

Sociology 382, Course Number 7644, 3 Credits
TTH 1:30-2:50pm LC 5

Fall 2024
University at Albany, SUNY

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Office: Arts and Sciences (AS) 343

Office Hours: Mondays 2:30-4pm and Wednesdays 2-3:30pm & by appointment

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Course Website: Brightspace can be accessed through MyUAlbany

Sociology 382: Criminal Victimization

Overview:

This course focuses on an intensive investigation of a range of issues within the field of victimology from a sociological perspective. It will include an exploration of many topics related to criminal victimization, including the history and theories of victimology, the extent and nature of several types of victimization, characteristics of crime victims, the effects of crime on victims and services available to deal with those effects, the interaction between victims of crimes and the system of criminal justice, and alternative ways of defining and responding to victimization.

Pre-requisites: Soc 115 (Introduction to Sociology)

Course Objectives:

By the end of this course students will be able to:

- Describe the nature and extent of a wide variety of different types of criminal victimization.
- Apply theoretical perspectives to explain situations of victimization.
- Identify the consequences of victimization.
- Examine current strategies for responding to victims and consider new strategies to aid them.

Required Readings:

Daigle, Leah E. 2022. *Victimology: The Essentials*, 3rd Edition. Sage Publications.

Paperback ISBN: 9781544393193 Rent or Buy eBook ISBN: 9781544393216

The book is available at the university bookstore and other online sources. I have also put a copy on 3-hour reserve at the University Library.

I will post additional required readings on the course website.

Sensitive Material and Resources

Sensitive Class Material: This class focuses on sensitive subjects throughout the entire course.

As millions of Americans have been victimized by crime, it is likely that many of you have also had this experience. Some of the material may be upsetting at times. While the course takes a research based approach to the topic of criminal victimology, survivors stories and their experiences are, of necessity, part of this discussion. It is a personal decision to evaluate your own ability to handle the material and it is possible that you may have an unanticipated reaction to something. I recommend having social support systems in place including friends, family, and

psychological services to aid you in coping with any upsetting material that may come up. Information on psychological services on campus is specified below along with other university and local resources. In addition, please be aware of the mandatory reporting requirements for faculty/staff specified below. If you would like more information about the resources available at the university or locally, you can ask me at any time this semester. You do not need to disclose any information to me about why you are asking but rather can just request more information.

Faculty/Staff as Mandatory Reporters and Title IX Resources: Faculty and staff are considered mandatory reporters. What this means is if that they become aware of “allegations of sexual harassment, sexual assault, sexual exploitation, dating violence, domestic violence and/or stalking,” they must report this information to the Title IX Coordinator in the Office of Equity & Compliance (518-442-3800 or Hudson Building, Room 117). Students may also voluntarily report their own experiences to this office to seek assistance. See <https://www.albany.edu/equity-compliance> for more information.

Psychological Health: As a student there may be times when personal stressors interfere with your academic performance and/or negatively impact your daily life. The University at Albany Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) provides free, confidential services including individual and group psychological counseling and evaluation for emotional, social, and academic concerns. For questions or to make an appointment, call (518) 442-5800 or email consultation@albany.edu. Visit www.albany.edu/caps/ for hours of operation and additional information. **If your life or someone else’s life is in danger, please call 911. If you are in a crisis and need help right away, please call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 988. Students dealing with heightened feelings of sadness or hopelessness, increased anxiety, or thoughts of suicide may also text “GOT5” to 741741 (Crisis Text Line).**

University Police and Local Police: **Please dial 911 for any emergency or utilize the blue or red phones on campus.** The university police and the local police are resources that may be relevant at times. The University Police Department (<https://www.albany.edu/police>) may be reached at 518-442-3131 and UPDweb@albany.edu and is located at Justice Drive on campus. They provide emergency phones throughout the campus (blue-light phones, red phones) and also provide a safety app. There is also the City of Albany Police Department (non-emergency 518-438-4000) and the Albany County Sheriff’s Office (non-emergency 518-487-5400).

Local Resources: In addition to university resources, there are others in the Albany community. The Albany Crime Victims and Sexual Violence Center offers critical assistance and support services for survivors of a range of different crimes: <https://www.albanycounty.com/departments/crime-victim-and-sexual-violence-center> This includes support for survivors of current as well as past incidents. There are multiple ways to contact them: Phone (518) 447-7100, cvsvc@albanycounty.com and the 24-Hour Sexual Assault Hotline (518) 447-7716. There are supports offered to the LGBTQ+ community at the Pride Center <https://capitalpridecenter.org/> (332 Hudson Avenue, Albany, NY 12210, (518) 462-6138, info@capitalpridecenter.org). In Our Own Voices focuses on the needs of LGBTQ+ people of Color and offers a variety of services (<https://ioov.org/>, 245 Lark Street, Albany, NY 12210, 518.432.4188, info@inourownvoices.org).

