



Instructor: Dr. Kristen Zgoba

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Office Hours: Office hours are by appointment, on an as needed basis. Always contact me at the email above. I check my email every day, with limited access on weekends. Please do not email me about an assignment, before it is due, and expect an immediate response.

Class: Special Topics: Psychology Behind the Criminal Mind, 01:202:496 FALL 2016

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This 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", 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.

A small portion of the course consists of assignments online and group presentations. In addition, there will be links to related readings, websites, and online videos. The online environment offers an additional advantage to the in-class experience by allowing repeated re-viewing of the videos and by enabling student-student interactions through the discussion groups. It is expected that you are familiar with Sakai and if you do not feel that you are, please obtain that skill set.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

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

- 1) An increased knowledge of the criminal justice system and psychology.
- 2) An increased understanding of the current initiatives in the criminal justice system and mental illness and the applicable legal principles.



Learning Goals: A Statement of Principles

The Program Committee for the Program in Criminal Justice at Rutgers University in New Brunswick has adopted a series of learning goals for students who complete the major. These goals represent the consensus of the faculty regarding the concepts a student should grasp and the skills a student should acquire in the course of completing the major.

These goals guide the choices faculty make about the structure of the curriculum and the requirements for our majors. Moreover, they guide faculty and instructors preparing course material and teaching courses.

The Program in Criminal Justice will provide students with a rich understanding of crime and criminal justice in the United States and abroad through an interdisciplinary approach that blends a strong liberal arts educational experience with pre-professional instruction in the field of criminal justice. Graduates of the program will be well-informed citizens on the topic of crime and justice, and qualified for graduate study or for employment as practitioners in a variety of legal, policymaking, and law enforcement fields.

Criminal justice majors graduating from a research university should be able to use critical thinking, factual inquiry, and the scientific approach to solve problems related to individual and group behavior. In addition, students should have an understanding of the legal, political and policymaking processes that affect criminal justice systems in the United States and elsewhere in the world. Finally, students should be familiar with the institutional structures and latest developments in the field in order to engage in meaningful debate about current public policy issues.

Learning Goals for Criminal Justice Majors

1. Competence:

1. a.) Theory. Students who complete the major in criminal justice should understand and be able to articulate, both orally and in writing, the core theoretical concepts that form the foundation of analysis and research in criminology and criminal justice today. Core concepts are derived from explanations of crime from a variety of perspectives, including biogenic, psychological, and sociological approaches. There are myriad theories of crime that are informed by these perspectives, including, classical, control, critical, ecology, labeling, learning, strain, and trait-based approaches. Theoretical literacy should extend to multicultural and international understanding.
2. b.) Institutions. Students who complete the major in criminal justice should understand the special role of three types of institutions: Police, Corrections, and Courts. In addition, students should know how institutional forms vary across jurisdictions and how these institutions interact with and influence each other.
3. c.) Research Methods. Students who complete the criminal justice major should be familiar with the tools, techniques, and data sources necessary for empirical analysis. Students should understand the various ways that empirical analysis is

used in the scientific approach: for description, for developing, and for testing theories. They should be able to analyze data using computer applications and should be familiar with basic statistical techniques and regression analysis. They should be able to read and assess research from a wide range of sources, including general interest, academic, and government publications.

2. Critical Thinking:

Upon completion of the major students should be able to apply their understanding of core concepts and quantitative tools to analyze and research real world problems, and evaluate alternative policy proposals on a range of criminal justice issues, from micro-level analyses relevant to particular cases to management concerns to macro-level analyses of legislative and other broad-scale policies. Accomplishment of this goal will require that students can apply their literacy and numeracy skills to different institutional structures, within the U.S. and across countries.

3. Scholarship:

Qualified majors should have an opportunity through such avenues as advanced coursework, internships, and faculty interactions to conduct independent research on matters of central relevance to the field of criminal justice.

REQUIRED READING (Books are not optional and are very inexpensive). YOU WILL NEED THESE BOOKS BY THE SECOND WEEK.

- 1) "Inside the Criminal Mind, Revised and Updated Edition". 2012. Author Stanton Samenow. ISBN 9780307394101
- 2) "Criminal Psychology: A Beginner's Guide". 2009. Authors Bull, Bilby, Cooke & Grant. ISBN 1851687076

COURSE STRUCTURE AND EXPECTATIONS

1) Attendance & Participation

Participation and attendance are required and mandatory, as they accrue toward your grade. Since this is a double-period class, absences will only be excused with the proper documentation and participation will be assessed after each class. Roll will be taken during each class. 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. Additionally, approximately every other week there is an online discussion post/assignment that students must contribute to with a minimum of 500 words. We will discuss this the first day of class and it will run through sakai (it will be graded), you therefore need to make yourself familiar with sakai. The first assignment will be the second week of class.

2) Reading Material

Readings are assigned for every Tuesday class, in most cases it will be from the textbook (See schedule at end of syllabus). If participation and feedback on readings suffers, pop quizzes will be given sporadically. Supplemental articles or links on sakai will also be posted for specific class sessions. In the rare event that an article is listed for reading and is not provided, you are responsible for obtaining it through the Rutgers online library system. There will also be instances when the class will be expected to read posted newspaper articles and watch videos.

3) Exams

There will be two exams for this class- they will occur at the midpoint and end of the class. Exams will be non-cumulative and essay format. Excuses and make-up sessions will not generally be allowed and will only be provided for exigent circumstances. There will be no exam review

beyond what we do during our normal lecture and I will not provide any power point slides to students.

