the “Course Calendar and Overview” section of this document. The same late policy articulated in the “Group Projects” section applies here.

APA Quiz (8 percent of grade). Students will be required to complete an APA quiz that will assess their mastery of APA formatting which is a key objective of this course. The quiz will open on 9/28 and close on 10/3. Students should consult the APA resources on Canvas and their textbook (Writing in Criminal Justice) to prepare for the quiz. In addition, an APA “bootcamp” will be provided prior to the opening of the quiz.

Term Paper Presentation (1 percent of grade) and Review of Colleague’s Presentation (1 percent of grade; total=2 percent of grade for this section). At the end of the semester, students will present the findings of their term paper. Students must prepare a voiced powerpoint or video (15-20 minutes) for other students to consult on Canvas (see “Term Paper Presentation” tab). It is due by the end of day on 12/3, 11:59 pm. In addition to this assessment, students must choose at least one other colleague’s presentation and comment on a) its content, b) its delivery/style, and c) overall thoughts of the quality of the information conveyed. A template of this review form can be found on Canvas (“Term Paper Presentation” tab). The review form is due on 12/5, 11:59 pm. Both the presentation and review form should be submitted on Canvas (“Term Paper Presentation” tab).

Practitioner Interviews (3 percent of grade). Early in the semester (8/30, 11:59 pm) students will submit their topic of interest (the focus of their paper—thus, the “topic” for the practitioner interview must be the same as the term paper topic). Students will be selected to work in groups based on their common interest (e.g., Title IX, hazing, active shooting policies, substance abuse awareness, dating violence). **TO BE CLEAR, THE TERM PAPER IS AN INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT (I.E., IT IS NOT A GROUP PROJECT). HOWEVER, TO ENSURE ADEQUATE ENGAGEMENT, THE PRACTITIONER INTERVIEW IS COLLABORATIVE AND STUDENTS WILL NEED TO WORK IN GROUPS TO FULFILL THE PARAMETERS OF THE ASSIGNMENT.** Groups are assigned based on mutual interest (which is why we ask you to submit your paper topic by the due date mentioned earlier). Dr. Mancini will announce the groups as quickly as possible so that students can contact one another to form a plan. Specifically, students will need to identify a local agency (e.g., VCU police department, Student Government Association, non-profit) that addresses their topic of interest. From there, they will then consult the “Practitioner Interviews” document on Canvas (Practitioner Interviews tab, under “Modules”) which lists specific instructions and possible questions to be asked of their participants. The interview should last around 20-30 minutes (no longer so as to respect the practitioner’s time) and students should follow the VCU Honor Code at all times in their interactions with practitioners (<https://conduct.students.vcu.edu/vcu-honor-system/academic-misconduct-honor-pledge/>). Together, students will determine a) who they will contact, b) the method in which the interview will take place (Zoom, in-person, phone?), and c) coordinate to undertake the interview. All students are required to participate in the interview. In addition to responses to the questions (which you will both record in a method of your choosing—be sure to let the participant know you are recording), you must submit a one-page typed reaction paper to the experience (e.g., describe the participant, the setting, were you surprised by responses, did you feel comfortable undertaking this method?) This reaction paper as well as the interview transcript should be in APA format. In addition, you must discuss the findings from your practitioner interview in your term paper.

Please be professional in your interactions with practitioners. We will discuss interviewing and qualitative research on 9/24. We will also be reviewing your interview plan which is due by 10/16, 11:59 pm. Not submitting your interview plan on time could result in a zero for this assignment (submit your interview plan no later than this date via Canvas, Assignments, “Practitioner Interview”). Late submissions will be docked by ten points for each day not received (thus, the highest score you can receive if you submit the plan late is 90%, with 10 additional points taken off for each day not received). Please check in with us with any concerns. The final interview write-up is due on 11/12, 11:59 pm. It should be submitted to Canvas. Late submissions of the finalized interview write-up will come with a substantial late fee penalty (10 points take off for each day not received). Your interview must be incorporated in the Term Paper (see “Term Paper Resources” on Canvas, under “Modules”).

