

SYLLABUS
CJ 436W Understanding Human Behavior
Fall 2007

Instructor: Lisa C. Bowman

Office: CL-03

Telephone: 936-294-3627

Email: lcb005@shsu.edu

Class Hours: Tuesday and Thursday 8:00 a.m. – 9:20 a.m.

Classroom: C110

Office Hours: Monday 8 a.m. – 11 a.m., Wednesday 8 a.m. – 11 a.m., or by appointment.

Course Description:

The dynamics of human behavior; analysis of the biological, cultural, sociological and psychological factors.

Required Text:

Bartol, C.R. & Bartol, A.M. (2008) *Criminal Behavior: A Psychosocial Approach* (8th ed.), Upper Saddle River, New Jersey: Pearson/Prentice Hall.

Course Goal:

To facilitate understanding and provide a foundation for further individual development regarding frameworks for evaluation of the dynamics of human behavior and of what is perceived to be “criminal behavior”; including but not limited to:

- Developing specific skills, competencies, and points of view needed by criminal justice professionals
- Learning to apply course material to improve thinking and problem solving.
- Learning to analyze and critically evaluate ideas, arguments, and points of view.
- Developing advanced skills in written expression

Course Objectives:

1. To improve the reading, writing, research, and critical thinking skills of students through the analysis and critique of understanding human behavior.
2. Identify fundamental principles, generalizations, and theories of human behavior regarding criminal activity;
3. Gain a broader understanding of the role of human behavior that results in criminal activity;
4. Understand that evaluative skills, competencies and reasoning are needed by criminal justice professionals, including skills in working with others as members of a team and understanding that often more than one perspective applies to any behavior or situation.

Attendance Policy:

Class attendance requirements will be followed in accordance with Academic Policy Statement 800401.

Regular attendance of classes is crucial to a passing grade. The instructor reserves the right to deduct points for non-documented absences at the rate of 10% per assignment, per week. Contact the instructor if situations arise that prohibits class attendance for 20% or more of the scheduled classes during the semester. The course includes in-class activities that cannot be made up. Alternative assignments can be arranged due to unavoidable situations. One exam per semester can be taken as make-up by arranging a mutual time with the instructor. Subsequent missed exams will require prior notification to the instructor. There is no extra credit available in the course.

Students with Disabilities:

“Students with disability (disabilities) 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 (ext. 1720). You are also welcome to discuss any concerns with the instructor. Please refer to: <http://www.shsu.edu/~counsel/sswd.html>

Religious Holidays:

Please contact instructor of any applicable scheduling concerns due to religious holidays. Complete information on this policy can be found at : <http://www.shsu.edu/catalog/scholasticrequirements.html#holyday>

Class Discussions and Mutual Respect:

Each person in this course has unique prior experiences and a unique viewpoint to share. This offers a great opportunity for us to learn from each other, especially in a course such as this. Though disagreement and even conflict may occur, I expect your cooperation in maintaining an atmosphere of mutual respect. When participating in discussions, it is perfectly acceptable to have strong opinions – in fact I encourage you to do so. I also encourage you to discuss your own personal experience and relate it to that of others. In the process, however, I expect you to respect the basic intelligence and humanity of each participant in the discussion. Conflict is not negative, as long as there is a commitment to mutual respect. Hateful and demeaning speech will not be tolerated.

The use of electronic devices is restricted during class time. Cell phones are to be off or on vibrate and text messaging is not permitted. If use is necessary, please leave the classroom

quietly. Notebook computers are allowed in as much as it does not interfere with the learning environment.

Academic Honesty:

The university administration and faculty consider integrity of academics an integral part of a commitment to quality of education. In particular this instructor considers academic integrity a direct reflection of the character of both the instructor and the student. This being stated, cheating on papers, tests or other academic works will be dealt with in accordance with the university's policy. This includes the use of others' materials, words, or ideas without direct permission and/or proper citation of sources. If the student has questions or concerns about the proper use of materials, the assignment should be reviewed with the instructor prior to submittal.

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), delineating the course of action you will follow in cases of academic dishonesty.

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

Grading Policy and Course Requirements: (1000 points total)

Student course grades are:

Scale:

1. Test #1	15%	A = 90-100
2. Test #2	15%	B = 80-89
3. Test #3	15%	C = 70-79
4. Class Project	5%	D = 60-69
5. Case Studies	50%	F = 59 and below

Tests: Tests will consist of multiple choice and short answer questions. Students will bring Scantron answer sheets for exams. The tests will cover material presented in class as well as material for the assigned reading in the textbook.

Class Project: In lieu of a traditional "term paper" students will be expected to complete a focused review on one of the movies we select as a class. The paper will analyze the character(s) in the movie as to the potential causes of criminal behavior. This paper is expected to be written in a conceptual application using the textbook as a reference. Papers should be 3 – 5 pages in length. Please refer to the outline for dates of the decision of the movie and submission of this project.