General Course Guidelines

Classroom Participation and Etiquette: Your class participation helps you and your classmates to learn and actively engage the class materials. We will be discussing controversial and sensitive topics in this class. **Please be respectful of your classmates. We will try to make the classroom a learning environment where all viewpoints are respected. But we will not tolerate racist, sexist, homophobic, or other insulting comments.** If you feel uncomfortable for any reason, please let us know.

Attendance: **Punctual** class attendance is vital for learning and is required by university policy. We will be doing in-class activities in many class sessions. Thus, if you arrive late or leave early, you will miss grading opportunities. You are personally responsible for obtaining notes from classes that you miss. The PowerPoint from class will be posted on Brightspace (right before class) but this is only an outline. We strongly encourage you to make friends with at least two other people in the class in case you (or they) need notes. Some of the material covered in lecture IS NOT in your readings. Likewise, the readings introduce crucial material that helps illuminate the lectures and discussions.

Absence Due to Religious Observance: The university follows New York State Education Law (Section 224-A) whereby faculty are required to excuse, without penalty, individual students absent because of religious beliefs, and to provide equivalent opportunities for make-up work and examinations because of such absences. If religious observance will affect attending class, meeting assignment deadlines, or taking an exam, please inform Professor Kaufman as soon as possible so that we can make arrangements.

Academic Integrity: **Any student who engages in academic dishonesty (e.g., cheating, plagiarism, fabrication, and facilitating academic dishonesty), will receive a failing grade on the exam or assignment. We will also submit a Violation of Academic Integrity Report to the university where the student may face more serious punishments (suspension, expulsion etc.) Please note that use of ChatGPT and other AI systems is considered a violation of academic integrity in this course!** Please familiarize yourself with the Undergraduate Academic Regulations (ignorance is no excuse!): www.albany.edu/undergraduate_bulletin/regulations.html

E-mail Etiquette: Please use your UAlbany e-mail account for all e-mails and use full sentences and appropriate grammar and spelling. Remember this is not a text message! Please proof-read them before sending. **Put SOC 382 in the subject line of your e-mail.** **The appropriate way to address a professor is either as Professor Kaufman or Dr. Kaufman.**

Students with Differing Abilities: Reasonable accommodations will be provided for students with documented physical, sensory, systemic, medical, cognitive, learning and mental health (psychiatric) disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring accommodation in this class, please notify Disability Access and Inclusion Student Services (DAISS) (daiss@albany.edu). Upon verification and after the registration process is complete, DAISS will provide you with a letter that informs the course instructor that you are a student with a disability registered with DAISS and list the recommended reasonable accommodations. Please email the letter to Professor Kaufman once it is available.

Course Grade

- (1) In-Class Exercises (20%): We will do in-class exercises on many class days. If you have to miss class due to illness, religious observance, or athletic/club obligations, please contact Professor Kaufman to discuss make-up options. **Skipping many classes will seriously affect your grade.**
- (2) Two Assignments (20%): There will be two assignments. Detailed instructions will be provided on Brightspace. In the first assignment, you will summarize key parts of a journal article and provide a thoughtful reflection. For the second, you will answer select discussion questions from the textbook on a particular type of victimization and review key information from a website that addresses this victimization. We will use a grading rubric for each.
- (3) Three non-Cumulative Examinations (60%, 20% each): The exams will involve multiple choice, true-false, and short answer questions.

Grading: You will receive feedback on your current course grade throughout the semester.

Grading scale: A (94-100), A- (90-93.99), B+ (87-89.99), B (83-86.99), B- (80-82.99), C+ (77-79.99), C (73-76.99), C- (70-72.99), D (63-69.99), D- (60-62.99), E (0-59.99)

No Extra Credit. Grades are earned numeric scores and are NOT negotiable. The time to address low grades is during the semester, not at the end of the semester. According to university policy, all students must be treated the same according to the rules of the course.

Course Schedule:

All readings should be done PRIOR to the class for which they are assigned. The Daigle book is the textbook. All other readings will be posted on the course website on Brightspace.

Week 1: 8/27 and 8/29

Topics 8/27: What is this course? What is required?

Reading: Syllabus

Topics 8/29: What is victimology?