Criminal Justice Program Assessment Assignments (5 percent of grade). Senior Seminar is our “capstone” course in the Criminal Justice Program, meaning it is designed to synthesize all that you have learned thus far in our curriculum! The Criminal Justice Program Faculty are committed to both the integrity of our curriculum and to our students’ success. To better understand both, we regularly evaluate student learning outcomes, and we complete an annual assessment of our graduating seniors. Toward the end of this course, you will complete an online assessment of core criminal justice concepts you have learned during your time in our program.

What is the criminal justice assessment? The assessment is an objective, multiple choice series of questions related to both CRJS 254 Introduction to Policing and CRJS 253, Introduction to Corrections. To help you jog your memory on the content mastered in these courses, the Program provides a list of “key terms” and “concepts” to help you along in reviewing the material you should know for the assessment. You can find these resources on Canvas, under “Assignments,” “CRJS Assessment.” Completing the practice quiz AND actual Program assessment is REQUIRED. Both portions are worth 2.5 percent of the overall grade (thus comprising 5 percent of the overall course grade). Please take these assignments seriously and feel free to share any concerns with Dr. Mancini. You MUST complete both the practice quiz and assessment no later than December 5, 2024 (11:59 pm). Please see Canvas (Assignments) for full details.

Makeup Policy (Exams). The course has a very strict exam makeup policy. You should make necessary arrangements to complete exams by the specified due dates. If you fail to take an exam for any reason, you will receive a default grade of “zero” unless the exam was missed due to a University approved excused absence. The following sub-sections clarify the course policy regarding makeup exams for a) non-excused absences, and b) excused absences with written documentation.

Non-excused absence policy. In cases of non-excused absences, Dr. Mancini will permit a makeup (with an automatic 20-point deduction) without documentation for ONE missed exam only. Thus, for this one-time exception, students may makeup an exam BUT can only receive a maximum score of 80 percent (less, of course, missed questions). Students are responsible for contacting the Instructor or Graduate Teaching Assistant (GTA) to schedule make-ups for non-excused absences. They must be scheduled within one two business days of missing the exam. Failure to complete the makeup exam by the due date or to contact the Instructor/GTA within the specified time frame will result in a “zero” score. To ensure academic integrity, the Instructor reserves the right to provide makeup exams that are substantially different from those given to other students (e.g., essay exams). Under no circumstances does this policy apply to “retakes.” That is, students may not retake exams to improve their overall course average.

Excused absence policy. The University has outlined examples of permitted excused absences (<http://bulletin.vcu.edu/academic-regs/university/attendance/>). In these cases, where a written prior notice and documentation are provided, students must assume responsibility for scheduling a make-up exam. Failure to schedule a make-up or complete the exam by the scheduled time of the make-up will result in a “zero.” The make-up exam may involve a different format (e.g., short-answer and/or essay). The documentation must be received within two business days of missing class.

Makeup Policy (Other Assessments). Other missed assignments/assessments can only be made up with proper documentation noting the specific reason for the missed work. Missed assignments due to non-University approved events cannot be made up. The University’s attendance policy can be

found online (<http://www.pubapps.vcu.edu/bulletins/about/?uid=10096&iid=30773>). **EXCEPT IN THE CASES DESCRIBED ABOVE, NO LATE SUBMISSIONS OF WORK WILL BE ACCEPTED.** Students should confirm their work has been properly submitted to Canvas (see below).