4) Debate Team Presentation

There will be a sign-up sheet circulated with approximately 5 or 6 teams under different subjects and dates. Each team will be comprised of approximately 5 or 6 people. The purpose is to separate your group into half advocates and half opponents to the topic. You will be expected to present before the class for between 15 and 20 minutes and equally argue both sides of the topic. This means you must be thoroughly prepared and rehearsed as each person must know their argument. You may use power point slides if you choose. You will be expected to turn in a minimum of three page type written report for the presentation, along with all references and resources used. You must comply to APA guidelines. Look them up if you do not know them. You will all receive the same grade, so you must report immediately if a student is not actively participating in the distribution of work. Keep me involved.

COURSE GRADING

- Exam 1 30%
- Exam 2 30%
- Participation and online posts 15%
- Debate Team Presentation 25%

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.

FALL 2016 CLASS SCHEDULE	
Week 1- 9/6/16	Chapter 1, Samenow- "The Basic Myths About Criminals" Chapter 1, Bull et. al, "Criminal Psychologists" Introductions Review of Syllabus Review of Sakai
Week 2 – 9/13/16	Chapter 2, Samenow- "Parents Don't Turn Children into Criminals" Chapter 2, Bull et. al, "Offender Profiling and Linking Crime" Weekly Assignment- check under Assignment 2 Tab
Week 3- 9/20/16	Chapter 3, Samenow- "Peer Pressure No Excuse for Crime" Chapter 3, Bull et. al, "Policing"
Week 4- 9/27/16	Chapter 4, Samenow- "The Hell with School" Chapter 4, Bull et. al, "Interviewing Suspects" Weekly Assignment- check under Assignment 2 Tab
Week 5- 10/4/16	Chapter 5, Samenow- "Work and the Criminal" Chapter 5, Bull et. al, "Detective Deception"
Week 6- 10/11/16	Chapter 6, Samenow- "People as Pawns" Chapter 6, Bull et. al, "Eye-witness Testimony"

	Weekly Assignment- check under Assignment 2 Tab
Week 7- 10/18/16	Chapter 7, Samenow- "Ultimate Control- Crimes of Violence" Chapter 7, Bull et. al, "Forensic Linguistics"
Week 8- 10/25/16	MIDTERM EXAM WEEK
Week 9- 11/1/16	Chapter 8, Samenow- "It's Thugs not Drugs..." Chapter 8, Bull et. al, "Punishment and Offenders" Weekly Assignment- check under Assignment 2 Tab
Week 10- 11/8/16	Chapter 9, Samenow- "Getting Over on the Shrinks" Chapter 9, Bull et. al, "Experiencing Imprisonment"
Week 11- 11/15/16	Chapter 10, Samenow- "Locked Up" Chapter 10, Bull et. al, "Rehabilitation and Offenders" Weekly Assignment- check under Assignment 2 Tab Debate Team Presentations
Week 12- 11/22/16	Chapter 11, Samenow- "The Criminal as Terrorist" Chapter 11, Bull et. al, "The Management and Treatment of Sex Offenders" Debate Team Presentations
Week 13- 11/29/16	Chapter 12, Samenow- "The Criminal Self Image" Chapter 13, Samenow- "The Total Failure of Conventional Wisdom" Weekly Assignment- check under Assignment 2 Tab Debate Team Presentations
Week 14- 12/6/16	Chapter 14, Samenow- "Coping with Criminals" Chapter 15, Samenow- "To Change a Criminal" Debate Team Presentations
Week 15- 12/13/16	Chapter 16, Samenow- "Habilitation or More Crime?" Debate Team Presentations
Week 16- DATE OF EXAM TO BE ANNOUNCED	READING DAYS AND FINAL EXAM

Student-Wellness Services:

Just In Case Web App

<http://codu.co/cee05e>

Access helpful mental health information and resources for yourself or a friend in a mental health crisis on your smartphone or tablet and easily contact CAPS or RUPD.

Counseling, ADAP & Psychiatric Services (CAPS)

(848) 932-7884 / 17 Senior Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08901/ rhscaps.rutgers.edu/

CAPS is a University mental health support service that includes counseling, alcohol and other drug assistance, and psychiatric services staffed by a team of professional within Rutgers Health services to support students' efforts to succeed at Rutgers University. CAPS offers a variety of services that include: individual therapy, group therapy and workshops, crisis intervention, referral to specialists in the community and consultation and collaboration with campus partners.

Violence Prevention & Victim Assistance (VPVA)

(848) 932-1181 / 3 Bartlett Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08901 / vpva.rutgers.edu/

The Office for Violence Prevention and Victim Assistance provides confidential crisis intervention, counseling and advocacy for victims of sexual and relationship violence and stalking to students, staff and faculty. To reach staff during office hours when the university is open or to reach an advocate after hours, call 848-932-1181.

Disability Services

(848) 445-6800 / Lucy Stone Hall, Suite A145, Livingston Campus, 54 Joyce Kilmer Avenue, Piscataway, NJ 08854 / <https://ods.rutgers.edu/>

The Office of Disability Services works with students with a documented disability to determine the eligibility of reasonable accommodations, facilitates and coordinates those accommodations when applicable, and lastly engages with the Rutgers community at large to provide and connect students to appropriate resources.

Scarlet Listeners

(732) 247-5555 / <http://www.scarletlisteners.com/>

Free and confidential peer counseling and referral hotline, providing a comforting and supportive safe space.