

CCJ 5930: Crime and Mental Illness
The University of North Florida
College of Arts and Sciences
Department of Criminology & Criminal Justice

Professor: Daniel Pontzer, PhD **Office:** Building 51 Room 2124 **Phone:** (904) 620-2820

Email: d.pontzer@unf.edu **When:** 3:00 pm - 4:15 pm MW **Where:** 45-Fine Arts Center 2403

Office Hours: 12:00 to 1:15 and 4:15 to 5:00 on Monday and Wednesday. Other times may be available upon advanced notification. The best way to contact me is via email.

Required Text: Bartol, Curt and Bartol, Anne (2008) Criminal Behavior: A Psychosocial Perspective. Prentice Hall. ISBN-10: 0-13-239421-9

Catalog Description: This course examines the relationship between various forms of mental illness and crime, especially felony crime. Emphasis will also be placed on the role of the insanity defense on criminal trials involving capital crimes such as homicide and rape. Public opinion regarding the insanity defense will also be considered.

Course Description: This course will cover the behavioral, emotional, and cognitive aspects of crime from the perspective of the offender and sometimes the victim. Various situational factors related to homicide, assault, family violence, sexual crimes, property crime, crimes of intimidation, and substance abuse; and their influence on an individual's psychosocial make-up will be reviewed. Other topics include the relationship between mental disorders and crime, the characteristics of the criminal psychopath, and the treatment of juvenile delinquents and criminals.

Psychologically-oriented career opportunities in the criminal justice field include developing and testing theories; collecting and analyzing data; assessing criminal defendants; formulating social policies; developing effective crime prevention programs; providing treatment for juvenile and adult offenders; evaluating treatment programs; and offering support services to crime victims.

Academic Requirements:

Exams (3 @ 60 points)	180 pts	A=90% or above
Essay Log (5 @ 10 points)	50 pts	B=89%-80%
Term Paper	100 pts	C=79%-70%
PowerPoint Presentation	30 pts	D=69%-60%
Random Assignments	? pts	F =59% or below

Exams: (3 @ 60 pts each for total of 180 pts). Three examinations will be given throughout the semester. The first exam will be given approximately 1/3rd of the way through the semester, the second exam will be given 2/3rds of the way through the semester, and the 3rd will be given during final week. Exams may include a combination of true/false, multiple choice, and short answer questions. Exams will be based on the lectures, text, class discussions, and possibly guest speakers. There will be no make-ups without prior approval or an excused absence from the college. Make sure to bring a Scantron with you on exam day.

Essay Log (10 questions @ 5 pts each for 50 pts). Choose any 10 of the questions below. Put your response to each of the questions on a separate sheet of paper. Bind these sheets of paper together into a folder. Include the question on the top, along with your name, the date, and chapter. Your typed responses should

be at least ½ a sheet of paper long, double spaced, and in 12 point New Roman font. Make sure you completely answer the question. Your weekly essay log is due April 8th.

Ch. 1 Define forensic psychology and describe the areas of psychology included in the term.

Ch. 2 Summarize and explain Terrie Moffit's developmental theory of delinquency and explain the differences between adolescent limited and life course persistent offenders.

Ch.3 Describe Eysenck's theory of criminality and summarize the research support of the theory.

Ch. 4 Describe and discuss the situational factors that can influence criminal behavior. In addition to those mentioned, what others might be identified?

Ch 5 Discuss the various physiological and environmental factors that influence aggression

Ch. 6 How is the psychopath different from the non-psychopath on psychophysiology?

Ch. 7. Describe the requirements of four legal standards for insanity. What do you favor?

Ch. 8 Summarize the research on the relationship between the mentally disordered and violence.

Ch. 9 Define "Battered Woman Syndrome" and discuss the controversy associated with it.

Ch. 10 Identify the relevance of the following psychological terms to criminal homicide: learned helplessness, self-regulatory mechanisms, deindividuation, and obedience to authority.

Ch. 11 Discuss the psychosocial context of terrorism. Which factors and circumstances encourage terrorism to develop?

Ch. 12 Does pornography play a crucial role in sex crimes against women and children? Support your answer with reference to research findings. What should be done?

Ch. 13 Compare and contrast three theories of why certain adult males prefer children for sexual gratification.

Ch. 14 Describe burglary cues and burglar cognitive (decision making) processes.

Ch 15 Choose any two crimes covered in this chapter and discuss the psychological research on the offenders.