Since students will be required to complete several online assignments, it is imperative that they ensure their work has been properly submitted to Canvas. In rare cases of technical problems, students should immediately email Dr. Mancini (within five minutes of experiencing the problem) and thoroughly explain the issue they have experienced. They must also contact VCU's helpIT Center (<http://www.ts.vcu.edu/helpit-center/>). In consultation with VCU's IT staff, Dr. Mancini will decide whether the problem was severe enough to prevent the student from completing the assignment on time. In instances where evidence exists that this is the case, she will allow a re-take of a quiz, or a makeup of any assignment. **MULTIPLE ALLEGATIONS OF EXPERIENCING TECHNICAL PROBLEMS WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED. IN THESE CASES, STUDENTS SHOULD COMPLETE THEIR WORK AT A VCU COMPUTER LAB.** For the makeup policy concerning the term paper, please review the earlier section ("Term Paper").

Extra Credit Curriculum Vita Exercise (up to 3 percent). Students may earn up to an extra 3 percentage points by creating a personalized resume or curriculum vita. To receive credit, students MUST sign up for an appointment with Office of Student Services for a meeting to assist them in developing this document (<https://wilder.vcu.edu/students/student-success/>) OR use through VCU Career Services (<https://careers.vcu.edu/>). If pursuing this option, students MUST let Nick and Dr. Mancini know of their intention no later than *December 5, 11:59 pm*. The finalized CV and documentation of your meeting must be submitted to Canvas by 12/10, 11:59 pm. Please note that OSS and VCU Career Services require appointments and may have limited availability. Thus, please make your appointment well in advance of any deadlines.

Other Extra Credit Opportunities. Any other form of extra credit will be awarded solely at the discretion of the Instructor and will be open to all students. Dr. Mancini will either announce the opportunity in class (e.g., 0.25 points added to final overall score for attending a guest lecture) or post an electronic notification via Canvas and/or email. Dr. Mancini does not respond to requests regarding individualized extra credit opportunities. There are no makeup opportunities for extra credit.

Core Course and Other Curriculum Policies. Depending on students' course of study, CRJS480 may be a required core course. Additionally, other policies may apply to the course. Students are encouraged to contact their advisors for guidance regarding these policies.

EXAM SCHEDULE AND GRADING*

<u>Category</u>	<u>Date Due</u>	<u>Percent of Course Grade</u>
Content Exam 1	9/12-9/17, 11:59 PM	17.6%
Content Exam 2	10/15-10/17, 11:59 PM	17.6%
Content Exam 3	12/5-12/10, 11:59 PM	17.6%

Term Paper	12/3, 11:59 PM	24.2%
Group Projects	on-going	3%
Reflection Exercises	on-going	2%
APA Quiz	9/26-10/1, 11:59 PM	8%
Term Paper Presentation	12/3, 11:59 PM	1%
Review of Colleague	12/9, 11:59 PM	1%
Practitioner Interview	11/12, 11:59 PM	3%
Assessment Assignments	12/5	5%
<i>Total</i>		<i>100%</i>
Extra Credit	on-going	varies

GRADING SCALE

A = 90 – 100% B = 80 – 89.9% C = 70 – 79.9% D = 60 – 69.9% F = <60%

*Canvas does not weight grades correctly when extra credit is an option. For this reason, the preliminary grade feature on Canvas has been disabled. Our Canvas site (Modules-Canvas Overview-How to Compute Your Course Grade) provides a formula for weighting these various assessments.

- Academic Honor Code. Students are expected to uphold the University’s Honor System. University regulations regarding academic misconduct, published online (http://www.provost.vcu.edu/pdfs/Honor_system_policy.pdf), will be strictly enforced in this course. This includes upholding the highest standards of academic integrity in their own work and fostering a high sense of integrity and social responsibility on behalf of the University community. Any form of academic dishonesty (e.g., cheating on an exam, plagiarism) will result in a “zero” for that particular assignment or possibly an “F” for the course, and will subject the student to severe academic penalties imposed by the University.
- Exam Monitoring. Various safeguards are implemented to ensure academic integrity for exam administration. Questions are randomized and backtracking is not permitted. Additionally, students should ensure they are completing exams without the help of others. Any student suspected of violating the University’s testing policies will be referred to the University for disciplinary action which may include academic suspension or expulsion from the University.
- Professionalism and Classroom Etiquette. It is of the utmost importance that students respect the e-learning environment. Take careful and thorough lecture notes and interact with your colleagues and Instructor/GTA in a respectful manner. Per University policy, disruptive students will be referred to the Dean of Student Affairs for further disciplinary action.

