

SYLLABUS – UNDERSTANDING HUMAN BEHAVIOR – CJ436W, SPRING 2008

Instructor: Mr. Milton C. Hill
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Class: CJ 436W: Understanding Human Behavior
CID 3730; Section 05
Time: Monday/Wednesday/Friday 09:00-09:50
Location: CJC C104

Office Hours:
Monday 10am-12pm
Wednesday 10am-12pm
and by appointment

A. Course Description

This course examines the dynamics of “normal” behavior and “criminal” behavior based upon biological, cultural, sociological and psychological factors. Behavior that is affected by the influence of multiple systems within the psychosocial environment will be explored, and the behavioral, emotional, and cognitive aspects of criminal behavior will be considered from both the offender’s and victim’s viewpoint. This course is writing-intensive.

B. Course Objectives

Substantive:

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 role of human behavior in facilitating aggression, violence, and criminality.
3. The student will gain an understanding of the relationships between criminal behavior, substance abuse, and mental disorders.
4. The student will be introduced to theories that incorporate both the offender’s and the victim’s viewpoint, motivation, and response.

Methodological:

5. The student will develop critical thinking and writing skills through essay responses on examinations, QQTPs, and writing assignments.
6. The student will write a methodologically sound research paper based upon one or more of the behavioral components studied during the semester.

C. Readings

Textbook:

Bartol, C.R. & Bartol, A.M. (2007). *Criminal Behavior: A Psychosocial Approach* (8th ed.). Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall.

Other:

Supplementary readings that may be assigned as necessary

D. Required Research and Presentation

A paper of five to seven double spaced pages in 12 pt. font, excluding bibliography, is required. (The type of font that you choose is not as important as the font size and clarity of the overall paper.) A topic must be chosen, mutually agreed upon between the student and the instructor, by **February 4**. A one page outline is due on **February 8**. The outline should be typed. Sample outlines are on reserve in the library.

Topics should be relatively narrow in scope. A five- to seven-page paper cannot adequately address “human behavior and criminality.” The paper should identify a specific issue in the study of human behavior as it relates to criminality, and it must address that issue from a biological, cultural, sociological and/or psychological perspective.

First drafts of the papers are due on **March 17** (the week after Spring Break). Hand in one paper copy and email one electronic copy. One of those copies will be critiqued and returned; the other copy will be maintained in the student’s file. Five points will be deducted per class if either the outline or first draft is late. Points will be deducted as well for significant variation from the stipulated five to seven pages. Email communication, for any reason throughout this semester, is most acceptable and encouraged. The final paper is due **April 30**.

Proper style, format, and referencing, per guidelines in the *APA Manual of Style*, are required. Grammar and syntax should reflect advanced undergraduate level work; references should include preponderantly recent journal and textual citations.

Extensive use of the SHSU Library is strongly encouraged. The library is essential to sufficiently review the general literature pertaining to any authoritative discussion of criminality and human behavior. [Although it should not be necessary, please be reminded that your personal opinion regarding a topic is not appropriate for inclusion in research paper that reviews other people’s work. As such, you are only assigned to review and summarize the literature. Also remember that the instructor reserves the right to use turnitin.com or other essay screening programs.]

Finally, each draft and final paper must be accompanied by a certificate from the Writing Center. This requirement is not meant as an additional encumbrance; it assists the student in recognizing areas of excellence or needing improvement, it assists the professor in reading and grading, and it promotes the use of an extremely valuable, and often neglected, campus resource.

Each student will be responsible for a presentation of his research paper. The presentations will be held toward the end of the semester during the two class periods before the final exams. The presentation will require the use of at least one visual aid (overhead, chalkboard, PowerPoint), and should last approximately five to ten minutes. Presentation grades will be based upon preparation and clarity—not upon public speaking ability. [This will be explained in more detail during class.]

E. Attendance and Preparation:

Because attendance and preparation is weighted at 10% of the course grade, it is expected that students will regularly attend class, refrain from tardiness, and be prepared to discuss the scheduled topics. Attendance and preparation will be graded through the use of QQTPs. These brief papers are based upon the reading assignment. A handout about the QQTPs will be provided during the first class meeting. Basically, the QQTP requires that you find: 1) an analytical question; 2) an interesting quotation; and 3) two ‘talking points’ that you would be prepared to discuss in class from each reading.