Reading: Daigle Chapter 1

Week 2: 9/3 and 9/5

Topics 9/3: How do we measure victimization? What do the data sources say?

Readings: Daigle Chapter 2 (pp. 16-23), NCVS and NIBRS 2021 pdf,

<https://www2.unil.ch/icvs/index.html> (look at the first page About ICVS)

Topics 9/5: How do we explain victimization?

Readings: Daigle Chapter 2 (pp. 23-38), Pratt and Turanovic (2016)

Week 3: 9/10 and 9/12

Topics 9/10: What are the consequences of victimization?

Readings: Daigle Chapter 3

Topics 9/12: What about recurring victimization?

Readings: Daigle Chapter 4

Assignments Due: Assignment 1 Due 9/12 by 11:59pm in Brightspace

Week 4: 9/17 and 9/19

Topics 9/17: What rights do victims have and what can they do?

Readings: Daigle Chapter 5

Topics 9/19: Victim impact statements and narrating resilience

Readings: Craig and Sailofsky (2022), See handout on questions for the reading to help prepare for class discussion

Week 5: 9/24 and 9/26

Topics 9/24: Homicide victimization (Material on 2nd Exam)

Readings: Daigle Chapter 6, <https://www.seattlecriminaldefenselawfirm.com/blog/recent-news/post/what-is-the-difference-between-homicide-manslaughter-and-murder>

9/26: Exam 1 (Covers 8/27-9/19)Week 6: 10/1 and 10/3

Topics 10/1: Narratives of co-victims of homicide

Readings: Discola (2020), see handout on questions for the reading to help prepare for class discussion

Topics 10/3: Sexual victimization

Readings: Daigle Chapter 7, *The Conversation* article on Revenge Porn

Week 7: 10/8 and 10/10

Topics 10/8: How do we prevent sexual violence on college campuses?

Readings: McMahon et al. (2021)

Topics 10/10: Intimate partner violence

Readings: Daigle Chapter 8

Week 8: 10/15 (Fall Break) and 10/17

10/15: No Classes Fall Break

Topics 10/17: Long term effects of intimate partner violence

Readings: Kaufman and Walsh (2022), see handout on questions for reading to help prepare for class discussion

Week 9: 10/22 and 10/24

Topics 10/22: Child maltreatment

Readings: Daigle Chapter 9 (pp. 173-186), Wright et al. (2019), see handout on questions for reading to help prepare for class discussion

Topics 10/24: Elder abuse

Readings: Daigle Chapter 9 (pp. 186-197), Elder Abuse newspaper article

Week 10: 10/29 and 10/31**10/29: Exam 2 (Covers 9/24-10/24)**

Topics 10/31: Victimization at school (Material on 3rd Exam)

Readings: Daigle Chapter 10 (pp. 199-213)

Week 11: 11/5 and 11/7

Topics 11/5: Effectiveness of school-bullying intervention programs globally

Readings: Gaffney, Farrington, and Ttofi (2019), see handout on questions for reading to help prepare for class

Topics 11/7: Victimization at work, *The Conversation* article on workplace violence

Readings: Daigle Chapter 10 (pp. 213-223)

Week 12: 11/12 and 11/14

Topics 11/12: Property victimization and identity theft victimization

Readings: Daigle Chapter 11 (pp. 224-241), *Los Angeles Times* article on identity theft

Topics 11/14: Cybervictimization

Readings: Daigle Chapter 11 (pp. 241-250), Giumetti and Kowalski (2022), see handout on questions for reading to help prepare for class

Week 13: 11/19 and 11/21

Topics 11/19: Victimization of special populations

Readings: Daigle Chapter 12

Topics 11/21: Victims of hate crimes

Readings: Daigle Chapter 14 (pp. 295-306), Skim website:

<https://www.nyc.gov/site/stophate/index.page>

Week 14: 11/26 and Thanksgiving Break (11/27-11/29)

Topics 11/26: NO CLASS. Use class time to finalize work on your assignment. Professor Kaufman will be in her office to answer questions during the class time (AS 343).

Assignments Due: Assignment 2 Due by 11:59pm on 11/26 in Brightspace

Week 15: 12/3 and 12/5

Topics 12/3: Victims of human trafficking and the voices of sex trafficking survivors

Readings: Daigle Chapter 14 (pp. 306-314), Rajaram and Tidball (2018), see handout on questions for reading to help prepare for class discussion

Topics 12/5: Terrorism

Readings: Daigle Chapter 14 (pp. 315-323)

Final Exam: SATURDAY 12/14 1-3pm (Covers 10/31-12/5)