

## **XIDS 2100-03: “Crime in the Public Eye”**

**Instructor:** Anna Payne

**Office:** TLC 1112A

**Office Hours:** Tuesdays & Thursdays 11:30-12:30; Fridays (through Gmail Chat) 8:00-12:00; by appointment

**Writing Center Hours:** Tuesdays & Thursdays 12:30-2:00

**E-mail:** apayne@westga.edu

(all e-mail communication between the student and instructor **must** be conducted via my.westga.edu account)

### **COURSE INFORMATION AND OBJECTIVES**

#### **Required Texts and Materials**

Fincher, David. *Gone Girl*. 20th Century Fox ASIN: B00Q599A8S

Reliable access to Netflix and Amazon (if necessary)

College ruled paper & notebook (three-ring binder, spiral notebook, or folder)

Black or blue ink pens and pencils

Highlighter

USB drive/Google Drive/Cloud for saving and storing various writing assignments

Additional material used for class discussion will be provided online in accordance with the department’s paperless policy [As of Fall 2006, the English Department implemented a “paperless” policy in its classrooms. Therefore, all materials (handouts, assignment sheets, notes, etc.) will be made available online. Students may print these necessary course documents, including the syllabus, on their home computers].

#### **Course Description:**

#### **Learning Objectives:**

- Students will demonstrate an understanding of the characteristics that define and differentiate literary, filmic and visual texts.
- Students will be able to apply this understanding to analyze the relationship between form and meaning.
- Students will be able to explain how diverse modes of humanistic and artistic endeavor contribute to an understanding of the media in America.
- Students will be able to produce written work that synthesizes evidence effectively in organized, specific, and focused paragraphs to support analytical claims.
- Students will demonstrate the ability in informal and formal writing contexts to express ideas using concise and rhetorically appropriate academic English.
- Students will demonstrate the ability to produce a thesis-driven essay that analyzes text in relation to larger “real world” questions of social, cultural, or thematic significance.

- As a writing-intensive XIDS class, the writing exercises will foster both individual exploration of ideas, analytical critical questions, cultural or historical contexts, and ultimately thesis-driven argument. Writing assignments will build on each other and will engage students in discussion of the characteristics of visual media, written text and the construction of performances.

### **Course Theme and Expectations:**

During the semester we will investigate, as a class, how the concept of crime and publicity can be used to develop analytical and argumentative skills, as well as how it can comment on a multitude of important cultural issues and human experiences. How do we conceive of “crime”? How has it evolved? How do we engage with it as a public and what responsibility do we have as consumers of crime? For this reason, I expect each student to read/watch/listen to the assigned material with this theme in mind because our goal for the semester is not the study of plot, but rather the investigation of context. Each student is responsible for taking notes while engaging with the texts. I suggest that every student utilize post-it notes or some other marking tool while engaged in reading/viewing/listening.

### **Specific Course Requirements:**

Assignments:

- (1) Short two paragraph writing assignment, description and analysis of scenes. 15%
- (2) Short essay (2 pages). 20%
- (3) Analytical essay (3 pages) of thesis-driven argument about the film. This essay will include reference to secondary readings from the course that support analysis of primary texts and contexts. 25%
- (4) Final creative group project: students will develop a creative project at the end of the semester on a topic of their choosing that is related to the course content and which in some way provides a contemporary analogy to ideas generated by the course. Specific guidelines for this assignment are listed on courseden. 25%
- (5) Course Participation (attendance, group workshops, quizzes, daily work, in-class writing, creative project progress) 15%

\*Your participation grade will be based on attendance, daily works, quizzes, and class behavior.

### **Grading Summary with the Letter to Numeric Scale:**

**Out-of-Class Essay:** A+=98%; A=95%; A-=92%; B+=88%; B=85%; B-=82%; C+=78%; C=75%; C-=72%; D+=68%; D=65%; D-=62%; F=50%

Out-of-Class Essay Rubric available on CourseDen.

**Title IX Reporting:** As of July 1, all faculty and staff at public universities in Georgia became mandatory reporters for sexual assault. We are required to report any incidences of sexual assault, and we are not allowed to maintain the information in confidence with the student. You are encouraged to report any instances of sexual assault. Here is the form to do so. What this means is that I cannot guarantee confidentiality if you come to me and tell me about an instance of sexual misconduct. I must report. However, the following locations and individuals can offer confidential support, and I strongly encourage you to talk to them. I can help you contact these places, too.