- Sensitive Topics. The topic of our course and discipline, the study of crime, involves issues that are inherently unsettling for some. Please ensure you are able to discuss these topics and issues with respect and sensitivity.
- Wilder School Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Statement. The L. Douglas Wilder School of Government and Public Affairs places diversity, equity, and inclusion at the forefront of its work. In this class and throughout the school, every student is seen as an important and equal member of the group. The unique backgrounds and identities of each student—including race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender, physical and mental ability, socioeconomic status, age, national origin, religion, political affiliation, and other characteristics—all serve to strengthen and enrich the learning environment. In this class, you are encouraged to share your own experiences and point of view to the extent that you are comfortable; you are also expected to allow others to do the same. You are encouraged to speak freely, to ask questions, and to challenge assumptions while also ensuring that you remain respectful to and considerate of your classmates and, as your instructor, I will do the same. If you have any concerns, you are welcome to contact me to discuss them. You may also contact VCU's Equity and Access Services (equity.vcu.edu), the Dean of Students (dos.vcu.edu)/Title IX Office, and VCU's Office of Inclusive Excellence.
- Office of Student Success (OSS). The Wilder School Office of Student Success (OSS) is committed to providing and supporting learning opportunities for self-assessment and reflection, experiential education, and career development and exploration. OSS offers a variety of services to assist students (i.e., internships, scholarships, professional development) and is equally committed to building and sustaining relationships with high integrity employers for the mutual benefit of their organization and Wilder School students. For details, visit wilder.vcu.edu/students
- Mandated Reporting. Virginia Commonwealth University is committed to providing a safe learning environment for all students. As part of its strong commitment to campus safety, the University requires faculty and staff to report any and all suspicions or allegations of sexual misconduct, including sexual violence, as well as abuse of minors. Students should be aware that Dr. Mancini is NOT a confidential reporter; she is required by law and University policy to fulfill her obligations as a mandated reporter. For more information about confidential resources and crime reporting information, please review this online link: <http://policy.vcu.edu/sites/default/files/Duty%20to%20Report.pdf>
- Course Material and Changes to the Course Outline. Instructor notes will not be made available to students. If you miss a class, consult with colleagues about the material. During the semester the Instructor may show videos, DVDs, and other media that illustrate key course concepts. Online links were functional at the time of lecture creation. Please notify the Instructor of broken links as exams and/or assignments may cover this material. Students wishing to not view such media should contact the Instructor and GTA via email within two days of the class in which the media was shown for an alternate reading assignment. The Instructor reserves the right to change the course outline without notice. However, exam dates will not be changed unless extenuating circumstances arise. Students are strongly encouraged to check their VCU email accounts daily to stay abreast of any possible changes to the course outline.
- Canvas. We will use the Canvas interface for this course. Please ensure you are familiar with this Learning System. Here is a resource from VCU: <https://learningsystems.vcu.edu/canvas/>

