



# **Sacred Heart University**

## **CJ-299-A (1127) Tales from Death Row**

**Fall 2021**

### **Course Details:**

<b>Instructor Name</b>	<b>Angela S Murolo</b>
<b>Email</b>	<b>muroloa@sacredheart.edu</b>
<b>Office Location</b>	<b>HC-212-A</b>
<b>Office Phone</b>	<b>203-371-7999</b>
<b>Office Hours</b>	<b>W, TH 10am-12pm, W 2-5pm</b>
	<b>M,TH- 2:00-3:15</b>
<b>Class Location</b>	<b>Humanities 103</b>
<b>Course Credit Hours</b>	<b>3</b>

### **Course Basics and Technology:**

This class meets in person. The syllabus and PowerPoint slides and other course materials for this course can be accessed via Blackboard.

All written assignments and tests are available and submitted via Blackboard. All material for this course will be posted to blackboard.

\*\*Note- assignments will be posted and graded on Blackboard. However, they will not be “weighed” until the end of the semester. Therefore, it is up to you to calculate your grade based on the percentages provided below.

### **Course Description and Purpose:**

This course reviews readings by and about people on death row. The aim of this class is to increase understanding of the death penalty, and the people who serve death sentences.

### **Required Materials:**

Anthony Ray Hinton. The Sun Does Shine. St. Martin's Press. ISBN 9781250205797 (required)

Tessie Castillo. Crimson Letters Voices from death row. 9781684334445 (required)

Raul Cortez. Rescued and Restored: The memoirs of a death row inmate. ISBN 9788793987418 (required)

Rev. Earl Smith. Death Row Chaplain Unbelievable true stories from America's most notorious prison. Howard Books. ISBN 9781476777771 (required)

David Sheff. The Buddhist on Death Row How one man found light in the darkest place. Simon and Schuster. ISBN 9781982143152 (required)

## **Student Learning Objectives/Outcomes:**

Learning Objective/Outcome
1. An increased knowledge the death penalty.
2. An increased understanding of demographic and societal factors that influence the use of the death penalty and false convictions.
3. An increased understanding of the people who serve death sentences.

## **Student Expectations (Assignments):**

### 1) Attendance & Participation

Participation and attendance are required and mandatory, as they count toward your grade.

In the event you cannot attend class you are responsible for notifying the Instructor and making up any missed work.

### 2) Reading Material & Questions

Readings are assigned for every class. Students are expecting to have the read the material before class to understand the material being presented. Readings will be assigned with questions to engage and ensure understanding.

### 3) Reflection Writings/Content Analysis

Students will write and submit a 3-page minimum summary/content analysis for EACH book read this semester.

Your writing should contain a summary of the book, what stood out for you as relevant or interesting and why. Your paper should also contain a content analysis which will be explained this semester.

### 4) Book Presentation 1-5

There will be book presentations of all books. Students, in groups will present a summary of the chapter and conduct a class discussion of the material. It is expected that all students will read the book and participate in both the presentation and discussion. If you miss your portion of the class presentation, it is your responsibility to discuss a make-up option with me.

### 6) Class Activity- Introduction to Content Analysis

We will do a content analysis as a class in class to increase understanding of this research method and its application to the assignments this semester.

## 7) Final Paper

There will be a final paper that will culminate with a content analysis of all 5 books. This will be discussed further over the course of the semester.

## **Student Expectations (Classroom behavior):**

Students are expected to be respectful of other student's ideas and contributions to the class. Cell phones should be on silent or vibrate. If you need to take a call, step out of the classroom in order not to disrupt others. Laptops are permitted for taking notes, not surfing the web! If the use of your computer becomes a distraction to you and the other students, I will ask you to shut it off. If your behavior is disruptive to myself or others, I will ask you to leave the class.

**Studies show students engaging in laptop use in the classroom have lower grades compared to those who do not engage in laptop use.**

<https://www.ilr.cornell.edu/sites/ilr.cornell.edu/files/CHERI%20WP173.pdf>

Assignments (Homework, Reflection Papers, Final Paper) Are BlackBoard Submission Only

Do not talk over myself or others! If I am lecturing, I expect you to be listening/taking notes. If your classmate is talking you should not be speaking over them. Manners Matter!

If we are having rapid fire discussion, feel free to jump in respectfully.

Attendance will be taken at the start of class. If you are late, it is YOUR responsibility to let me know you are in class. If you show up for class 30 minutes late or more (excessively late), I will not mark you present!

**Class presentation and participation is an important part of the class.** If you can't present your information to the class, you will lose significant points towards the final grade.

**Freedom of Expression:** Diverse perspectives are welcome and an important and memorable part of the college experience. It is important that this is done respectfully. Name calling or aggressive language will not be tolerated.

## **Addressing the Professor:**

Professor, Instructor, Mrs., Ms. Murolo, Murolo, Professor M are all acceptable ways to address me. My first name is not acceptable.

## **Academic Integrity:**

All university programs and courses adhere fully to the University Policy on Academic Honesty, as stated in the Undergraduate and Graduate Catalog and on the Sacred Heart University Web Page. Academic dishonesty (e.g., cheating, plagiarism, and other unethical behavior) will result in a grade of F for the course.