UNIVERSITY POLICE 678-839- 6000

(96000 on campus) (This one is not confidential, but you should have it)

HEALTH SERVICES 678-839- 6452  
PATIENT /VICTIM ADVOCATES 678-839- 0641;  
COUNSELING CENTER Counseling Center  
Location: 123 Row Hall  
Office Hours: Monday-Friday, 8:00 AM-5:00PM  
Tel: (678) 839-6428 (after hours call UWG Police)  
Email: [counseling@westga.edu](mailto:counseling@westga.edu)  
678-839- 5338  
(after hours 678-839- 6000)

**Late Add, Late Drop, and Reinstatement** periods are no longer available. Students who wish to add or drop courses must do so during the scheduled Add and Drop periods. There is no Reinstatement period for students whose schedules are dropped. Withdrawal "W" period begins for *Full Term (non-eCore)-16 week courses*. Relevant dates are included on the syllabus.

**HB 280:** Georgia House Bill 280 - commonly known as "campus carry" - will take effect July 1. A committee of faculty, staff and administrative representatives is developing a strategy that will ensure UWG complies with the law.

The University System of Georgia (USG) has provided guidance to its institutions on how to implement the legislation. Students, faculty and staff should not attempt to monitor or enforce the statute. Only law enforcement personnel will be responsible for doing so. If you have questions or concerns, please contact UWG's general counsel or university police.

For more information on HB 280, please [visit the USG website](#).

### **Checking for Dual-Enrolled High School Students:**

It is the responsibility of concealed weapons license holders to comply to the provisions of H.B. 280. Under the law, weapons cannot be carried in rooms where high school students enrolled in classes are present.

UWG has created a process that allows license holders to quickly check if high school students are enrolled in classes in certain rooms at certain times. To access the process, log on to myUWG with a valid user ID and password at [myuwg.westga.edu](http://myuwg.westga.edu) and select the BanWeb tab. This will bring up the main menu. From there...

- Click on "Campus Carry";
- Click on "USG House Bill 280 Guidance" for the USG guidance on the bill;
- Click on "UWG Campus Carry" for the UWG website for campus carry information;
- Click on "Schedule Information for License-holders" for a detailed schedule showing whether high school students are enrolled in each of the courses on a student's or faculty member's schedule; and
- View the "High School Students Enrolled" column for information. If the column includes a "Y," high school students are enrolled. If it contains an "N," high school students are not enrolled.

Please note, this does not indicate whether license holders can carry into a classroom. It simply denotes whether a high school student is enrolled in a class in that particular room at the time denoted. For example, if there is an "N" in the column for a specific classroom, but the class is in the coliseum, license holders cannot carry in that classroom because carrying concealed weapons is never allowed in the coliseum. Again, it is up to license holders to determine where they can carry concealed weapons.

For more information from Campus Police regarding HB 280, please refer to the following page:

<https://www.westga.edu/police/campus-carry.php>.

## **ACADEMIC SUPPORT**

**Americans with Disabilities Act:** I pledge to do my best to work with the university to provide all students with equal access to my classes and materials, regardless of special needs, temporary or permanent disability, special needs related to pregnancy, etc.

If you have any special learning needs, particularly (but not limited to) needs defined under the Americans with Disabilities Act, and require specific accommodations, please do not hesitate to make these known to me, either yourself or through Accessibility Services in 272 Parker Hall.

Students with documented special needs may expect accommodation in relation to classroom accessibility, modification of testing, special test administration, etc. This is not only my personal commitment: it is your right, and it is the law! For more information, please contact Accessibility Services at the University of West Georgia.

**Accessibility Services:** Students with a documented disability may work with UWG Accessibility Services to receive essential services specific to their disability. All entitlements to accommodations are based on documentation and USG Board of Regents standards. If a student needs course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability or chronic illness, or if he/she needs to make special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, the student should notify his/her instructor in writing and provide a copy of his/her Student Accommodations Report (SAR), which is available only from Accessibility Services. Faculty cannot offer accommodations without timely receipt of the SAR; further, no retroactive accommodations will be given. For more information, please contact Accessibility Services.

The **Center for Academic Success**, located on the second floor of the UCC, provides free services for you. Peer Tutoring appointments are available for the core curriculum courses, Supplemental Instruction is offered in over 70 course sections, and Academic Coaching is available for any student seeking to become a more skilled and confident learner. Please visit their website [westga.edu/cas](http://westga.edu/cas), call 678-839-6280, or stop by the front desk in the UCC to make an appointment or learn more.

