

CJ – 363 -- Violent Offenders

Fall 2007: T-TH 11:00am-12:20pm -- Upper Auditorium (A-290)

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Office hours: Tuesday & Thursday 9:30am - 11:00am (or by appointment)

Course Description

This course examines the psychological and behavioral characteristics of the most violent criminal types. The course will cover many topics of criminality, violence, and their causes and will provide an introduction to behavioral and psychological issues relevant for understanding, assessing and managing abnormal criminal behavior. It begins with an overview of genetic and environmental influences of violent crimes and the relationship between mental disorder, criminality, and violence. The second section includes the principles from psychological and behavioral science for understanding specific types of violent offenders.

Learning Objectives

1. To understand the role of genetic, environmental, and psychological factors that influence criminal and violent behavior.
2. To have a basic understanding of adult mental disorders and how they relate to criminal and violent behavior.
3. To have a basic understanding of Antisocial Personality Disorder and its relationship with criminal and violent behavior.
4. To introduce the current research findings on psychopathy.
5. To have basic understanding of the research related to profiles and causes of serial violent offenses.
6. To have basic understanding of the research related to profiles and causes of terrorism.
7. To have basic understanding of the research related to profiles and causes of stalking behavior.
8. To have basic understanding of the research related to profiles and causes of sexual offending.
9. To have basic understanding of the research related to profiles and causes of females who murder.
10. To have basic understanding of the research related to profiles and causes of perpetrators of domestic violence.
11. To have basic understanding of the research related to profiles and causes of perpetrators of hate crimes.

Required Text

Miller, H.A. (compiled by; 2007). Violent Offenders. Prentice Hall Custom Publishing.
 ISBN: 0-536-06134-3

Additional research articles will be required – but you will be provided the electronic reference or it will be placed on blackboard for downloading.

Student Responsibilities

Students are required to attend all classes, to read all assignments before they are due to be discussed in class, and to be prepared to discuss the reading assignments. For every class meeting that you miss, past three meetings, you will receive a 5-point reduction in your point total for the course. I will be taking attendance every day. Requirements for this course include taking all of the scheduled exams and participating in discussions.

Exams

There will be four exams in this course. They will consist of multiple-choice items and will cover lectures, readings, discussion, and video clips. Each exam will be worth 35 points. Examinations will not be comprehensive. No make-up exams will be given, however, you will be allowed to drop your lowest exam grade.

Grading

Your final course grade will be based on a point system (breakdown below). Letter grades will be assigned to your appropriate percentage:

A	90-100		
B	80-89	Exams are worth 35 points each	= 105 points
C	70-79		
D	60-69		
F	59 and below		
		Total	<hr/> = 105 points

Lectures

Lectures will serve to elaborate upon and explain some of the more significant and/or difficult topics in the readings. Lectures will also supplement the readings by covering additional topics and by providing more in-depth extensions of topics. The lectures will often contain information that is not found in the readings, but you will be responsible for knowing on the exams. The power point slides will be placed on blackboard prior to the lecture for your convenience.

Student Absences on Religious Holy Days Policy

Section 51.911(b) of the Texas Education Code requires that an institution of higher education excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. A student whose absence is excused under this subsection may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence.

University policy 861001 provides the procedures to be followed by the student and instructor. A student desiring to absent himself/herself from a scheduled class in order to observe (a) religious holy day(s) shall present to each instructor involved a written statement concerning the religious holy day(s). This request must be made in the first fifteen days of the semester or the first seven days of a summer session in which the absence(s) will occur. The instructor will complete a form notifying the student of a reasonable timeframe in which the missed assignments and/or examinations are to be completed.

<http://www.shsu.edu/catalog/scholasticrequirements.html#holyday>

Disabled Student Policy

It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that no otherwise qualified disabled individual shall, solely by reason of his/her handicap, be excluded from the participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any academic or Student Life program or activity. Disabled students may request help with academically related problems stemming from individual disabilities from their instructors, school/department chair, or by contacting the Chair of the Committee for Continuing Assistance for Disabled Students and Director of the Counseling Center, Lee Drain Annex, or by calling (936) 294-1720.

<http://www.shsu.edu/schedule/>

Services for disabled students: <http://www.shsu.edu/~counsel/sswd.html>

Academic Honesty

The Faculty of the College of Criminal Justice expects students to conduct their academic work with integrity and honesty. Acts of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated and can result in the failure of a course and dismissal from the University. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating on a test, plagiarism, collusion – the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing work offered for credit, the abuse of resource materials, and misrepresentation of credentials or accomplishments as a member of the college. Academic dishonesty also includes directing another class member to sign your name on the roster when you do not attend class, as well as, signing the name of a classmate who did not attend class.

The University's policy on academic honesty and appeal procedures can be found in the manual entitled *Student Guidelines*, distributed by Division of Student Services.

(Reference Section 5.3 of the SHSU Student Guidelines)

<http://www.shsu.edu/administrative/faculty/sectionb.html#dishonesty>

Food, Tobacco, and Apparel

Feel free to eat and drink in class. Don't use tobacco. Please wear clothes.

Cellular Phones and Pagers

Both cellular phones and pagers must be turned OFF during class. If your job requires you to be on-call during class time, please see me for approval.

Schedule and Readings

August	21	Introduction to course and syllabus
	23	Human Aggression and Violence <u>Reading 1</u>
	28	Origins of Criminal Behavior: Biological Factors <u>Reading 2</u>
	30	Library Day – NO CLASS
September	4	Origins of Criminal Behavior: Environmental Factors <u>Reading 3</u>
	6	Introduction to mental illness – Mood Disorders <u>Reading 4</u>
	11	Introduction to mental illness – Psychotic and Personality Disorders – video clips
	13	The Relationship between mental illness & violent behavior
	18	EXAM I
	20	Psychopaths – What are they? Assessment <u>Reading 5</u>
	25	Psychopaths – Research – video clips
	27	Killers and their victims <u>Reading 6</u>
October	2	The Male Serial Killer – Research and case examples clips <u>Assigned Reading</u>
	4	Women Who Kill – stats and types
	9	The Female Serial Killer <u>Reading 7</u>
	11	The Female Serial Killer - Aileen Wuronos video **Extra Credit Opp: <u>Article: Serial murder and the case of Aileen Wuronos: Attachment theory, psychopathy, and predatory aggression.</u>
	16	EXAM 2
	18	A Look at Today's Sex Offenders <u>Reading 8</u>
	23	Sexual Offenders
	25	Sexual Predators <u>Reading 9</u>
	30	Domestic violence perpetrators <u>Reading 10</u>
	November	1
6		Domestic violence perpetrators – video clip
8		EXAM 3
13		Stalkers – stats and types <u>Reading 11</u>
15		Stalkers – research – video clip <u>Article: Informant personality descriptions of postintimate stalkers using the five factor profile</u>
20		Thanksgiving – NO CLASS
22		Thanksgiving – NO CLASS
27		Perpetrators of Hate Crimes – stats and types
29	Hate Homicides <u>Reading 12</u>	
December	4	Perpetrators of Hate Crimes – video clip <u>Article: Hate crime offenders: An expanded typology</u>
	6	Review
	13	EXAM 4/FINAL EXAM (11:00am-1:00pm)