

Proposal

On

Victimology and Victim Services Minor (September 14, 2015)

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1. Overview

a. Definition

Victimology is a multidisciplinary branch of criminology that examines the nature of the victimization process; the relationships between victims and offenders; the emotional, physical, and economic impact of crimes on victims; the interactions between victims and the criminal justice system; and victim services. Victimology also explores the connections between victims and other social groups and institutions, including the family and school (Karmen, 2013; Burgess, Regehr, & Roberts, 2013; Doerner, & Lab, 2012). The field of victimology includes victim profiling and forensic victimology, which is the scientific study of victims that focuses on the victims' lifestyles, circumstances, the events leading up to the crime, and the nature of the victimization (Turvey, 2013). In general, the field of victimology offers evidence-based practices for understanding victim-offender dynamics, victim services, and the prevention of victimization. The field is multidisciplinary, relying on research from academic disciplines that include criminal justice, psychology, public health, anthropology, history, and economics.

b. Rationale and Goals of the Minor

In the early 1960s, victimology, as a subtopic of sociology, criminology, criminal justice, and social work, became an integral part of university courses. Early courses focused on basic concepts of victimology but today, "these courses are much more sophisticated and now provide students and practitioners with information from more advanced studies and a wide range of sophisticated victimology textbooks" (Dissich, 2014, p. 491). In addition, the number of victimology courses has increased tremendously over the years, with most focusing on the victims of crime and their role in the criminal justice system. Stockton students from a variety of majors would benefit from depth knowledge about victimization, victims, and victim services that a Victimology Minor would provide. It will prepare students for entry into a wide variety of positions in fields such as criminal justice, social work, counseling, gerontology, and nursing.

2. Needs Assessment

a. National Trends

Although the growth of Victimology as an academic field has been much slower in the United States than in other parts of the world, the importance of victimology is evident in the establishment of the American Society of Victimology (2003) and the emergence of Victimology sections in The Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences (2010) and the American Society of Criminology (2012), which are national organizations for academics in criminal justice and criminology. Moreover, there are several institutions that offer victimology or a related field as a minor or a degree program (see Appendix A):

There is no available information to indicate a linkage between the completion of the Minor and the employability for regional jobs. Only a few institutions in the region (four in Massachusetts, one in Connecticut, and one in New Jersey) offer victimology or victim services as a certificate or minor (see Appendix B). Many of the institutions indicate the usefulness of the minor.

<i>Students Status</i>	%
Freshmen	11
Sophomore	25
Junior	38
Senior	26
<i>Race/Ethnicity</i>	
Caucasian/White	75
African American/Black	7
Hispanic/Latino	9
Asian/Pacific Islander	3
Other	6
<i>Age</i>	
18-21 years	75
22-25m years	21
Over 25 years	4
<i>Course of survey</i>	
Major	66
Minor	6
Cognate	7
G-course	17

xI am a psych major w/a forensic concentration in which half of the role of a forensic psychologist is dealing with the victim, therefore a victimology minor would be very appropriate.

xA victimology minor sounds very interesting and it is something I would def like to learn more about.

xI am interested bc no other major or minor elaborates on the victimization process.

xI am interested in graduating with 2 degrees and a minor in victimology would suit me well, because I am highly interested in it.

xI believe this is a minor that would be useful in the job market.

xI have always been interested in victimology, I would love to understand why certain people become victims and how they get into that situation.

xI have recently been a victim of home invasion/burglary and I feel as though the knowledge

- x Have acquired an informed and balanced knowledge about victims, victimization, and victim services;
- x Demonstrate proficiency in a range of theoretical perspectives in victimology
- x Understand the impact of victimization on various populations of victims, such as elderly, children, etc.
- x Develop an understanding of victims' rights and the criminal justice response to victim and victimization.