Ch 16 Which drug has the strongest association with crime? Describe the drug and its effects. Which one has the weakest, what are the effects of this drug? What other comments do you have?

Ch 17 List and describe the characteristics of successful prevention and treatment programs for juvenile and criminal behavior.

Ch 18 List and describe any five features of prison life that pose challenges to the psychologist providing treatment to prisoners

Term Paper (100 pts): Compose a report on a controversial topic that is important to the criminal justice system from the psychological perspective. The report should be 10 pages, double spaced, and typed. Do not include a cover page. Make sure this report adheres to **APA format**. Begin writing your report by reviewing the different strands of literature that has influenced your thinking about your research topic.

Integrate this information into a summary that paraphrases what is known, theorized, and important. Arrange this information so that it flows well and progresses in a logical fashion. This will be the heart of your paper. Upon completion¹ of this section of the writing process, your understanding of the topic and the direction that you think the report should go in will be more refined. Build on this. Somewhere in your report, address the strengths and weaknesses of the methods that were used to investigate and discover the current knowledge about the topic. The introduction and conclusion of your report should be the last sections that you write. The introduction section should make clear what the purpose of the essay is, the various topics that will be covered (while not being too technical) and why the topic is interesting/important. The conclusion should summarize what was covered in the body of the paper and identify what issues deserve further investigation. Cite your sources, proofread your work, and cover the material into your own words. Do not use run-on sentences or misspell words. Use at least 5 sources. At least 3 sources must be recent (published after 2000 A.D.) and be peer reviewed articles. At least 1 source must be acquired via interlibrary loan (include your library receipt when you turn in your paper). This paper is due on March 25th. For every workday after this date that the paper is late, you lose 5 points.

PowerPoint Presentation (30 pts): Give a PowerPoint presentation about the topic you did your term paper. This presentation should be approximately 35 minutes. PowerPoint presentations will be on April 6th.

Other assignments: There is a strong possibility that you will also be graded on other assignments not mentioned on this syllabus, depending on the events and the progression of the course. You must attend class to be knowledgeable of such assignments.

There will be no make-up Quizzes. Students who are not present at the time of a pop quiz or any other type of in-class assignment will not receive a grade for that assignment, regardless of the reason.

Better Safe than Sorry: For all papers, out-of-class assignments, and graded work returned to you, keep a copy in the unlikely event that I misplace them before grading or my grade file becomes lost or damaged.

Civility Policy: All students will treat each other with respect and dignity. Criminology and Criminal Justice is a discipline in which sensitive material is often covered and it is important that everyone feels comfortable discussing this material. Differing opinions will emerge during this class and it is important that we respect each other even if we do not necessarily agree.

Academic Integrity Policy: You are expected to have read and understood the current issue or the student handbook (published by Student Services) regarding student responsibilities and rights, and the intellectual property policy, for information about procedures and about what constitutes acceptable on-campus behavior.

Students with Disabilities: If a student has a disability that qualifies under the Americans with Disability Act (ADA) and requires accommodations, he/she should contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC) for information on appropriate policies and procedures. Disabilities covered by ADA may include learning, psychiatric, physical disabilities or chronic health disorders. Physical Location: Building 10/Room 1201; Telephone: (904) 620-2769; TTY: (904) 620-2969; Fax: (904) 620-3874.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

The professor reserves the right to change, add, delete, and/or amend any portion of the syllabus at any time during the semester. It is up to you to come to class and be aware of changes that arise, and

¹ A written piece of work is never really ever a completed project; they are works in progress that may be reorganized, tweaked, and improved.

announcements, such as when your exam will be. The days that we will be meeting are listed below.

- Wk 1 Jan, 5th-7th Class Begins
- Wk 2 Jan, 12-15th
Jan, Mon, 19th **Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday**
- Wk 3 Jan, 21st
- Wk 4 Jan, 26-28th
- Wk 5 Feb, 2-4th
- Wk 6 Feb, 9-11th
- Wk 7 Feb, 16-18th
- Wk 8 Feb, 23-25th
- Wk 9 Mar, 2-4th
- Wk 10 Mar, 9-11th
Mon, 16th **Spring Break (16th - 21st)**
- Wk 11 Mar, 23-25th **(Term Paper due)**
- Wk 12 Mar, 30th-Apr, 1st
- Wk 13 Apr, 6-8th **(Graduate Student PowerPoint Presentations Apr 6th) (Log Due Apr 8th)**
- Wk 14 Apr, 15-17th

Apr, 18th - 24th Final Exams