- Our Classroom This class is designed to maximize our collective learning and mastery of material while being flexible and cognizant of the current environment. This means, at times, students will need to review course content (e.g., lecture material) on their own. As a courtesy, Dr. Mancini has provided guides/lectures (“VoiceThread”) to facilitate this form of independent learning. VoiceThread software requires that you are logged into Canvas. Depending on your computer system, there may be other requirements (see link: <https://ts.vcu.edu/askit/teaching-and-learning/voicethread---external-tool/>). These files are designed to be broad wrap-ups of big picture points mentioned in lecture. They are not designed to cover every point or example mentioned in class. Students are encouraged to contact the Instructor or GTA should they need clarification on specific points or course concepts. Should students have any difficulty in downloading the VoiceThread files, they should contact VCU’s helpIT Center (<http://www.ts.vcu.edu/helpit-center/>).
- Email and Communication Policy. Students should contact the Instructor or GTA only through their VCU approved email accounts. Additionally, VCU email accounts should be checked regularly (daily) so that students can stay abreast of important notifications regarding the course. Students should familiarize themselves with the University’s email policy. It can be found online (<http://www.ts.vcu.edu/askit/4196.html>).
- Incompletes. Incompletes will only be granted in cases that meet all requirements outlined by the University.
- Extra Credit. Any other form of extra credit (beyond the paper and commentary) will be awarded solely at the discretion of the Instructor and will be open to all students. Students should make every effort to monitor their email daily as that is the method in which extra credit will be announced. Dr. Mancini will not respond to requests regarding individualized extra credit opportunities. There are no makeup opportunities for extra credit.
- Support Services. In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), students with disabilities who need academic accommodation should register with and provide documentation to The Office of Student Accessibility and Educational Opportunity (SAEO; <https://saeo.vcu.edu/>). Within the first 2 weeks of the semester, bring a letter from the SAEO to the Instructor indicating the needed accommodation. Students wanting assistance with studying or test-taking skills should contact the Office of Special Services for Students (<http://www.students.vcu.edu/>).
- Verbatim Course Description. Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: CRJS 181, CRJS 355 and CRJS 380. Enrollment is restricted to seniors in criminal justice with at least 85 credit hours taken toward the degree. A capstone course designed to assist students to apply and to think critically about current knowledge regarding crime, crime trends, law, law enforcement, the adjudication process, corrections and crime prevention. Scenarios, research, projections and evaluation of different viewpoints will be employed to develop the student's ability to assess methods of argumentation, use information and apply existing knowledge to new fact situations.
- Library Resources. Use VCU Libraries to find and access library resources, spaces, technology, and services that support and enhance all learning opportunities at the university: <https://www.library.vcu.edu/>
- Security and Safety. The University has posted important information concerning emergency and security protocol. Students should ensure that they have signed up for VCU text messaging alerts

(<http://www.vcu.edu/alert/notify>). Contact information should be kept up-to-date. Students should be aware of the safe evacuation routes from each of their classrooms. Emergency evacuation routes are posted in campus classrooms. Additionally, they should be prepared to follow instructions from VCU or other designated authorities in the event of emergencies and be familiar with the emergency phone number for the VCU Police (804-828-1234). Not least, students should report suspicious activities and objects to campus authorities.

- Additional and Other Relevant VCU Academic Policies. The University provides helpful information regarding other policies. Students should visit <http://go.vcu.edu/syllabus> and review all syllabus statement information. The full university syllabus statement includes information on safety, registration, the VCU Honor Code, student conduct, withdrawal and more.

