

CCJS 461: Psychology of Criminal Behavior
Fall 2007
Monday/Wednesday, 9:30am -10:45am
Professor: Robin Shusko

Course Description:

This course approaches the understanding of delinquent and criminal behavior from a developmental, cognitive-behavioral, and psychological perspective. Viewing the juvenile and adult offender as being embedded and continually influenced by multiple systems, the course examines the risk and protective factors that are believed to influence the developmental pathways on the road to delinquency and crime. The behavioral, emotional and cognitive aspects of crime are examined, focusing primarily on the offender but occasionally on the victim as well.

Required Text:

Bartol, Curt R. and Anne M. Bartol, *Criminal Behavior, A Psychosocial Approach* 8th Ed. (Prentice Hall, 2008)

*occasional handouts/articles or additional readings may be assigned in class

The class will consist of lectures, classroom discussion/activities, visual aides, and guest speakers. Students are responsible for all information presented in class as well as any information in the text unless otherwise noted. All readings should be completed prior to the scheduled class. Students are expected to arrive on time for every class, and are expected to be prepared for the lesson (this includes actively participating in class discussions). Should there be a pattern of chronic late arrivals and/or failure to complete reading assignments, closed book, unannounced quizzes may be given.

Grading Criteria:

Mid-Term Exam 25%

Final Exam 25%

Research Paper 25%

Class Participation/Presentation 20%

Exam Reviews/Homework 5%

Examinations:

There will be two examinations. Exams will consist of multiple choice, true/false, short answer, and short essay questions. Unless prior permission is given, all students are required to take the exam on the day it is administered. If prior permission is not obtained, students will receive a "0" for that exam. This instructor is not bound to provide the same exam/format for make-up exams.

Information regarding details of the research paper and the format will be disseminated.

Student Responsibilities:

Regarding assignments and exams, students should always observe the highest standards of academic honesty and integrity. Your academic work should be the result of your efforts, thoughts, and ideas. When writing papers or assignments, you should use an appropriate citation style consistently, indicating exactly where you are quoting, or have been inspired by, the work of others.

Cheating on any assignment or exam will result in the following disciplinary actions:

- (1) "XF" (a cheating F) will be the grade earned for the course, and (2) possible expulsion from the UMCP's B.A. Program in Criminology & Criminal Justice at the Shady Grove Center, effective the following semester. All cases of academic misconduct will be referred to the Student Honor Council at UMCP. Examples of conduct meriting such disciplinary actions include, but are not limited to, the following: (1) cheating on an exam, either with or without assistance of another student or students, (2) submitting as your own work a paper that is either wholly or partially plagiarized, such as purchasing a paper from an internet site or superficially rewriting the work of others without proper citation, or (3) collaborating with fellow students on assignments or take-home exams for which you were instructed to work alone.

Missing a class to participate in a religious observance or to seek medical care constitutes an excused absence. Please inform me in advance, if possible, if you will need to miss a class for such reasons. It remains your responsibility to check with fellow students for class notes.

If a student misses an exam, s/he must produce a documented, valid reason for doing so as soon as possible. I reserve the right to assess a penalty deduction in grading make-up work when the absence is unexcused. The make-up session for a missed exam will be held at a time of my choosing, and the format of the make-up exam may be altered at my discretion.

Should a student need accommodations in the classroom or for assignments/exams due to a verified, documented learning or physical disability, please inform me of your situation immediately, so that proper UMCP documentation and accommodation procedures are followed.

Course Schedule and Reading Assignments:

August 29, 2007 -- Class introduction; review of syllabus and expectations,
Introduction to Criminal Behavior -- Chapter 1

*** Note – There will be no class September 3, 2007 ***

September 5, 2007 -- Reading: Chapter 1
Defining/Measuring Crime, Perspectives on Criminology, Theories of Crime

September 10, 2007 -- Reading: Chapter 2
Risk Factors, Gender Differences, Developmental Theories

September 12, 2007 -- Reading: Chapter 2 continued

September 17, 2007 -- Reading: Chapter 3
Origins of Criminal Behavior, Biological Factors, Environmental risk factors,
Eysenck's Theory of Crime

September 19, 2007 -- Reading: Chapter 3 continued

September 24, 2007 -- Reading: Chapter 4
Origins of Criminal Behavior, Learning and situational factors, Social Learning,
Behaviorism

September 26, 2007 -- Reading: Chapter 4 continued

October 1, 2007 -- Reading: Chapter 5
Human Aggression and Violence, Social and Environmental Factors

October 3, 2007 -- Reading: Chapter 5 continued

October 8, 2007 -- Reading: Chapter 6
Criminal Psychopath, Female and Juvenile Psychopath, Biological Factors

October 10, 2007 -- Reading: Chapter 6 continued

October 15, 2007 -- Reading: Chapter 7
Mental Disorders, Criminal Responsibility, Insanity Standards, Defenses

October 17, 2007 -- Mid-term Review

**** MID-TERM EXAM -- MONDAY OCTOBER 22ND, 2007 ****

October 24, 2007 -- Reading: Chapter 9
Homicide, Assault, Family Violence

October 29, 2007 --Reading: Chapter 9 continued

October 31, 2007 -- Reading: Chapter 10
Multiple Murder, Profiling, Serial/Mass Murderers, Workplace Violence

November 5, 2007 -- Reading: Chapter 12 and Chapter 13

Sexual Assault, Offender Characteristics, Patterns, Pedophilia, Theories
November 7, 2007 -- Reading: Chapter 12 and 13 continued

November 12, 2007 -- Reading: Chapter 14
Property Crimes

November 14, 2007 -- Reading: Chapter 14 continued

November 19, 2007 -- Reading: Chapter 15
Robbery, Stalking, Arson

November 21, 2007 -- Reading: Chapter 16
Substance Abuse, Alcohol, Juvenile Crime

**** FINAL PAPERS DUE – WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 21st 2007 ****

November 26, 2007 -- Reading: Chapter 17 and Chapter 18 (limited portions of each)
Prevention, Intervention, Treatment, Strategies, Effect of Imprisonment

November 28, 2007 -- Reading: Chapters 17 and 18 continued

December 3, 2007 -- Final exam review and catch up

**** FINAL EXAM – THURSDAY DECEMBER 13th, 2007 11am -1pm ****

**** This instructor reserves the right to alter this schedule as necessary, and will provide ample notice prior to any changes. ****