b. *Faculty*

The proposed Victimology and Victim Services Minor is multidisciplinary. The courses included in the Minor will be drawn from a variety of programs from across the college. Virtually all of the curricular elements for the Minor are already in place. The program will have a critical mass of faculty members who have either research or teaching interests in victimology. For example, several faculty members who will be contributing to the Minor have either taught or conducted research on several aspects of victimology and victimization. A number of other faculty members have either primary or secondary research interests in victims and victimization. Faculty members who will teach in the Minor will, therefore, come from several disciplines across the university (see list of faculty members in Appendix A).

c. *Outline of Courses for Minor*

There are three basic requirements for the minor: 1) two required courses; 2) two courses selected from a list of courses; and 3) a capstone course. Students will be expected to complete a minimum of 20 credits of coursework with substantial victimology and victim service content. They will also be required to complete an introductory course, a theory course, a Capstone Seminar, and general electives that will be selected from an approved list of courses related to victims and victimization. At least 8 credits required for the Minor must be at 3000 level or above.

Coordinator (one a case by case basis) in lieu of the capstone. Students must complete this course to complete the Minor.

List of Courses for the Minor

The courses were selected by the Minor Committee. The faculty

- x GSS 2310 Sex Discrimination and the Law (once or twice per year)
- x HLTH 2301– Cultural Diversity in Healthcare (once a year)
- x POLS 3225 – Civil Liberties (once a year)
- x PSYC 2201 Adolescence (once a year)
- x SOWK 2504 -Race, Ethnicity, Diversity (every semester)
- x SOCY 2210 – Sociology and Family Law (every semester)
- x SOCY 2213 -Minority-Majority Relations (periodically)
- x SOCY 2355 – Sociology of the Black Experience (new; Christina Jackson)
- x SOCY 3630 -Studies in Family Relations (once a year)

Students must take the following course (Mandatory)

*Capstone: GIS: 4xxx - Victim Services***

This is an advanced level research and discussion course focusing on common themes in victimology. This will include an advanced level research project. This will be a 3-credit course. It will be offered every semester. Two criminal justice faculty members have agreed to share the responsibility of teaching the course so that it can be taught every semester. One faculty member will teach it in the Fall semester and the other faculty member will teach it in the Spring semester. This course will replace one of the courses that the faculty members are presently teaching.

*This course must be taken by students in order to complete the Minor.

**The capstone course is for students in the Criminal Justice program (CJ) only.

- g) facilitate the development and implementation of strategic academic, and
- h) conduct ongoing academic program assessment

- Dussich, John P. J. (2014). Teaching victimology in America: From on the job training (OJT) to PHD. *Journal of Criminal Justice Education*, 25(4), 486-500.
- Karmen, A. (2013) *Crime victims: An introduction to victimology*. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth, Cengage Learning
- Turvey, B. E., & Wayne. P. (2013) *Forensic victimology: Examining violent crime victims in investigative and legal contexts* San Diego, CA: Academic Press

Appendix A
Associated Faculty –

Joint Center on Violence and Victim Studies

- x Fresno State University, Washburn University, and the University of New Haven have formed an interuniversity consortium and created the Joint Center on Violence and Victim Studies addresses issues of violence and victimization.

+ A student sent this email to Dr. Button who taught CRIM 328) -Theoretical Approaches and Perspectives in Victimology course Spring 2015:

Mainly I just wanted to express my thoughts about your course that I didn't get a chance to display on your course elevation and the fact this first time class being held at Stockton. I have had one summer of law enforcement under my belt before entering the class. So being new to law enforcement I was just really adjusting to the field and observing what other officers do and how they handle situations.

On a firsthand experience I would like to let you know this course was very eye opening. Especially working in law enforcement this class is essential to take and a great tool to have. I myself feel like I will be a better police officer after taking this class and understanding about the victim and aspects surrounding them. I had a situation this summer where I dealt with a repeat victim in a domestic abuse situation. I recall telling her and almost interrogating her saying stop going back to the guy, stop letting him drink too much etc. Having no understand of the situation, just my human instincts telling me to tell her to do that. Obviously in taking your course I now feel like I could handle situations a hell of a lot better and know the proper things to say and act within similar situations.

So basically thanks for being a great teacher and making me a better police officer.

