



The Psychology Behind the Criminal Mind
01:202:496
Hybrid Class at Western Monmouth Campus
Tuesday 6-9:55pm, Thursday (online)

Instructor: Dr. Kristen Zgoba

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This hybrid course explores the psychology of crime from a variety of perspectives. The course begins by exploring the different theories that contribute to a clearer understanding of criminal behavior, including the biological, the psychological, and the sociological. The course then moves beyond the theoretical to consider the relationship between mental illness and crime, and it highlights how psychological, social, economic, political and ecological factors all play a role in influencing individual behavior. The class will review the application of legal principles during a discussion on “NGRI or not guilty by reason of insanity). Students will review cases of perpetrators of serial and mass homicide, sexual offending, family homicide and terrorism. The course will discuss the criminal mind on a scale from misdemeanors to violent felonies and the associated mindset of the offender.

HYBRID SCHEDULE

Hybrid classes work in the following manner- a sakai site is set-up for the class and all students who are registered for the class have access to the site (must have your netID and password set-up). Regular class hours are held for the Tuesday class (6-9:55pm) and for the Thursday class, readings and an assignment is posted on the sakai site. Understand that you can still do readings in advance or at your convenience, other than if a deadline is established for a homework assignment. Therefore, it is not necessary to be at your computer on the Thursday during class hours, as long as your assignments and readings are completed (and if necessary, submitted).

COURSE OBJECTIVES

At the completion of this course, students are responsible for:

- 1) An increased knowledge of the criminal justice system
- 2) An increased understanding of the current initiatives in the criminal justice system, and the additional topics that are covered separate from the book.

REQUIRED READINGS- *this book is not optional*

Bartol, C. & Bartol, A. (2011). *Criminal Behavior: A Psychological Approach*, 9th edition. Prentice Hall: Upper Saddle River, NJ. ISBN: 0-13-505050-2

The book is required and is available at the campus bookstore in New Brunswick. Additionally, it can be purchased on the bookstore website, AMAZON and through the Prentice Hall website.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1) Attendance & Participation

Participation and attendance are required and mandatory, as they count toward your grade. An absence will only be excused with the proper documentation and participation will be assessed after each class. Roll will be taken during each class and since it is a summer session and a hybrid, attendance is an absolute must. You are expected to have the material read for the respective class. Failing to provide sufficient answers to posed questions will result in a score of zero for that day's participation. Students are expected to fully participate in the lectures and will be called on regularly. No amendments will be made to grades after the class is complete. Do not ask for extra credit.

2) Reading Material

Readings are assigned for every class. If participation and feedback on readings suffers, pop quizzes will be given sporadically.

3) Newspaper Article Review and Class Presentation

The first grade will be a write-up of a newspaper article and 15 minute presentation dealing with an issue pertinent to the criminal justice system. **MAKE SURE IT IS 15 MINUTES.** If someone presents a newspaper article on something before you, please refrain from choosing a similar article. Hard copy newspaper articles can be searched, as well as outlets like the New York Times and the Washington Post, which would allow you to search by key word. No Wikipedia. The article should be attached to a 1 page type-written write-up. Students should outline the problem or topic in the article and depending on the content, they should offer suggestions, opinions or remedies- **DO NOT SIMPLY REGURGITATE THE ARTICLE.** The class should also pay attention to grammar, spelling and content, as this contributes to your grade. A sign-up sheet will be provided the first class and late assignments will not be accepted. This accounts for 25% of your grade.

4) Mid-Term and Final Exam

The Mid-term exam is scheduled for July 26th, 2011. The final exam is scheduled for August 17th, 2011. Excuses and make-up sessions will not be allowed and/or offered.

COURSE GRADING

Newspaper Article	25.0%
Midterm	37.5%
Final Exam (Online Essay)	37.5%

GRADING SCALE

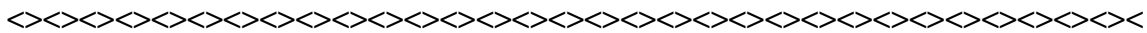
A	100-- 90
B+	89-- 85
B	84-- 80
C+	79-- 75
C	74-- 70
D	69-- 60
F	59 and below

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated and any violation will be reported to the Dean of Students. No excuse will ever be tolerated for academic dishonesty, but it is even more important that students understand the repercussions of this unethical behavior. Academic dishonesty includes cheating, the fabrication or invention of information used in an assignment, plagiarism, facilitating the academic dishonesty of others or denying access to materials and resources.

SUMMER 2011--COURSE SCHEDULE

This calendar of events is subject to change based on the completion of course material and student progress.



7/12/11	Introduction Presentation of the syllabus, readings, requirements and news sign-up sheet. Chapters 1, 2
7/14/11	ONLINE DAY Chapters 3, 4
7/19/11	IN-CLASS DAY Chapters 5, 6 Newspaper articles
7/21/11	ONLINE DAY Chapter 7, 8
7/26/11	MIDTERM EXAM (In-class)
7/28/11	ONLINE DAY Chapter 9, 10
8/2/11	IN-CLASS DAY Chapters 11, 12 Newspaper articles

8/4/11	ONLINE DAY Chapter 13, 14
8/9/11	IN-CLASS DAY Chapters 15, 16 Catch-up Day
8/11/11	FINAL EXAM (Online Essay)