

San José State University
CoSS/Justice Studies
JS 155, Victimology, 61, Winter 2023

Instructor:	Sheree Martinek
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Office Hours:	Online via Zoom by appointment.
Class Days/Time:	This course will be conducted online using Canvas
JS Competency Area:	Theories (A)

Course Description

Official: Examination of the relationship between victim and offender; the behavior and attitudes of family, society and justice system toward the victim; nature and extent of loss, injury and damage to the victim.

Unofficial: A stranger rushes towards you with a knife, demanding your wallet. You yell: HELP POLICE! Good Samaritans and the police wrestle your assailant to the ground and make an arrest. Counselors help you cope with the trauma of the event, the assailant is punished, and you are compensated for what you lost.

This is how most people imagine the experience of *being a victim*. But victimization is not so simple: assailants are not usually strangers, the police are not always called, and it is not always clear how to “restore” what was lost in a crime. The study of victims, or victimology, has not always been the focus in the study of crime, but they occupy a crucial position in the commission of crime.

This course examines the relationship between victim and offender; the behavior and attitudes of family, society, and the criminal justice system toward the victim; and the nature and extent of loss, injury and damage to the victim. Future trends in victimology are discussed.

We will begin by exploring the nature and extent of the problem, by examining the research and theory on victimization. Next, we will examine the costs of victimization to the victim, their loved ones, and society at large. This will be followed by an examination of historical and contemporary victimology.

Canvas and Technology Requirements

You are automatically registered with Canvas as a registered student of the course. Links for students regarding Canvas issues and questions: <http://www.sjsu.edu/at/ec/docs/CanvasStudent%20Login%20Information.pdf> and http://www.sjsu.edu/at/ec/docs/CanvasStudentTutorial_New.pdf. Success in this course requires active

Discussion Participation (10% of final grade) (CLO 5)

To create a constructive and supportive learning environment, it is expected that class members will participate in online-class discussions, respect varying opinions, avoid degrading or disrespectful language, and understand the multicultural atmosphere of this learning environment. Online discussions should take place within a context of academic inquiry an in the spirit of understanding diverse perspectives and experiences. This is a time to open your minds to new ideas, to explore new concepts, so please take advantage of this opportunity. Respect and professionalism are the guiding principles of this class.

I will post and moderate several discussion topics to which you are expected to participate actively by posting multiple high-quality course-related messages. You are expected to actively participate in an intellectual, thoughtful, and respectful manner. I will provide a General Discussion topic, which you may use to start your own discussions on relevant issues (e.g. discussing materials and questions raised in class, posing questions not covered in class, integrating information from the news and current events with topics being discussed in class). You will be expected to participate in the online discussions through both posting questions/comments and responding to questions/comments posted by other students. Because everyone can read postings on the Forum, please do not post private information. Each discussion will be available at 7:00am on the assigned day and close at 11:59pm the following day. See Rubric for grading information.

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