COURSE CALENDAR AND OVERVIEW*

Class Day	Date	Topics/Method of Delivery
1	8/20, Tu	Introduction: The Importance of Studying Campus Crime TASKS: REVIEW SYLLABUS AND COMPLETE STUDENT PROFILE FOR 0.25 EXTRA CREDIT BY 8/29, 11:59 PM! REVIEW MODULE.
2	8/22, Th	Introduction: Importance of Writing and Communication; Term Paper Overview Workshop TASKS: REVIEW MODULE.
3	8/27, Tu	Campus Crime: Nature and Extent TASKS: REVIEW MODULE.
4	8/29, Th	Writing Unit: Information Literacy and Scholarly Work; GROUP PROJECT 1—MEET A COLLEAGUE. TASKS: REVIEW INSTRUCTIONS ABOUT YOUR GROUP PROJECT. PARTICIPATE IN GROUP PROJECT 1; SUBMIT REQUIRED PAPERWORK BY 9/5, 11:59 PM. REVIEW MODULE. SUBMIT PAPER TOPIC BY TOMORROW 8/30, 11:59 PM TO CANVAS. YOUR PRACTITIONER INTERVIEW GROUPS WILL BE ASSIGNED BASED ON SHARED INTERESTS.
5	9/3, Tu	Campus Crime: Nature and Extent; CAREER SERVICES WORKSHOP—EXPERT GUEST TALK (OPTIONAL: ATTEND CAREER SERVICES WORKSHOP VIA ZOOM 9/3, 11AM—ZOOM LINK CAN BE FOUND ON CANVAS, UNDER THE ZOOM TAB OR IN ANNOUNCEMENTS). TASKS: REVIEW MODULE; ATTEND OPTIONAL ZOOM.
6	9/5, Th	Writing Unit: How to Start Your Literature Review/Library Workshop Resources TASKS: SUBMIT PAPER PROPOSAL BY TOMORROW, 9/6, 11:59 PM. REVIEW LIBRARY RESOURCES UNDER THIS MODULE AND REVIEW CONTENT ASSOCIATED WITH THIS MODULE.
7	9/10, Tu	Campus Crime: Addressing Campus Crime TASKS: REVIEW MODULE.
8	9-12, Th-9/17, Tu	EXAM 1 (OPENS 9/12, MIDNIGHT, CLOSSES 9/17, 11:59 PM; TASKS: COMPLETE ONLINE EXAM VIA CANVAS BY DUE DATE.
9	9/17, Tu	Campus Crime: Research-Driven Initiatives to Prevent Crime; GROUP PROJECT 2—MEET YOUR GROUP MEMBER FOR PRACTITIONER INTERVIEWS. TASKS: REVIEW INSTRUCTIONS CONCERNING GROUP PROJECT 2. PARTICIPATE IN A DISCUSSION AND SUBMIT ALL PAPERWORK BY 9/24, 11:59 PM. REVIEW MODULE.
10	9/19, Th	Practitioner Interview Group Meeting 1 TASKS: USE THIS TIME TO CONNECT AGAIN WITH YOUR PRACTITIONER INTERVIEW GROUP MEMBER TO DISCUSS YOUR GAMEPLAN. NO DOCUMENTATION NEEDED.
11	9/24, Tu	Writing Unit: Qualitative Interviewing