**University Writing Center:** The University Writing Center assists students with all areas of the writing process. For more information, contact them: 678-839-6513 or [writing@westga.edu](mailto:writing@westga.edu)

**Library Instruction Sessions:** Students enrolled in 1000-/2000-level courses, inexperienced researchers, and students needing refresher classes in basic research are strongly encouraged to sign-up for the basic library instruction sessions and online research sessions. Please visit the links below for further information and scheduling:

Online Research: <http://www.usg.edu/galileo/skills/>

Basic Library Instruction: <http://www.westga.edu/~library/nav/stuinstruct.shtml>

**SmarThinking** provides online tutoring services and other resources free to UWG's learners who may not otherwise be able to take advantage of the same services offered on campus. Smarthinking is available from each student's CourseDen homepage.

## **HONOR CODE**

At the University of West Georgia, we believe that academic and personal integrity are based upon honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility. Students at West Georgia assume responsibility for upholding the honor code. West Georgia students pledge to refrain from engaging in acts that do not maintain academic and personal integrity. These include, but are not limited to, plagiarism, cheating, fabrication, aid of academic dishonesty, lying, bribery or threats, and stealing.

The University of West Georgia maintains and monitors a confidential Academic Dishonesty Tracking System. This database collects and reports patterns of repeated student violations across all the Colleges, the Ingram Library, and the School of Nursing. Each incidence of academic dishonesty is subject to review and consideration by the instructor, and is subject to a range of academic penalties including, but not limited to, failing the assignment and/or failing the course. Student conduct sanctions range from verbal warning to suspension or expulsion depending on the magnitude of the offense and/or number of offenses. The incident becomes part of the student's conduct record at UWG.

Additionally, the student is responsible for safeguarding his/her computer account. The student's account and network connection are for his/her individual use. A computer account is to be used only by the person to whom it has been issued. The student is responsible for all actions originating through his/her account or network connection. Students must not impersonate others or misrepresent or conceal their identities in electronic messages and actions. For more information on the University of West Georgia Honor Code, please see the Student Handbook.

## **Excessive Collaboration**

Students should demonstrate the ability to produce *independent writing* (writing without collaborative assistance of peers, writing tutors, or professionals in the field) that shows an acceptable level of competence. Although classroom activities and out-of-class assignments may highlight collaborative learning and collaborative research, *excessive collaboration* (collaboration that results in the loss of a student's voice/style and original claims to course-related work) is considered another form of academic dishonesty and therefore will not be permitted.

**Plagiarism – on any assignment, large or small – will result in failure of the assignment and could result in failure of the course. Lack of dishonest intent is not an acceptable excuse for plagiarism. Confusion over the definition of plagiarism is not an acceptable excuse for plagiarism. Should you have any questions about what constitutes plagiarism, address these with me and/or the Writing Center. Do not make assumptions and do not take risks. It is not worth it.**

## **COURSE POLICIES**

**Attendance:** For classes that meet twice a week, a student is allowed three absences. Arriving late for class counts as 1/2 an absence. **After the third absence, the professor reserves the right to give the student an F for the course. Be aware that no distinction exists between excused and unexcused absences.**

### **Office Hours Policy**

I am more than happy to meet with you during office hours. If you are unable to meet with me during the posted hours, feel free to email me to schedule an appointment. But, if you do schedule an appointment, please make sure to show up. If, for whatever reason, you cannot make your appointment, please email me at least one hour before the scheduled time. If you fail to show up for your appointment without giving me the one hour notice, this constitutes a “noshow.” After two “noshows,” you will be banned from making further appointments with me. Being banned from making appointments does not mean you may not come to regular office hours or speak with me both before and after class.

**Department Paperless Policy:** As of Fall 2006, the English Department implemented a “paperless” policy in its classrooms. Therefore, all materials (handouts, assignment sheets, notes, etc.) will be made available online. Students may print these necessary course documents, including the syllabus, on their home computers.

**Disruptive Behavior Policy:** Students will be dismissed from any class meeting during which they exhibit behavior that disrupts the learning environment of others. Such behavior includes—but is not limited to—arriving late for class, allowing cell phones to ring, rude actions or behavior, speaking disrespectfully to the instructor and/or to other students, texting, checking email or surfing the web, and using personal audio or video devices. Each dismissal of this kind will count as an absence and will be applied toward the attendance requirements policy above. This means the student will receive **an automatic 0** regardless of class performance.

