

**MASS COMMUNICATION 3513 2H1
MWSU 4433 2H1**

**MURDER, MEYHAM, AND THE MEDIA
HONOR SEMINAR: MURDER/MAYHEM/MEDIA**

Instructor: Sandra Grant

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OFFICE HOURS: By appointment. Monday and Wednesday 2:00-4:00, Tuesday and Thursday 2:30-4:30.

TEXT: MEDIA, CRIME AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE: IMAGES, REALITIES, AND POLICIES by Ray Surette

Personal Responsibilities: * Attend class. (Understand and follow attendance policy.)

* Be on time.

- Take notes.
- Complete assignments as instructed and on time.
- (Be sure that you understand each assignment and when it is due.)
- Conduct yourself according to Student Conduct Code. It is included in this syllabus.
- Use this syllabus.

Grading Policy: 30% Daily grades (written papers, oral presentations, group participation, attendance, attitude, classroom work)

40% Tests

30% Group project

Obviously, it is helpful for you to keep up with your grades and be aware of your average in the class.

GRADING SCALE:

A 90-100	0 Failure to hand in written work when it's due.
B 80-89	0 Failure to take a test when scheduled.
C 70-79	0 Failure to produce any assigned work when scheduled.
D 60-69	0 Failure to comply with academic honesty policy.
F below 60	

It is difficult to predict the exact length of time that some assignments will require. Additions, deletions, and substitutions in the schedule are possible. Your cooperation is expected, and appreciated.

ATTENDANCE: Class room activities and lecture notes are an important part of this course. In order to learn this material, you will need to come to class. "In-class performance" is required, so your attendance is required. Upon your **THIRD** absence, excused or not, you will be asked to drop this class if it is prior to the final drop day. If it is after that deadline, or you do not initiate the drop yourself, you will be instructor-dropped with a final course grade of "F." If absences are due to circumstances truly beyond your control, AND you have contacted me according to requirements, you might be allowed to stay in this class. But, your final course grade will be lowered. TARDINESS exceeding ten minutes counts as an ABSENCE. THREE TARDIES count as one ABSENCE. Habitual tardiness, excessive tardiness will result in a negative adjustment to your final course grade. IF YOU ARRIVE AFTER ATTENDANCE HAS BEEN TAKEN, IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO MAKE SURE THAT YOU HAVE NOT BEEN COUNTED ABSENT FOR THE **CLASS**.

According to the MSU Code of Conduct:

"Absences due to required participation in university-sponsored activities must be approved by the College Dean or Athletic Director and the Vice President for Academic Affairs. Students with written approval must present a signed letter or memo to each instructor at least two days prior to the date of the absence. Only prior notification can guarantee lack of penalty for these absences. It is the responsibility of the student to arrange with the instructor to make up work missed during an authorized absence. Academically related activities (class field trips, attendance of conferences, etc.) do not qualify as university sponsored activities. Excused absences for such activities may be given at the discretion of the faculty member whose class is missed."

If you know you are going to be absent from class, notify me prior to that class. If you are ill, you will need a medical doctor's written excuse. Present this to me at the beginning of class when you return. Please, contact me by phone if you have an unexpected absence/emergency situation. Then I will know that you do plan to return and do not plan to drop the class. The right to accept your excuse or not to accept your excuse is the exclusive right of the instructor. Please do not schedule appointments of any kind during the time you should be in class. Personal problems such as work and child care should be managed so that you do not miss class. Missing class usually affects your grade and work in the class adversely. It creates unnecessary work for the person who has to help you "catch up." Unfortunately, most people do not have that extra time to give you. Your attendance helps all of us to remain focused and to facilitate learning.

I often send emails concerning class information and assignments. I send these through the MSU system, not D2L. Be sure that MSU has your preferred email. You are being asked to use your MSU official email for messages within the system. If MSU has the wrong information for you, it is your responsibility to correct + it. If you want to email me, use the MSU system, not D2L.

In-Class Activities: Exercises will be used in class to illustrate various aspects of the course's content/objectives. It is important that you participate in order to better understand course content/objectives. Please be on time for the beginning of each class. This is necessary so that you will not miss essential instructions nor interrupt class activities.

If you miss a test, you will probably not be allowed to make it up. If a make-up test is allowed, it will be given at the convenience of the instructor. Format/content might vary from the original test.

Written assignments will be discussed in class and will be due on specific dates.

