INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

- **Instructor:** Michael Ferguson, MS
- **UTT email:** mferguson@uttyler.edu
- **Office telephone:** 903.730.3927
- **Office location:** CAS 134
- **Office hours:** See **THIS** document. For those who wish to meet via Zoom rather than F2F, click **THIS** link and use passcode 519250 . I will be logged into Zoom during my MWF office hours, so there's no need to arrange an appointment beforehand on those days. If you need to meet on T/Th, send me an email to arrange a time that works for both of us.

COURSE CATALOG DESCRIPTION

Family violence occurs among all races, genders, ages, and socio-economic statuses. This course focuses on the examination of family violence through a criminological lens, to identify the causes of family violence and the rationales of the offenders. Special attention will be paid to theoretical explanations including biological, social/structural, and life course theories. Additionally, the course examines the physical and psychological ramifications of family violence for the victims and the criminal consequences of family violence for the offender. Prerequisite: Students must complete CRIJ 1301 as the prerequisite to this course.

COURSE RATIONALE

This course examines what family violence is, why it occurs, who commits it, its effects, and the Texas statutes related specifically to Family Violence.

COURSE TIME AND LOCATION

- 08/25/2025 - 12/13/2025
- Online only, via Canvas LMS

STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Upon successful completion of this course, you will be able to:

- Think critically about important issues in family violence.
- Identify the immediate needs and resources necessary to help victims of family violence.
- Recognize and utilize Texas law as it relates to family violence.
- Identify the criminal justice resources needed to prosecute and convict family violence offenders.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK

Gosselin, D. K. (2019). *Family and intimate partner violence: Heavy hands* (6th ed.). Pearson.

RECOMMENDED TEXTBOOK

APA. (2019). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (7th ed.). Washington, DC: American Psychological Association. ISBN: 978-1-4338-3217-8

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

Students must have access to a computer or tablet with internet access to use UT-Tyler's Canvas LMS. Assignments, lectures, discussions, and quizzes will be handled through Canvas. Additionally, students must have access to, and use of, a word processor (e.g., MS Word or Apple Pages) and presentation software (e.g., MS PowerPoint or Apple Keynote). Work uploaded to Canvas must be in one of the following file formats:

- Documents: .docx, .doc, .pages, or .pdf (.pdf is the preferred format)
- Presentations / graphs: .docx, .doc, .pptx, .ppt, .key, or .pdf (.pdf is the preferred format)

ATTENDANCE

You can't learn if you're not in class. You must attend and participate in the class to earn credit!

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS

It is the student's responsibility to keep track of due dates. Please note that quizzes, assignments, and tests will be available for several days, so missing a due date for any given quizzes, assignments, or tests will translate into a score of zero. There will be no extra credit or extensions to complete quizzes, assignments, or tests.

- **Anti-Plagiarism Certificate**: You must complete the free, online **anti-plagiarism course** indicated under the Syllabus Module. Upon completion of the two required modules, you must upload a copy of your completion certificate to Canvas. **This certificate is worth 5% of your grade and is required for successful completion of the course.**
- **Quizzes:** Reading the assigned chapters puts concepts into action. To help with retention and comprehension of the material, you will complete short quizzes each week. Quizzes will consist of multiple choice and true/false questions. **Quizzes are worth 50% of your grade.**

- **Activities/Discussion Posts:** You will complete various activities, including discussion posts, over the course of the semester. **These activities are worth 25% of your grade.**
- **Final Exam:** The final will consist of true/false and multiple-choice questions taken from the material covered during the semester. **Your final exam is worth 20% of your grade.**

ACTIVITIES/DISCUSSION POSTS/ASSIGNMENTS

Below are the learning objectives for each online activity. More detailed instructions, including grading rubrics, are provided to you on the respective assignment page in Canvas.

- **Discussion Posts.** During this activity, you will:
    - Respond to a specific prompt from the instructor. The prompt will be based on the material we've covered during the week.
    - Discussion posts must be written by the student — AI may not be used.
    - Discussion posts must be written using proper grammar, spelling, word choice, etc.
    - Discussion posts must be at least 250 words.

- **Reflection Papers.** During this activity, you will:

    - Respond to a specific prompt from the instructor. The prompt will be based on the material we've covered during the week.
    - Create a one- to two-page written submission based on the assignment's instructions.
    - Submit the assignment to the instructor via Canvas.

- **Internet-based Exercises**. During these activities, you will:

    - Respond to specific instructions from the instructor. You will be given a URL and a prompt based on the information covered.
    - Create a written submission based on the assignment's instructions.
    - Submit the assignment to the instructor via Canvas.