		TASKS: REVIEW MODULE.
12	9/26, Th	Writing Unit: APA Bootcamp TASKS: COMPLETE APA QUIZ WHICH OPENS TODAY AND IS DUE BY 10/1, 11:59 PM TO CANVAS. REVIEW MODULE.
13	10/1, Tu	Campus Crime: Research-Driven Initiatives to Prevent Crime TASKS: REVIEW MODULE.
14	10/3, Th	Social Activism, Unrest, and the College Campus TASKS: REVIEW MODULE.
15	10/8, Tu	Social Activism, Unrest, and the College Campus TASKS: REVIEW MODULE. RECWELL GUEST TALK (OPTIONAL: ATTEND THE RECWELL GUEST TALK VIA ZOOM 10/8, 11AM—ZOOM LINK CAN BE FOUND ON CANVAS, UNDER THE ZOOM TAB OR IN ANNOUNCEMENTS). TASKS: REVIEW MODULE; ATTEND OPTIONAL ZOOM.
16	10/10, Th	Practitioner Interview Group Meeting 2 TASKS: USE THIS TIME TO FINALIZE YOUR PRACTITIONER INTERVIEW GAMEPLAN; HERE YOU SHOULD MAKE AN APPOINTMENT WITH YOUR PARTICIPANT, PRACTICE YOUR INTERVIEWING, ETC. PRACTITIONER INTERVIEW GAMEPLAN IS DUE TO CANVAS/MODULES, PRACTITIONER INTERVIEW TAB, BY 10/16, 11:59 PM).
17	10/15, Tu-10/17, Th	EXAM 2 (OPENS 10/15, MIDNIGHT, CLOSES 10/17, 11:59 PM) TASKS: COMPLETE ONLINE EXAM VIA CANVAS BY DUE DATE.
18	10/22, Tu	Campus Crime: Resources for Victims and Those Concerned about Crime TASKS: REVIEW MODULE.
19	10/24, Th	Campus Crime: Resources for Victims and Those Concerned about Crime TASKS: REVIEW MODULE.
20	10/29, Tu	Writing Unit: Work on Term Paper Draft and CRJS Assessment TASKS: USE THIS TIME TO WORK ON YOUR DRAFT OR CRJS ASSESSMENT. MAKE AN APPOINTMENT WITH NICK OR DR. MANCINI FOR SPECIFIC QUESTIONS/CONCERNS.
21	10/31, Th	SPECIAL TOPIC: CAMPUS SEXUAL ASSAULT; GROUP PROJECT 3. TASKS: REVIEW INSTRUCTIONS ABOUT YOUR GROUP PROJECT. PARTICIPATE IN GROUP PROJECT 3; SUBMIT REQUIRED PAPERWORK BY 11/9, 11:59 PM. REVIEW MODULE ON CANVAS. NEXT CLASS, TUESDAY (11/5) IS A UNIVERSITY HOLIDAY. GO VOTE!
22	11/7, Th	SPECIAL TOPIC: CAMPUS SEXUAL ASSAULT; REFLECTION ASSIGNMENT 1 TASKS: COMPLETE REFLECTION ASSIGNMENT 1 BY 11/14, 11:59 PM (SUBMIT VIA THE ASSIGNMENTS TAB ON CANVAS OR DAY 22 MODULE); REVIEW MODULE ON CANVAS.
23	11/12, Tu	SPECIAL TOPIC: HAZING; REFLECTION ASSIGNMENT 2 TASKS: COMPLETE REFLECTION ASSIGNMENT 2 BY 11/19, 11:59 PM (SUBMIT VIA THE ASSIGNMENTS TAB ON CANVAS OR DAY 23 MODULE). REVIEW MODULE ON CANVAS.

		PRACTITIONER INTERVIEW WRITE-UP DUE TODAY, 11/12, 11:59 PM TO CANVAS.
24	11/14, Th	CHECK-INS; WE WILL BE HOLDING OFFICE HOURS FROM 10 AM TO 11 AM VIRTUALLY THIS DAY TO DISCUSS ANY LINGERING CONCERNS WITH YOUR PAPER. TASKS: PLEASE USE THIS TIME TO CONNECT WITH US (LINK WILL BE SENT) OR MAKE AN APPOINTMENT FOR ANOTHER TIME.
25	11/19, Tu	SPECIAL TOPIC: SCHOOL SHOOTINGS; REFLECTION ASSIGNMENT 3 TASKS: COMPLETE REFLECTION ASSIGNMENT 3 BY 12/3 (EXTENDED DUE DATE BECAUSE OF THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY), 11:59 PM (SUBMIT VIA THE ASSIGNMENTS TAB ON CANVAS OR DAY 25 MODULE).
26	11/21, Th	SPECIAL TOPIC: CAMPUS CRIME EXPERT SPEAKER TASKS: LISTEN TO GUEST SPEAKER TALK VIA ZOOM, TIME 11 AM, LINK TO BE PROVIDED. EXTRA CREDIT OPPORTUNITY (+0.25 FOR ENGAGED ATTENDANCE!). IF YOU CANNOT ATTEND BUT WOULD STILL LIKE CREDIT, PLEASE LISTEN TO THE RECORDING AND SUBMIT A ONE-PARAGRAPH SUMMARY OF PRESENTATION TO CANVAS (DAY 26 MODULE).
27	12/3, Tu	PAPER PRESENTATIONS TASKS: FINALIZE AND SUBMIT TERM PAPERS AND PRESENTATIONS WHICH ARE DUE TODAY BY 11:59 PM. REMEMBER THAT YOU NEED TO SECURE EXTRA CREDIT APPROVAL FOR CV/RESUME EXERCISE BY TODAY, 11:59 PM (SEE PAGE 6 OF SYLLABUS).
28	12/5, Th	REVIEW OF COLLEAGUE'S PRESENTATION TASKS: REVIEW THE PRESENTATIONS PROVIDED ON CANVAS AND CHOOSE ONE TO REVIEW (SEE "TERM PAPER PRESENTATIONS" FOR DETAILS). THE REVIEW FORM IS DUE 12/9. ADDITIONALLY, BE SURE TO SUBMIT BOTH YOUR CRJS ASSESSMENT QUIZ AND ACTUAL ASSESSMENT BY 12/5, 11:59 PM. (SUBMIT TO CANVAS, ASSIGNMENTS TAB.)
29	12/5, Th- 12/10, Tu	EXAM 3 (OPENS 12/5, MIDNIGHT, CLOSES 12/10, 11:59 PM; COMPLETE ONLINE VIA CANVAS); ANY PRIOR APPROVED EXTRA CREDIT DUE 12/10.