Tardiness

Tardiness will be penalized at a minimum of one-half classroom hour per occurrence. The instructor shall be informed in advance of absences that can be anticipated. Roll will be taken at some point during each class session. If a student misses more than three classroom hours, the instructor reserves the right to lower the student’s overall term grade by up to 10% (one full letter grade).

Make-Up Exams:

Students with legitimate reason and prior approval of the instructor can make up one exam at the end of the semester. Please refer to the syllabus for the make-up date.

F. Examinations

Four examinations will be given during the semester. The exams will not be comprehensive; they will cover only the material studied since the previous exam. The exams will have a subjective section (multiple choice), a short-answer section, and an essay section in which students will select two essay topics from three to five topics provided. Essay responses will be graded upon content, critical thinking skills, and grammar.

Bluebooks **will not** be required. Scantrons (Form 882) **will be required**, and they will be provided by the student. Additionally, although laptops have their utility, they **will not** be permitted during examinations; all responses must be handwritten. Students must complete all three exams for the semester; however, the lowest exam grade will be dropped.

Please keep in mind that material from the textbook may not cover all of the required information; a portion of any examination material may come from sources other than the assigned text.

G. Grading

Student grades will be earned according to the following table:

90-100 %	450-500	A
80-89%	400-449	B
70-79%	350-399	C
60-69%	300-349	D
Below 60%	Below 300	F

The cumulative semester grade will be based upon the following weights:

Exam One	(0-100 pts)	20%
Exam Two	(0-100 pts)	20%
Exam Three (Drop Lowest)	(0-100 pts) (200 pts possible)	<u>20%</u> 40% exam total
Research Paper	(0-100 pts)	20%
Paper Presentation	(0-50 pts)	10%
QQTPs (Preparation) (Scored for Preparation)	(10 @ 0-10 pts; 100 pts possible)	20%
Attendance	(0-50 pts)	<u>10%</u>
	(500 pts possible)	100% grade total

H. Tentative Class Schedule

Please be advised that this is a tentative schedule, as we may need to spend more time on some topics than others.

DAY	DATE	READING / PROJECT	TOPIC
W	1/16/2008	Class Exercise #1	Syllabus Review & Intro to Class Overview of QQTP Overview of Blackboard; Library; Writing Center
F	1/18/2008	Text pp. 1-25; 60-72	<u>Introduction to Criminal Behavior</u> Perspectives in Criminology Defining and Measuring Crime Criminological Theory Developmental Theories
M	1/21/2008	No Class	Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday
W	1/23/2008	Text pp. 26-36; 45-50 Class Exercise #2	QQTP #1 Due <u>Juvenile Delinquency</u> Defining Delinquency Familial Risk Factors

DAY	DATE	READING / PROJECT	TOPIC
F	1/25/2008	Text pp. 38-45; 51-59	<u>Juvenile Delinquency (cont.)</u> Psychological Risk Factors Social Risk Factors
M	1/28/2008	Text pp. 114-130	QQTP #2 Due <u>Learning and Situational Factors</u> Behaviorism Social Learning
W	1/30/2008	Text pp. 131-140	<u>Learning and Situational Factors (cont.)</u> Frustration-Induced Criminality Situational Instigators/Regulators of Crime
F	2/1/2008	Class Exercise #3	Theory Discussion Initial Student Evaluation
F	2/1/2008		Last day to drop without penalty
M	2/4/2008	Text pp. 141-161 Paper Topic Due	QQTP #3 Due <u>Human Aggression and Violence</u> Defining Aggression Aggression Theories Aggression Models (Social Learning/Cognitive)
W	2/6/2008	Text pp. 162-174	<u>Human Aggression and Violence (cont.)</u> Reactive vis-à-vis Proactive Aggression Gender Differences in Aggression Environmental Influences on Aggression Media and Aggression
F	2/8/2008	Text pp. 175-185 Paper Outline Due	<u>Human Aggression and Violence (cont.)</u> Biology of Aggression The Brain's Role in Controlling Aggression
F	2/8/2008	Notice to 05/08 graduates	Deadline for filing Degree Application with the Registrar's Office