**Credit Hour Policy:** The University of West Georgia grants one semester hour of credit for work equivalent to a minimum of one hour (50 minutes) of in-class or other direct faculty instruction AND two hours of student work outside of class per week for approximately fifteen weeks. For each course, the course syllabus will document the amount of in-class (or other direct faculty instruction) and out-of-class work required to earn the credit hour(s) assigned to the course. Out-of-class work will include all forms of credit-bearing activity, including but not limited to assignments, readings, observations, and musical practice. Where available, the university grants academic credit for students who verify via competency-based testing, that they have accomplished the learning outcomes associated with a course that would normally meet the requirements outlined above (e.g. AP credit, CLEP, and departmental exams).

**MLA Documentation Policy:** The department expects that students learn to cite sources accurately in the MLA style for documentation.

**Extra Credit Policy:** There will be no extra credit assignments in this class. Grades are earned by the **quality** of your work, not how much you do. There may be opportunities for revision, which will be announced in class.

**Late Work and Extension Policy:** There will be a 10 point deduction for every day the paper is late (a paper is considered “late” once the specified time has passed on the day the paper is due. e.g. if a paper is due at **11:59pm on 8/24, it is late at 12:01am on 8/25**). Additionally, I will not—under any circumstances—grade papers that are more than **three days late**. If you are unable to turn in your paper on the day it is due, (for example, in the case of an emergency that arises suddenly) you should email me your paper as soon as possible. In certain instances, a student may be granted an extension

period to complete the assignment. These instances must constitute an emergency and the student must discuss the extension period with me at least 24 hours **BEFORE** the assignment is due.

**Make-up Work Policy:** A documented illness or family emergency are the circumstances by which I will exempt you from quizzes or homework. Otherwise, quizzes and homework cannot be made up.

**Recycled Papers:** I will not accept recycled papers (papers written for another class) in any form for any reason. Each essay assignment will be uniquely designed for this course and for this reason; it is unlikely that any essay previously written by the student will adhere to the specific guidelines of the essay prompts.

**Student-Professor E-mail Correspondence:** University of West Georgia students are provided a MyUWG e-mail account. The University considers this account to be an official means of communication between the University and the student. The purpose of the official use of the student e-mail account is to provide an effective means of communicating important university related information to UWG students in a timely manner. It is the student's responsibility to check his or her email.

You are welcome to e-mail me with questions, but please do not abuse this privilege (e.g. re-sending thesis statements multiple times with changes made according to my suggestions). At a certain point, this becomes excessive collaboration. Likewise, do not send e-mails asking questions that I have covered in class or that you can find on your own (due dates, course policies, etc.). Should you miss class, it is your responsibility to find out what work you missed (by consulting the online syllabus/handouts) and to get the notes from a classmate.

I also ask that you observe standard grammar and punctuation rules when e-mailing me or any other professor. **DO NOT** send e-mails that are in "text speak." This is not an appropriate form of communication outside the realm of sending an actual text. And, even then, we can do better.

I will respond to emails within 24 business hours of receiving them. Although I will sometimes reply after hours and over the weekend, I reserve the right to not respond to emails after 5pm and on Saturdays and Sundays.

\*Note: All student-professor e-mail correspondence must take place via your my.westga.edu account. If you need to reach me outside of class and/or office hours, e-mail is the most efficient way to do so. **Also, please be aware that I cannot communicate with your parents;** should you have concerns about your progress in the course or any other issues that arise, you should address them with me personally.

**Syllabus:** This syllabus serves as the contract for the class; if you are enrolled in the course, then it is understood that you will comply with the criteria set forth on this syllabus, as will I. The guidelines, expectations, and grading criteria are clearly outlined here, and these will govern the structure of the class. You should print off a copy of the calendar section of the syllabus and bring it to class with you every day, so that you may make note of any changes as they occur.

### **Reading and Assignment Schedule, Important Dates**

\*All reading assignments are due for the class meeting in which they appear.

\*Numbers in parentheses indicate the page number of the assigned reading; Numbers in **bold** indicate the approximate length of the reading so you can manage your time accordingly.

\*All homework is due to CourseDen **before** class. (Look in the “Homework Assignments” folder in each unit.) Be sure to check due dates (some assignments are due on the weekends).

\*Any homework due to **Turnitin** is due before class (all work due to Turnitin has been **bolded** on the syllabus)

**Week 1**

T 1/9

Reading Due	Homework Due	In-class
		<i>First Day of Class: Hand out Syllabus, Class Introductions</i>

W 1/10 Open drop ends at 11:59 p.m. No dropping classes with a refund after this date and time.

R 1/11 Open add ends at 11:59 p.m.