Assignments will be checked for originality. Meaning, is your assignment plagiarized, copy and pasted or similar in structure to your classmate's work? All assignments are to be done independently unless otherwise stated.

Plagiarism is the representation, intentional or unintentional, of someone else's words or ideas as one's own.

Since words in print are the property of an author or publisher, plagiarizing is a form of larceny punishable by fine.

When using another person's words in a paper, students must place them within quotation marks or clearly set them off in the text and give them appropriate footnoting.

When students use only the ideas and change the words, they must clearly identify the source of the ideas.

If students have any questions about what constitutes plagiarism, it is their responsibility to clarify the matter by conferring with the instructor.

## **Policy on make-up or late work:**

**Late Assignments-** Assignments turned in within one week of due date will be accepted with no points off. However, if assignments are more than 1 week late will lose 5 points for every week late. Meaning, if assignment is Due March 1 and is turned in March 6 you will not lose any points, but if you turn in the same assignment on March 15, you will lose 10 points (5 point deductions for each late week)

## **Course Grades and Student Support:**

*Please read this section carefully.*

Provide detailed information on your course grades and available student supports. The university DEI, OSA and JLC information are standard text that should be included in all syllabi as provided. The Academic Integrity statement may be tweaked as necessary to meet specific program requirements.

## Grades:

*Final grades will be determined by student performance according to the following:*

Course Component	Percentage
Book 1-5 Presentations	35%
Book 1-5 Content Analyses	40%
Intro. to content analysis class assignment	5%
Final Paper	15%
Attendance	5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>

The final letter grade is assigned as follows in accordance with university policy:

Grade	Percentage
A	93-100
A-	90-92
B+	87-89
B	83-86
B-	80-82
C+	77-79
C	73-76
C-	70-72
D+	67-69
D	60-66
F	0-59

## Diversity and Inclusion Statement:

Sacred Heart affirms and strives to make available for every student a learning environment that is welcoming, equitable, and culturally sensitive and is supported by a curriculum that celebrates diverse voices, fosters agency, and encourages the capacity for self-advocacy. Although we at SHU know there is much work to be done, we will do what is needed to advance the cause of social justice on our campus and in the community as we learn together and from each other. To read more, visit the [You Belong at SHU web page](#).

## **Office of Student Accessibility:**

Sacred Heart University is committed to providing an equal educational opportunity for all students. [The Office of Student Accessibility \(OSA\)](#) provides reasonable accommodations for students who disclose accessibility needs. For further information about requesting reasonable accommodations, please contact [accessibility@sacredheart.edu](mailto:accessibility@sacredheart.edu). Students must keep in mind that accommodations are not retroactive. Students are encouraged to discuss provided reasonable accommodations with instructors. All information shared with the OSA and instructors is confidential.

## **The Jandrisevits Learning Center:**

The Jandrisevits Learning Center is located on West Campus and online, offering robust tutoring supports for all students at Sacred Heart University. Additional information on this free support service for students may be [found on the JLC website](#). The University encourages all students to proactively seek tutoring support.

## **Assignments and Important Dates:**

See calendar below for due dates.

## **Tentative Course Calendar:**

This Schedule is subject to change based on the completion of course material and student progress

\*\*It is up to you to adapt/adjust to the schedule- especially presentations- be prepared

Week	Dates	Topic	Assignments/Activities Due (All due dates are 11:59pm ET)
1	Aug. 30-Sept. 3	M- Introduction/Review of syllabus TH- Who is sentenced to death?	Survey
2	Sept. 6-10	M-Labor Day no class TH-Methods of Execution Leadings up to execution/Last meals	Sign up for book presentation1
3	Sept. 13-17	Introduction to Content Analysis	Monday- Introduction to content analysis The Sun Does Shine
4	Sept. 20-24		The Sun does Shine Presentations

Week	Dates	Topic	Assignments/Activities Due
			(All due dates are 11:59pm ET)
5	Sept. 21- Oct.1	Criminological factors- crime committed/prosecution/sentencing/ DNA/eyewitness identification	Content Analysis 1 Due Sign up for book presentation 2
6	Oct.4- 8		Crimson Letters Voices from death row presentations
7	Oct. 11-15		Crimson Letters Voices from death row presentations Sign up for book presentation 3
8	Oct. 18-22	Legal Processes (appeals, mental health, disability, juvenile status)	Content Analysis 2 Due Rescued and Restored: The memoirs of a death row inmate Presentations
9	Oct.25-29		Rescued and Restored: The memoirs of a death row inmate Presentations
10	Nov. 1-5	Coping and resiliency/ last meals	Content Analysis 3 Due Sign up for book presentation 4
11	Nov.6-12		The Buddhist on Death Row How one man found light in the darkest place Presentations
12	Nov. 15-19		The Buddhist on Death Row How one man found light in the darkest place Presentations Sign up for book presentation 5
13	Nov.22-26	M- Final Paper Discussion	Content Analysis 4 Due Death Row Chaplain: Unbelievable true stories from America's most notorious prison Presentations
14	Nov.29- Dec.3		Death Row Chaplain Unbelievable true stories from America's most notorious prison.
15	Dec. 6 (Last day of classes)		Content Analysis 5 Due
16	Dec 7-11	Final Exams	Final Paper Due TBD