DAY	DATE	READING / PROJECT	TOPIC
M	2/11/2008	Text pp. 73-84	QQTP #4 Due <u>Biological Factors of Criminal Behavior</u> Genetics Psychophysiological Factors
W	2/13/2008	Text pp. 85-95	<u>Biological Factors of Criminal Behavior (cont.)</u> Environmental Risk Factors Physique and Crime
F	2/15/2008	Text pp. 96-113 Review for Exam One	<u>Biological Factors of Criminal Behavior (cont.)</u> Eynsenck's Theory
M	2/18/2008	Study for Exam	Exam One (Chapters 1-4)
W	2/20/2008	Text pp. 187-200	<u>Criminal Psychopathy</u> What is a psychopath? Behavioral Descriptions Measures of Psychopathy
F	2/22/2008	201-206	<u>Criminal Psychopathy (cont.)</u> Female Psychopaths Gender and Race Considerations Juvenile Psychopathy
M	2/25/2008	Text pp. 207-225	QQTP #5 Due <u>Criminal Psychopathy (cont.)</u> Biological Factors Childhood Influences on Psychopathy
W	2/27/2008	Class Exercise #4	Discussion of Exercise
F	2/29/2008	No reading	Video Project
M	3/3/2008	Text pp. 226-237; 248-258	QQTP #6 Due <u>Crime and Mental Disorders</u> Defining Mental Illness Various Disorders Defenses (additional disorders)

DAY	DATE	READING / PROJECT	TOPIC
W	3/5/2008	Text pp. 237-247	<u>Crime and Mental Disorders (cont.)</u> Competency and Responsibility Insanity Standards
F	3/7/2008	No Reading	<u>Crime and Mental Disorders (cont.)</u> Class Discussion and Topical Review
F	3/7/2008	Notice to 08/08 graduates	Deadline for filing Degree Application with the Registrar's Office
M	3/10/2008	<h1>Spring Break</h1>	
W	3/12/2008		
F	3/14/2008		
M	3/17/2008	Text Chapter 8 (pp. 259-280) First Draft of Paper Due	QQTP #7 Due <u>Mentally Ill Defendants and Offenders</u> Disorders and Violence Disordered Inmates "Dangerousness" and "Future Risk" Sex Offenders - Mentally Ill or Not?
W	3/19/2008	No Reading Study for Exam	Review for Exam Two
F	3/21/2008	No Class	Good Friday Holiday
M	3/24/2008	Study for Exam	Exam Two (Chapters 5-8)
W	3/26/2008	Text pp. 281-300	QQTP #8 Due <u>Homicide and Assault</u> Definitions Demographics Use of Weapons Other Factors Juvenile Murder

DAY	DATE	READING / PROJECT	TOPIC
F	3/28/2008	Text pp. 330-349	<u>Multiple Murder</u> Investigative Psychology Profiling Serial Murderers
M	3/31/2008	Text pp. 350-262	QQTP #9 Due <u>Multiple Murder (cont.)</u> Multiple Murderers Mass Murderers Violence in School and Workplace
W	4/2/2008	Text pp. 300-312; 319-320	<u>Family Violence</u> Definitions Demographics Babies and Children Sibling Abuse
F	4/4/2008	Text pp. 313-318; 321-329	<u>Family Violence (cont.)</u> Spousal Abuse Cycle of Violence
M	4/7/2008	Text pp. 388-419	QQTP #10 Due <u>Sexual Assault</u> Legislation What is "Rape?" Victim Impact Sexual Assault and Pornography
W	4/9/2008	Text pp. 421-448	<u>Sexual Assault (cont.)</u> Sex Assault of Children and other Youth What is a "Pedophile?" Recidivism of Pedophiles Classification of Child Offender Patterns Juvenile Sex Offenders Theories Exhibitionism/Voyeurism/Fetishism

