

CJ 436.03 – UNDERSTANDING HUMAN BEHAVIOR

Fall 2007

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Office Hours : Monday, 12:00 -3:00 PM, or by appointment
Classroom : CJC C110
Class Hours : Monday, Wednesday, and Friday 9:00 AM – 9:50 AM

You are a slave, Neo. Like everyone else, you were born into bondage, born into a prison that you cannot smell or taste or touch. A prison... for your mind.... Unfortunately, no one can be told what the Matrix is... you have to see it for yourself.

- Morpheus in *The Matrix* (1999)

Education functions either as an instrument which is used to facilitate integration of the younger generation into the logic of the present system and bring about conformity, or it becomes the practice of freedom, the means by which men and women deal critically and creatively with reality and discover how to participate in the transformation of their world.

- Paolo Freire (1999)

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is designed to provide an understanding of criminal behavior from a psychological perspective. More specifically, it reviews contemporary studies, theories, and practices concerning the psychology of crime and examines the behavioral, emotional, and cognitive aspects of crime from the perspective of the offender.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

The course aims to provide students with the basic understanding of the dynamics of human behavior and how such understanding can be of use in the criminal justice system. Thus, at the end of the course, the students are expected to:

1. Understand fundamental concepts and principles on human behavior and the psychology of crime;
2. Learn how to apply these fundamental concepts and principles; and

3. Ascertain their implications in the criminal justice system.

REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

Attendance

Class attendance requirements will be followed in accordance with Academic Policy Statement 800401 (http://www.shsu.edu/~vaf_www/aps/documents/800401.pdf). Regular and punctual attendance is required and attendance records will be kept. Excessive absences and tardiness will result in point deduction. Please note that:

- Five (5) absences for whatever reason will result in a ten-point deduction from the student's final course grade. This means that your final grade will be one letter grade lower than what you have actually earned.
- Six (6) absences for whatever reason will result in a grade of "F" and, hence, the student is advised to simply drop the course.

Class Discussion/Participation

The course will use a combination of lecture/seminar/modified Socratic methods. Students are expected to come prepared for class discussion and to participate in all class activities. Class participation constitutes 20% of the final course grade.

Examinations

There will be four (4) in-class written examinations in the course. Each test will consist of multiple choice and/or essay questions. Test score for each test constitutes 20% (for a combined weight of 60%) of the final course grade. Please note that:

- No make-up test will be given to those who fail to take the in-class written examinations as scheduled.

Grading

Final course grade is based on a point system, broken down as follows:

Test 1	:	20 points
Test 2	:	20 points
Test 3	:	20 points
Test 4	:	20 points
Class Discussion/Participation	:	20 points
		<hr/>
		100 points

A letter grade is assigned to the total points earned:

- 90-100 points = A
- 80-89 points = B
- 70-79 points = C
- 60-69 points = D
- 59 and below = F

COURSE READING MATERIALS

1. Bartol, C. R., & Bartol, A. M. (2008). *Criminal behavior: A psychosocial approach* (8th ed.). Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson Prentice Hall;
2. Other supplementary readings that may be assigned from time to time.

CLASS SCHEDULE

This schedule may change from time to time. It is the responsibility of the student to stay apprised of changes in the class schedule.

Date	Topic	Read
Aug. 20 to 24	Introduction	
Aug. 27	Understanding Human Behavior	Bartol & Bartol (2008), Chap. 1
Aug. 29 to Sept. 17	Theories of Criminal Behavior	Chap. 2 to 4
Sep. 19	Test 1	
Sep. 21	<i>Special Topic: TBA</i>	
Sep. 24 to Oct. 15 (No class on Oct. 5)	Psychological Disorders	Rosenhan, D. L. (1973). On being sane in insane place. <i>Science</i> , 179, 250- 258. Chap. 6 to 8

Oct. 17	Test 2	
Oct. 19	<i>Special Topic: TBA</i>	
Oct. 22 to Nov. 12	Violent Crimes and Criminals	Chap. 5, 9 to 13, 15
Nov. 14	Test 3	
Nov. 16	<i>Special Topic: TBA</i>	
Nov. 19 to Dec. 5	Non-Violent Crimes and Criminals	Chap. 14 to 16
Dec. 12, 8-10 am	Test 4	

Important Dates:

- Sep. 3 Labor Day Holiday
- Sep. 5 Last day to drop without a “Q” and receive 100% refund
- Oct. 5 No Class – *Southwestern Association of Criminal Justice (SWACJ) Annual Meeting*
- Oct. 10 Last day to drop without a grade of F
- Nov. 21 to 23 Thanksgiving Break
- Dec. 6 Last day to resign

UNIVERSITY POLICIES

“Each student is expected to be fully acquainted and comply with *all* published policies, rules, and regulations of the component, copies of which shall be available to each student for review online and/or at various locations [in the] campus. Students are also expected to comply with all federal and state laws.” (Student Guidelines, Code of Student Conduct and Discipline, para. 5.1). Ignorance of these policies, rules and regulations, or federal and state laws excuses no one from compliance therewith.

Academic Honesty

“The [College of Criminal Justice] expects all students to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach and to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. The [College of Criminal Justice] may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty, including but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work, plagiarism,

collusion, and the abuse of resource materials.” (Student Guidelines, Code of Student Conduct and Discipline, para. 5.3). Any act of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated and can result in expulsion from the University.

Disabled Student Policy

“It is the policy of [the University] that no otherwise qualified disabled individual shall, solely by reason of his/her disability, be excluded from the participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any academic, Dean of Students’ program or activity.

“Students seeking academic accommodations under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Acts (ADA) of 1990 should register with [the University’s] Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD). In order for students with disabilities to be eligible for academic accommodations and adjustments, they need to provide documentation that shows evidence of a “substantially limiting” disability as defined by federal legislation noted above. Services and documentation guidelines are available in [SSD]....” (Student Guidelines, Student with Disabilities)

Student Absences on Religious Holy Day 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 who 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.

ADDITIONAL CLASSROOM POLICIES

Use of Electronic Devices

Recording of any material presented in class is allowed. However, the recorded material may not be transcribed or copied for distribution without prior authorization.

Laptop computers may be used in class for note-taking only. The use thereof for any other purpose and during examinations will not be allowed.

Cellular phones, pagers, and other electronic telecommunication devices must be turned off or set to silent mode during class.

Use of Tobacco Products

Use of tobacco products in class is not allowed.