CENSUS DATE

The census date for this summer class is **09/08/2025**. Drops/withdrawals after Census Date and before the Last Day to Withdraw will result in a grade of W. Courses dropped prior to Census Date will not appear on the student's record or the transcript.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE POLICY

UT Tyler is committed to exploring and using artificial intelligence (AI) tools as appropriate for the discipline and task undertaken. We encourage discussing AI tools' ethical, societal,

philosophical, and disciplinary implications. All uses of AI should be acknowledged as this aligns with our commitment to honor and integrity, as noted in UT Tyler's Honor Code. Faculty and students must not use protected information, data, or copyrighted materials when using any AI tool. Additionally, users should be aware that AI tools rely on predictive models to generate content that may appear correct but is sometimes shown to be incomplete, inaccurate, taken without attribution from other sources, and/or biased. Consequently, an AI tool should not be considered a substitute for traditional approaches to research. You are ultimately responsible for the quality and content of the information you submit. Misusing AI tools that violate the guidelines specified for this course (see below) is considered a breach of academic integrity. The student will be subject to disciplinary actions as outlined in UT Tyler's Academic Integrity Policy.

The work submitted by students in this course will be generated by themselves. This includes all process work, drafts, brainstorming artifacts, editing, and final products. This extends to group assignments where students must collaboratively create the project. Any instance of the following constitutes a violation of UT Tyler's Honor Code: a student has another person/entity do any portion of a graded assignment, which includes purchasing work from a company, hiring a person or company to complete an assignment or exam, using a previously submitted assignment and/or using AI tools (such as ChatGPT).

STUDENT RESOURCES AND UT-TYLER POLICIES

- [Student Resources](#)
- [University Policies and Information](#)

COURSE SCHEDULE

- **Week 1: August 25 - August 31, 2025**
    - Welcome to class, introductions, review of syllabus
    - Self-introduction discussion post
    - Anti-plagiarism certificate
    - Chapter Two: History of Violence in the Family
    - Chapter Two quiz

- **Week 2: September 1 - September 7, 2025**

    - September 1: Labor Day holiday; all offices closed; no classes held
    - Chapter Four: Introduction to Child Abuse and Neglect
    - Chapter Four discussion post
    - Chapter Four quiz

- **Weeks 3 and 4: September 8 - September 21, 2025**

  - Chapter Five: Investigating Child Abuse
  - Texas Penal Code §§ 21.02, 21.11, 21.12, 22.011, 22.021, 22.04, 22.041, 25.02, and 25.11
  - Chapter Five and TPC discussion post
  - Chapter Five and TPC quiz

- **Week 5: September 22 - September 28, 2025**

  - Chapter Six: Adolescent and Young Adult Victimization
  - Texas Family Code Chapter 71
  - Chapter Six and TFC discussion post
  - Chapter Six and TFC quiz

- **Week 6: September 29 - October 5, 2025**

  - October 1: Final Filing Deadline for Fall 2025 Graduation (if applicable to you)
  - Chapter Seven: Adolescent Perpetrators
  - Assignment: [Easy Access to NIBRS: Victims of Domestic Violence](#)
  - Chapter Seven quiz

- **Week 7: October 6 - October 12, 2025**

  - Chapter Eight: Intimate Partner Violence
  - Texas Family Code Chapter 71
  - Chapter Eight discussion post
  - Chapter Eight and TFC quiz

- **Week 8: October 13 - October 19, 2025**

  - Chapter Nine: LGBTI Partner Abuse
  - Assignment: Reflection Paper based on *[The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey : 2016/2017 Report on Victimization by Sexual Identity](#)*
  - Chapter Nine quiz

- **Week 9: October 20 - October 26, 2025**

  - Chapter 11: Abuse in Later Life
  - Texas Penal Code §§ 22.011, 22.021, 22.04, 22.041, and 25.11
  - Chapter 11 and TPC discussion post
  - Chapter 11 and TFC quiz

- **Week 10: October 27 - November 2, 2025**

  - Chapter 11: Adult Perpetrators
  - Texas Penal Code §§ 42.09, 42.091, 42.092, and 42.107
  - Assignment: *Understanding the Link Between Animal Abuse and Family Violence*
  - Chapter 11 and TPC quiz

- **Weeks 11 and 12: November 3 - November 16, 2025**

  - November 3: Last Day to Withdraw from one or more 15-Week courses.
  - Chapter 12: The Police Response to Intimate Partner Violence
  - Texas Code of Criminal Procedure Chapter Five and Article 14.03
  - Texas Penal Code §§ 25.07 and 25.071
  - Quiz over Chapter 12, Texas CCP, and Texas Penal Code

- **Week 13: November 17 - November 23, 2025**

  - Chapter 13: Stalking and Homicide
  - NOTE: We will cover Texas law related to criminal homicide and stalking upon our return from Thanksgiving.
  - Chapter 13 discussion post
  - Chapter 13 quiz

- **Week 14: November 24 - November 30, 2025**

  - Thanksgiving holidays for faculty and students - no class this week. Enjoy your holiday!

- **Week 15: December 1 - December 7, 2025**

  - Stalking and Homicide (continued from week 13)
  - Texas Penal Code Chapter 19 and §§ 42.062, 42.07, 42.074, and 42.075
  - Quiz over Penal Code Chapter 19 and §§ 42.062, 42.07, 42.074, and 42.075

- **Week 16: December 8 - December 11, 2025**

  - Final Exam — based on material from the entire semester. **Please note that final exams must be submitted by 11:59p on THURSDAY, December 11.**