PLEASE REMEMBER THIS:

They are due at the beginning of the class on the due date. Late papers will not be accepted. If you are not going to be in class on the day that written work is due, another student may hand in your work for you. It may also be slipped under my office door prior to class time on the date it is due. Again, late papers will not be accepted under any circumstances.

Academic Dishonesty: The MSU Code of Student Conduct states:

Dishonest work on examinations is a serious offense as is plagiarism, the act of using source material of other persons (either published or unpublished) without following the accepted techniques of crediting, or the submission for credit of work not the individual's to whom credit is given. Neither offense will be tolerated by the University and appropriate disciplinary action will result. Additional guidelines on procedures in these matters may be found in the Office of the Dean of Students.

VIOLATION OF THIS POLICY WILL RESULT IN THE STUDENT RECEIVING A FAILING GRADE FOR THIS COURSE.

Student Conduct: The MSU Code of Student Conduct will be strictly followed. Briefly, this means that any student conduct that is intentionally rude, disruptive, threatening, harassing, or has the purpose or end result of interfering with an individual's academic or work performance will not be tolerated. Such behavior undermines University Policy and interferes with the educational process. Violators will be appropriately dealt with at the discretion of the instructor. This may include dismissal from the course without credit and disciplinary action from the appropriate University officials.

"MSU actively promotes the philosophy that students are responsible for their own lives and learn responsibility when they bear the consequences of their actions and inactions."

In addition, the University requires faculty to provide this statement to all students:

By enrolling in this course, the student expressly grants MSU a "limited right" in all intellectual property created by the student for the purpose of this course. The "limited right" shall include but shall not be limited to the right to reproduce the student's work product in order to verify originality and authenticity, and educational purposes

Social Justice: Students will be treated with respect regardless of gender, race, ethnicity, national origin, religious affiliation, sexual orientation, political beliefs, age and ability. Diversity of thought is a welcomed part of education. Rudeness and airing of "personal issues" just to take up class time is not, however. We need to learn to disagree and remain civil.

In accordance with the law, MSU provides students with documented disabilities certain academic accommodations. Students with disability must be registered with Disability Support Services before classroom accommodations can be provided. If you are a student with a disability, please contact me. We cannot give special accommodations without proper documentation.

Class cancellations due to weather are determined by MSU. These cancellations are announced on local media and your MSU EMERGENCY app. MSU usually follows the decision made by the Wichita Falls Independent School District. Any changes in assignments or deadlines will be made if necessary. Please keep yourself advised when inclement weather is expected.

CAMPUS CARRY STATEMENT Senate Bill 11 was passed by the 84th Texas Legislature and became effective on August 1, 2016. It allowed licensed handgun holders to carry concealed handguns on campus. Areas excluded from concealed carry are clearly marked, in accordance with state law. For more information Concerning campus carry, please refer to the MSU webpage under Campus Carry Rules/Policies.

PRIVACY STATEMENT:

Conflict resolution of any type is best handled by you and your instructor. Federal privacy law prohibits the release of certain information about students without written consent. Even with written consent, I will not, in most cases, discuss your academic progress with your parents or significant other. Please Do not have them call me or visit my office.

College students are adults and are responsible for their actions or lack of action. (See statement under Student Conduct referred to as MSU Philosophy.)

ELECTRONIC AND OR TECHNICAL DEVICES CREATE DISTRACTIONS THAT ARE NOT ACCEPTABLE IN THIS CLASSROOM. PREFERABLY, LEAVE THESE AT HOME OR IN YOUR VEHICLE. THEY MUST BE TURNED OFF AND KEPT OFF AND OUT OF SIGHT DURING CLASS. THESE DEVICES HAVE BEEN KNOWN TO BE USED FOR ACADEMIC DISHONESTY. THAT SERIOUS ISSUE HAS BEEN COVERED EARLIER IN THE SYLLABUS. IF YOUR CELL PHONE, BEEPER, PAGER, ETC. MAKES ANY NOISE, THE INSTRUCTOR RESERVES THE RIGHT TO ASK YOU TO LEAVE CLASS AND NOT RETURN UNTIL THE NEXT CLASS MEETING. SO, THAT WOULD MEAN YOU WILL BE COUNTED ABSENT. REMEMBER THAT YOU ARE ALLOWED A LIMITED NUMBER OF ABSENCES IN THIS CLASS. THE INSTRUCTOR ALSO RESERVES THE RIGHT TO EMBARRASS YOU MERCILESSLY FOR SUCH AN OFFENSE.

