

Crimes against Children
Spring 2022
Sul Ross State University

SYLLABUS

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Course Description:

This course will examine the various issues embedded in the problem of child victimization. We are taking a critical approach in terms of a reevaluation of threats that contribute to the moral decay of society in the way that children are treated.

We will take a critical look at articles that address childhood victimization from a policy perspective, from a professional practice perspective, and with a critical eye on specific changes that may even seem intuitively antithetical.

We will examine the significance of the fragmentation that has exacerbated the problem. Through a more integrated and comprehensive perspective perhaps we can develop a more substantive and accurate analysis to propose better policies in response to a problem that ravages elements of hope, protection, and promise that each child deserves.

Our textbook for this class is “Childhood Victimization” by Dr. David Finkelhor (Oxford University Press, 2008) ISBN 978-0-19-534285-7

Course Objectives- upon completion of the course students will:

1. Demonstrate a working knowledge of concepts, special issues, and analytical techniques in various areas of the discipline;
2. Think/write critically about the problem of childhood victimization;
3. Think/write critically about the role of stakeholders in professional practice;
4. Utilize concepts of victimization and apply them in articulating on the problem of “Crimes against Children”;
5. Dispel assumptions that are made in various concepts, doctrines, and theories in order to develop their own ideas on this problem;
6. Develop critical thinking/writing skills.

Texas Domain III Competency 19: The teacher understands and applies critical thinking knowledge and skills to plan, organize/implement instruction, and assess learning.

Texas Domain III Competency 23: The teacher understands and applies knowledge of core concepts of Courts and Judiciary including ways that individuals and groups achieve their goals through distinct and unique systems and approaches for thought.

In order to receive accommodations on exams or assignments, proper documentation must first be provided to the Office of Counseling and Accessibility Services. Contact the office to set up an accommodations meeting by calling (432) 837-8203. Students must then present this documentation to the instructor as soon as possible so that accommodations may be arranged.

Americans with Disability Act Statement:

Course Policies:

This is an online course. Please observe that Sul Ross State University has a zero tolerance policy on cheating, plagiarism, or collusion. Procedures for dealing with these acts are addressed in the Scholastic Dishonesty Policy. These policies are meant to ensure the academic integrity of SRSU.

Distance/Online Education Statement:

Students enrolled in distance/online courses have equal access to SRSU's academic support services. Please visit the SRSU website if you have any questions on accessing such resources. Students are expected to correspond through Sul Ross email accounts and submit assignments through Blackboard (your Professor prefers submissions directly through email). Blackboard requires secure login information to verify students' identities and to protect students' information. If Blackboard is not available then you are required to email your work directly to the Instructor.

Course Requirements:

Students are expected to communicate with me and complete all assignments in a timely manner. Students are expected to login to the class frequently so as to ensure full participation in the class. Please report any login issues as soon as possible by emailing me immediately.

Grading for this course will be based on the quality of student's work: A Midterm Exams, a Journal, and a Critical Analysis paper (i.e. a Critique) that's roughly 15 pages in length).

The "critique" will be an opportunity for you to write an analysis on a topic in Childhood Victimization (I will be posting possible topics throughout the month of January 2022).

Grading system: A: 100-90 B: 89-80 C: 79-70 D: 69-60 F: 59 or less

Course Assignments:

You will be responsible for developing a Journal;

The Midterm Exam will consist of brief essay responses;

The Critique will be an extensive analysis on a topic in the discipline;

Grading Scale:

Journal Project/Class participation: 30% (due each Friday by 11:59 p.m.);

Midterm Exam: 30%;

Critique: 40%.

Grading system: A: 100-90 B: 89-80 C: 79-70 D: 69-60 F: 59 or less

This syllabus may change (particularly in observance of changes brought on by the global pandemic).

I think about an interesting scenario in Mark Twain's "Life on the Mississippi." Twain reflects on how he is unable to enjoy another sunset the way he did prior to becoming a riverboat pilot. In contrast to Twain's assessment, the material for this course will hopefully inspire you to make contributions to the common good (specifically, with regard to the problem of Crimes against Children).