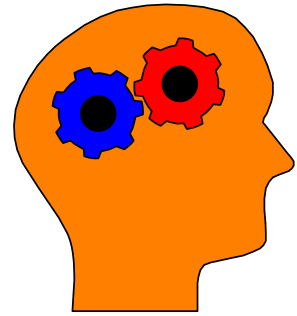


CJ 436W: Understanding Human Behavior

Spring, 2008

Phillip Lyons, J.D., Ph.D.

M. 6:00p-8:50p UCTR 116



I. Office

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Hours: M., W. 5:00p-6:00p (UCTR);

Th. 1:00p-3:00p, 6:00p-7:00p (SAM)

II. Course Description

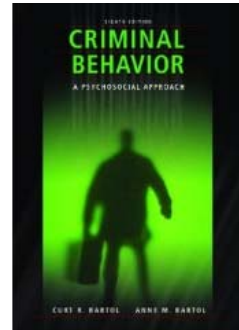
This course will explore “[t]he dynamics of human behavior” and will include an “analysis of the biological, cultural, sociological and psychological factors” underlying same (’06-’08 Undergraduate Catalog).

A. Course Objectives

1. The student will gain an understanding of the biological, psychological, and social factors that relate to crime.
2. The student will become familiar with the motivational underpinnings of aggression, violence, and sex crimes.
3. The student will understand the relationships among crime, substance abuse, and mental disorder.
4. The student will be introduced to efforts to distinguish “mad” behavior from “bad” behavior.
5. The student will develop critical thinking and writing skills through essay examinations and a term paper.
6. The instructor will create a classroom environment that is conducive to learning.

B. Required Readings:

Bartol, C. R., & Bartol, A. M. (2007). *Criminal Behavior: A Psychosocial Approach*. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall.



III. Expectations of Students

A. Attendance

The attendance policy for this and other courses is described in the Graduate Catalogue. Excessive absences (more than two class periods) or tardies may result in a reduction of the final grade—in general, one letter grade for every two classes missed.

Absence on Religious Holy Days Policy

Students will be excused 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 policy will not be penalized for the 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.

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). The 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.

B. Readings

Students are expected to have read the assigned readings prior to each class.

C. Class participation

Students will be called on in class to provide feedback regarding topics under consideration.

D. Academic honesty

The faculty of the College of Criminal Justice expect 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.

The University's policy on academic policy and appeal procedures can be found in § 5.3 of the *Student Guidelines*, distributed by the Division of Student Services.

E. Miscellaneous

Students should keep distractions to a minimum (e.g., cell phones and pagers on vibrate mode, avoid noisy food, etc.).

F. Policy for Students with Disabilities

It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that no otherwise qualified student with a disability shall, solely by reason of that disability, be excluded from the participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any academic program or activity. Students with a disability which affects their academic performance are expected to arrange for a conference with the instructor in order that appropriate strategies can be considered to ensure that participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired. A listing of services available to such students can be found on the web at: <http://www.shsu.edu/~counsel/sswd.html>

IV. Student Evaluations

Three grades will be averaged to produce the final score for this course, namely, a mid-term, a final examination grade, and a class project/in-class assignment grade (the average of two different projects). Makeups for missed mid-terms will be offered during finals week.

Tentative Class Schedule

<u>CLASS</u>	<u>READING</u>	<u>TOPIC</u>
1-28	None	Introduction/Course Overview
2-4	Chapters 1 & 2	Introduction to Criminal Behavior & Developmental Risk Factors
2-11	Chapters 3 & 4	Biological & Social Factors
2-18	None	Catch up; in-class assignment/project
2-25	Chapters 5 & 6	Aggression and Psychopathy
3-3	Chapters 7 & 8	Crime and Mental Illness
3-10	None	Catch up; Spring Break
3-17	None	Exam I
3-24	Chapters 9 & 10	Homicide
3-31	Chapter 11	Terrorism & Violence
4-7	Chapters 12 & 13	Sex Crimes
4-14	None	Catch up; in-class assignment/project
4-21	Chapters 14 & 15	Property, Disorder, and Intimidation Crimes
4-28	Chapters 16 & 18	Substance Abuse & Crime/Correctional Psych.
5-5	Chapter 17	Youthful Offenders
5-12	None	Final Exam; 8:00p-10:00p