DAY	DATE	READING / PROJECT	TOPIC
F	4/11/2008	No Reading Study for Exam	Wrap-up on Sexual Assault Review for Exam Three
M	4/14/2008	Study for Exam	Exam Three (Chapters 9, 10 12, 13)
W	4/16/2008	Text Chapter 14 (pp. 449-487)	<u>Property and Public Order Crime</u> Burglary (it isn't Robbery!) What are Burglars? Auto Theft Fraud and Identity Theft Shoplifting White Collar Crime Prostitution-Related Crimes
F	4/18/2008	Class Exercise #5	Discussion of Exercise
M	4/21/2008	Text Chapter 15 (pp. 488-519)	<u>Economic and Intimidation Crimes</u> Robbery Cybercrime/Stalking/Cyberstalking Kidnapping Arson Bombings
W	4/23/2008	Text Chapter 11 (pp. 363-387)	<u>Terrorism and Psychology of Violence</u> Definitions Typology and Psychology of Terrorists Psychological Factors in General Violent Crime
F	4/25/2008	No Reading	Discussion on Terrorism
M	4/28/2008	Text Chapter 16 (pp. 521-567)	<u>Substance Abuse, Alcohol, and Crime</u> Juvenile Drug Use and Abuse Facts about Drug Use Hallucinogens, Stimulants, Narcotics Club Drugs Alcohol and Intoxication

DAY	DATE	READING / PROJECT	TOPIC
W	4/30/2008	Text Chapter 17 (pp. 568-600) Term Paper Due	<u>Prevention, Intervention, Treatment</u> Successful Juvenile Programs Juvenile Justice Prevention Considerations Treatment Approaches
F	5/2/2008	Text Chapter 18 (pp. 601-631)	<u>Correctional Psychology</u> The Correctional System Overview Psychological Effects of Imprisonment Treatment Strategies
M	5/5/2008	No Assigned Reading	Term Paper Presentations
W	5/7/2008	No Assigned Reading Make-up Exam Date	Term Paper Presentations Make-up Exam Times (by appointment only) Make-up Exam Location to be announced
F	5/9/2008	Study for Final	Review for Final Exam
W	5/14/2008	8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. (Note earlier time!)	Final Exam (Chapters 11, 14-18)

I. Summary of Important Dates

- February 4 - Paper topic submitted and approved
- February 8 - Paper outline due
- February 18 - **Exam #1**
- March 10-14 - Spring Break
- March 17 - First draft of paper due
- March 24 - **Exam #2**
- April 30 - Term paper due
- May 5 - Student Presentations
- May 7 - Student Presentations
- May 7 - **Only Exam Make-up Date**
- May 14 - **Final Exam**

J. SHSU Policy Statements

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.

Any student that violates the university's policy of academic dishonesty will receive a grade of F for the course. Students are strongly encouraged to read both Academic Policy Statement 810213 and the faculty handbook for additional online information regarding procedures in cases of academic dishonesty.

<http://www.shsu.edu/administrative/faculty/sectionb.html>
http://www.shsu.edu/~vaf_www/aps/documents/810213.pdf

Disabilities: “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.” “The physically impaired may contact the Director of the Counseling Center as chair of the Committee for Continuing Assistance for Disabled Students by telephone (936-294-1720). Please refer to the following website for additional information.” Students are strongly encouraged to read both Academic Policy Statement 811006 and what the SHSU Counseling Center has provided online for additional information regarding the disabled student policy.

<http://www.shsu.edu/~counsel/sswd.html>
http://www.shsu.edu/~vaf_www/aps/documents/811006.pdf

Student Absences on Religious Holiday: 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/administrative/faculty/sectionb.html>
http://www.shsu.edu/~vaf_www/aps/documents/861001.pdf

As a convenience to the student, the link to the University's Attendance Policy is listed below. Please refer to Section E of this syllabus for course-specific information.

<http://www.shsu.edu/administrative/faculty/sectionb.html>
http://www.shsu.edu/~vaf_www/aps/documents/800401_001.pdf