***Notes**

Important Dates (e.g., last day to withdrawal): <https://academiccalendars.vcu.edu/default.asp>

Please note that all dates are tentative and subject to change given University directives. Students are encouraged to check the link above and monitor their email.

COURSE READING SCHEDULE (CHECK COURSE CALENDAR AND OVERVIEW FOR ASSIGNMENT DATES.) BELOW ONLY ASSIGNED COURSE READINGS ARE LISTED.

Day 1

- None

Day 2

- Chapter 1 (Hougland & Allen)

Day 3

- Chapter 1 (Mancini)

Day 4

- Chapter 2 (Hougland & Allen)

Day 5

- Chapter 1 (Mancini)

Day 6

- Chapter 6 (Hougland & Allen)

Americans' Views of Efficacy (Mancini & Budd, 2020); Assigned Reading* (Available on Canvas)

Day 7

- Chapter 2 (Mancini)

Day 8 **EXAM 1**

Day 9

- Chapter 3 (Mancini)

Day 10

- None

Day 11

- Chapter 4 (Houglan & Allen)
- *Qualitative Interviewing*, Assigned Reading 1* (University of Idaho, Available on Canvas)
- Literature Review for Qualitative Interviewing (Adhabi & Anozie, 2017) Assigned Reading 2* (Available on Canvas)

Day 12

- Chapter 5 (Houglan & Allen)

Day 13

- Chapter 3 (Mancini)

Day 14

- Chapter 4 (Mancini)

Day 15

- Chapter 4 (Mancini)

Day 16

- None

Day 17

EXAM 2

Day 18

- Chapter 5 (Mancini)

Day 19

- Chapter 5 (Mancini)

Day 20

- None

Day 21

- *Sex Crime and Society*, Special Topic Chapter* (Mancini, Available on Canvas)

Day 22

· *Sex Crime and Society*, Special Topic Chapter* (Mancini, Available on Canvas)

Day 23

· *Hazing* Reading, Levesque R.J.R. (2018). Hazing. In R.J.R. Levesque (ed.), *Encyclopedia of adolescence*. Springer, Cham. <https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-33228-4678> (Levesque, Available on Canvas, only read pp.1723-1725)

Day 24

· None

Day 25

· *School Shootings* Reading* (Voices of America, Available on Canvas)

Day 26

· None

Day 27

· None (Presentations)

Day 28

· None (Review of Colleague's Presentation)

Day 29

EXAM 3

“Mancini” refers to *Campus Crime and Safety* (2nd Edition)

“Hougland and Allen” refers to *The Sage Guide to Writing in Criminal Justice*

*Assigned reading posted on Canvas.

Fall 2024 Provost Office Syllabus Statements

VCU Standard Syllabus Guidelines Available Via This Link:

Students should visit <http://go.vcu.edu/syllabus> and review all syllabus statement information. The full university syllabus statement includes information on safety, registration, the VCU Honor Code, student conduct and more.