Case Report/Study: There will be ten (10) case studies and reports in the class, due in part to the writing enhancement requirement. A separate hand out outlining the requirements, as well as sample worksheets and reports will be provided. Please refer to the outline for due dates of submission.

Writing Center: The utilization of the writing center is encouraged. The Sam Houston Writing Center is located in Wilson 114 and is open from 8 a.m. – 7 p.m. Monday-Thursday, 8 a.m. – 3 p.m. Friday, and 2 p.m. – 7 p.m. Sunday. Writing tutors will be available to help generate, organize, or revise a draft of assignments. Either drop by or call 936-294-3680 to schedule an appointment.

Course Outline:

This outline is subject to change according to the needs of the course and the students. It does not include detailed information about assignments and in some cases may not include any information about assignments. The outline serves only as a general overview of daily activities.

***NOTE: It is highly recommended that reading of chapter(s) to be reviewed is done preceding the class to assist in understanding and participation.**

Tuesday, August 21	Introduction/Syllabus
Thursday, August 23	Chapter 1: Introduction to Criminal Behavior <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Defining and measuring criminal behavior, as well as juvenile delinquency
Tuesday, August 28	Chapter 2: Developmental Risk Factors <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Social , parental and family risk factors
Thursday, August 30	Chapter 2: Developmental Risk Factors <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Psychological risk factors
Tuesday, September 4	Chapter 3: Origins of Criminal Behavior: Biological Factors <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Genetics and antisocial behavior, psychophysiological and temperament
Thursday, September 6	Chapter 3: Origins of Criminal Behavior: Biological Factors <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Environmental risk factors, physique and crime, Eysenck's Theory
Tuesday, September 11	Chapter 4: Origins of Criminal Behavior: Learning and Situational Factors <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Behaviorism and social learning

Thursday, September 13	Chapter 4: Origins of Criminal Behavior: Learning and Situational Factors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Frustration-induced criminality, and situational instigators/regulators Case Study #1 Due
Tuesday, September 18	Chapter 5: Human Aggression and Violence <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Theoretical perspectives and social learning factors in aggression
Thursday, September 20	Chapter 5: Human Aggression and Violence <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cognitive models, overt/covert acts, and the biology of aggression Case Study #2 Due
Tuesday, September 25	Test #1 Chapters 1 - 5
Thursday, September 27	Special Presentation Assign movies for project Case Study #3 Due
Tuesday, October 2	Chapter 6: Criminal Psychopathy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Behavioral descriptions and the criminal psychopath, psychological measures
Thursday, October 4	Chapter 6: Criminal Psychopathy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Special typologies
Tuesday, October 9	Chapter 7: Crime and Mental Disorders <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Defining mental illness, standards of competency and insanity
Thursday, October 11	Chapter 8: Mental Disorders and Crime: Defendants and Offenders <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mentally disordered inmates, dangerousness, and the assessment of risk Case Study #4 Due
Tuesday, October 16	Chapter 9: Homicide, Assault, and Family Violence <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Definitions and demographics of homicide, typologies of family violence
Thursday, October 18	Chapter 10: Multiple Murder <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Profiling multiple, serial, and mass murderers, as well as school and workplace violence Case Study #5 Due

Tuesday, October 23	Chapter 11: Terrorism and the Psychology of Violence <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concepts, nature, and psychological factors of terrorism
Thursday, October 25	Test #2 Chapters 6 – 11 Case Study #6 Due
Tuesday, October 30	Chapter 12: Sexual Assault <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Definitions and statistics of rape, victim impact
Thursday, November 1	Chapter 12: Sexual Assault <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rape offender characteristics, classification of rape patterns
Tuesday, November 6	Chapter 13: Sexual Assault of Children <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incidence and prevalence of pedophilia, situational and victimization characteristics
Thursday, November 8	Chapter 13: Sexual Assault of Children <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Classification and recidivism of child offenders Case Study #7 Due
Tuesday, November 13	Chapter 14: Property and Public Order Crime <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Burglary, larceny, fraud and shoplifting Class Project Due
Thursday, November 15	Chapter 14: Property and Public Order Crime <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • White-collar and occupational crime and prostitution Case Study #8 Due
Tuesday, November 20	Special Presentation
Thursday, November 22	Thanksgiving Break
Tuesday, November 27	Chapter 15: Violent Economic Crime and Crimes of Intimidation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Robbery, cybercrime, and stalking

Thursday, November 29

Chapter 15: Violent Economic Crime and Crimes of Intimidation

- Hostage-taking offenses, arson and bombings

Case Study #9 Due

Tuesday, December 4

Chapter 16: Substance Abuse, Alcohol, and Crime

- Juvenile drug use, drug classifications, and alcohol

Thursday, December 6

Class Wrap-up

Case Study #10 Due

Thursday, December 13

Exam time: 8:00 – 10:00 a.m.

Final: Chapters 12 - 16