R 1/11

Reading Due	Homework Due	In-class
“Should the Coverage Fit the Crime?” (on CourseDen) pgs. 8-15; read “Mise-en-scène” and “Camera Angles” (on CourseDen)		Discussion “Why Do We Care About Crime”; analysis practice

**Week 2**

T 1/16

Reading Due	Homework Due	In-class
Assignment #1 Prompt (on CourseDen)		Watch <i>The People vs. OJ Simpson</i> : “The Dream Team”

R 1/18

Reading Due	Homework Due	In-class
Read “Analysis” (on CourseDen)		Discussion

**Week 3**

T 1/23

Reading Due	Homework Due	In-class
Read “3 I’d Monster” (on CourseDen)		Watch <i>The People vs. OJ Simpson</i> : “100% Not Guilty”

R 1/25

Reading Due	Homework Due	In-class
Read “ <u>Thesis Statements</u> ” (on CourseDen)		Discussion

**Week 4**

T 1/30

Reading Due	Homework Due	In-class
		Watch <i>The People vs. OJ Simpson</i> : “Marcia, Marcia, Marcia”

R 2/1

Reading Due	Homework Due	In-class
		Discussion

**Week 5**

T 2/6

Reading Due	Homework Due	In-class
		Writing workshop

R 2/8

Reading Due	Homework Due	In-class
		Student directed day, discussion, writing assignment needs

**F 2/9 Assignment #1 due to Turnitin by 11:59pm**

**Week 6**

T 2/13

Reading Due	Homework Due	In-class
Assignment #2 Prompt (on CourseDen); Read <a href="#">Analyzing a Documentary's Strengths and Weaknesses</a> (also on CourseDen)		Begin <i>Paradise Lost: The Child Murders at Robin Hood Hills</i>

R 2/15

Reading Due	Homework Due	In-class
		<i>Paradise Lost: The Child Murders at Robin Hood Hills</i>

**Week 7**

T 2/20

Reading Due	Homework Due	In-class
		Finish <i>Paradise Lost: The Child Murders at Robin Hood Hills</i> ; discussion

R 2/22

Reading Due	Homework Due	In-class
		discussion

**Week 8**

T 2/27

Reading Due	Homework Due	In-class
		Discussion; Writing workshop

**W 2/28 Last day to withdraw with a W. Withdrawals after this date will result in a grade of WF.**

R 3/1

Reading Due	Homework Due	In-class
		Student directed day, discussion, writing assignment needs

**F 3/2 Assignment #2 due to Turnitin by 11:59pm**

S Last day to withdraw with a grade of W. Students withdrawing from full term courses after midnight will be awarded a grade of WF. Note: A WF grade is calculated as an F in the gpa.

**Week 9**

T 3/6

Reading Due	Homework Due	In-class
Assignment #3 Prompt (on CourseDen)		Begin <i>Gone Girl</i>

R 3/8

Reading Due	Homework Due	In-class
		<i>Gone Girl</i>

**Week 10**

T 3/13

Reading Due	Homework Due	In-class
Read “Thesis Statements for Film” and “Close Reading Handout” on CourseDen		Finish <i>Gone Girl</i> ; discussion

R 3/15

Reading Due	Homework Due	In-class
		discussion

**Week 11**

T 3/20 Spring Break

Reading Due	Homework Due	In-class

R 3/22 Spring Break

Reading Due	Homework Due	In-class

**Week 12**

T 3/27

Reading Due	Homework Due	In-class
		Writing workshop; discussion

R 3/29

Reading Due	Homework Due	In-class
		Peer Review Day – please bring a full working draft to class

**F 3/30 Assignment #3 due to Turnitin by 11:59pm**

**Week 13**

T 4/3

Reading Due	Homework Due	In-class
Final Project Prompt (on CourseDen)		Final projects introduction, revision opportunities

R 4/5

Reading Due	Homework Due	In-class
	Brainstorm informal potential project ideas (due to CourseDen discussion board Wednesday, 4/4, by 5pm)	Work on final projects; decide on groups

**Week 14**

T 4/10

Reading Due	Homework Due	In-class
		Work on final projects; Sign up for Presentation Day

R 4/12 Writing Day--Class Will Not Meet

Reading Due	Homework Due	In-class
		No Formal Class Meeting

**Week 15**

T 4/17

Reading Due	Homework Due	In-class
		Final Projects

R 4/19

Reading Due	Homework Due	In-class
		Final Projects

**Week 16**

T 4/24

Reading Due	Homework Due	In-class
		Final Projects; Evaluations

R 4/26

Reading Due	Homework Due	In-class
		Final Projects, if needed