Seriously, it isn't necessary for you to do this. You will be safe and sound until class is over-even without the assistance of technology. It's worked for generations.

Talking with others in class when you should be listening to your instructor hurts you and the other people you are distracting. IT IS RUDE, INAPPROPRIATE, AND CANNOT BE TOLERATED. You might be able to handle conversation and listening at the same time-or at least fully believe that you can. But, the person you are disturbing might not be able to do so. It can adversely affect your grade or someone else's grade. Consider that during a presentation, it's upsetting to most presenters to see someone in the audience talking to someone, working on something else, or acting bored. You don't want to be treated this way. So, just don't do it. It's a life skill that you need to learn if you have not done so already.

BY STAYING ENROLLED IN THIS CLASS AND ACCEPTING THIS SYLLABUS, YOU ARE INDICATING THAT YOU UNDERSTAND AND ACCEPT THE TERMS OF THIS SYLLABUS. Just for ONE semester. Smile.

We are SO glad you are here! I am looking to having you in class this semester!

COURSE DESCRIPTION/OBJECTIVES:

The course will explore various ways in which the criminal justice system/law enforcement use the media to deal with crime and criminals. It will also focus on how criminals use the media to communicate with law enforcement and the public. We will study the impact of media crime reporting on public perception and how public perception affects media reporting of criminals and criminal events. Activities, class discussion, readings, and assignments are designed to give you a clearer understanding of media's role and the consequences in reporting and depicting crime. You will better understand how the media, crime, and criminal justice impact your daily life and the rest of society.

Specific cases will be studied to understand media impact. Guest speakers will present factual information and personal opinion concerning crime and criminals from their own life. A final group project will give you the opportunity to research and present information and opinion on a criminal or criminal event. It is a course with serious content, that is very applicable to understanding the complex world in which we all live.

SCHEDULE

CLASS	TOPIC	TEXT ASSIGNMENT
Week 1: (Jan.. 21- Jan. 24)	Orientation/Introduction	
Week 2: (Jan.. 27- Jan.. 31)	Crime, Justice, and Media	Chapter 1
Week 3: (Sept. 5- Sept. 9)	New Media and Social Constructionism	Chapter 2

Week 4:

(Feb. 10-
Feb.. 14)

Images of Crime and Criminology

Chapter 3

Week 5:

(Feb. 17-
Feb. 21

Criminogenic
Media

Chapter 4

Week 6:

(Feb. 24-
Feb. 28)

TEST/ACTIVITIES/EXPANSION

Week 7:

(March 3-
March 7)

Crime Fighters

Chapter 5

THERE WILL BE NO CLASSES MARCH 10-14. SPRING BREAK.

Week 8:

(March 14-
March 21)

The Courts

Chapter 6

Week 9:

(March 24-
March 28}

Corrections

Chapter 7

Week 10

(March 31-
April 4)

Crime Control

Chapter 8

Week 11:	TEST/ACTIVITY/EXPANSION	
(April 7- April 11)		
Week 12	The Media and Criminal Justice Policy	Chapter 9
(April 14- April 18)	THERE WILL BE NO CLASS ON THURSDAY APRIL 17, HOLIDAY BREAK.	
Week 13:		
(April 21- April 25)	New Media, Crime, and Justice In the 21 st Century	Chapter 10 Chapter 11
Week 14:		
(April 28- May 2)	TEST/ACTIVITY/EXPANSION	
Week 15:		
(May 5- May 9)	<p><u>PRESENTATIONS/GROUP PROJECTS BEGIN</u> (They will continue during the time set aside by the university for Final Exams.)</p> <p>FINAL EXAM TIME: TUESDAY, MAY 13 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.</p>	

Instructor reserves the right to give or not to give a Final Exam.

**IT IS DIFFICULT TO PREDICT THE EXACT LENGTH OF TIME THAT SOME ASSIGNMENTS/
DISCUSSIONS/ ACTIVITIES WILL REQUIRE. ADDITIONS, DELETIONS, AND SUBSTITUTIONS IN
THE SCHEDULE ARE POSSIBLE. YOUR UNDERSTANDING AND COOPERATION ARE
EXPECTED AND ALSO VERY MUCH APPRECIATED.**

