



**CRIJ – 3363 -- Violent Offenders (online)  
Summer I 2014**

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**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 construct and current research findings on psychopathy.
5. To have basic understanding of the research related to serial violent offenders.
6. To have basic understanding of the research related to stalking offenders.
7. To have basic understanding of the research related to profiles and causes of sexual offending.
8. To have basic understanding of the research related to profiles and personality of females killers.
9. To have basic understanding of the research related to domestic violence perpetrators.
10. To have basic understanding of the research related to hate crimes perpetrators.

**Required Text**

Miller, H.A. (compiled by; 2008). Violent Offenders. Prentice Hall Custom Publishing.  
ISBN: 0-555-03552-2

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

## Student Responsibilities

Students are required to view all lectures (video and/or voice with power point), to read all assignments before they are due to be discussed in class, and to be prepared to discuss the reading assignments in your discussion groups. Requirements for this course include taking all of the scheduled exams and participating in assigned discussions.

## Exams

There will be three 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 50 points. Examinations will not be comprehensive. **No make-up exams will be given.** You will have **60** minutes to complete each exam. Exams will be open book and notes, but you are not allowed to work with someone else.

## Discussion

Since we will not be in a traditional classroom, I want us to be very active in discussion and discourse about the topics – which is quite easy because these offenders are very interesting!

Thus, a large portion of your grade will be your discussion involvement. For each module you can obtain 20 discussion points. The points and expectations are broken down like this:

- 4 pts for a thoughtful response to the topic question
- 6 pts for posting an example (case study) of that violent offender type (could be news clip url, YouTube video, or specific description) and why you think that case study fits into the type that we are reading and talking about
- 4 pts for responding to four other student comments in your group
- 6 pts for responding to two other student case studies and whether you agree or disagree that their case study is a good match to the offender type we are learning about

Please remember to be respectful in your discussions, whether you are talking to each other or talking about a case study. It is easier to be less respectful when we are not face to face – however, I expect the same courteous discourse as if we were all together in a classroom! Additionally, make sure you check out the syllabus to see when modules are discussed – you will need to get in there while that module discussion is open. Once the module session is over you will not be able to go back and add! So keep up!

## 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 50 points each X 3	= 150 points
C	70-79%	Discussion involvement 20 points per module X 6	= 120 points
D	60-69%		
F	59% and below		
		Total	<hr/> = 270 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 lectures will be a combination of video and voice lecture with power point slides.

## **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/~vaf\\_www/aps/documents/811006.pdf](http://www.shsu.edu/~vaf_www/aps/documents/811006.pdf)

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 extra 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 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/~vaf\\_www/aps/documents/810213.pdf](http://www.shsu.edu/~vaf_www/aps/documents/810213.pdf)

In an online course there are different temptations, if you will, to engage in academic dishonesty. For example, having someone else post discussions or take exams for you. Additionally, simply copying someone else's comments and posting them as your own. Lastly, working on an exam with someone else may be tempting. All of these are considered academic dishonesty in this course and if you engage in any of them you will be given an F for the course and referred to the Dean of Students.

Students, take the academic honesty policy seriously in EVERY class. If you have academic dishonesty on your transcript you will find it very difficult to obtain employment! It is not worth the risk.

## Schedule and Readings

Introduction	Course Introduction and Discussion (May 29 <sup>th</sup> -30 <sup>th</sup> )	
Module 1	Origins of Criminal and Violent Behavior (May 30 <sup>th</sup> – June 4 <sup>th</sup> )	
	Human aggression and violence	<a href="#"><u>Reading 1</u></a>
	Biological influences	<a href="#"><u>Reading 2</u></a>
	Environmental influences	<a href="#"><u>Reading 3</u></a>
	- <i>Milgram youtube video</i>	
Module 2	Mental Disorder and Violence (June 5 <sup>th</sup> – June 10 <sup>th</sup> )	
	Mood Disorders	<a href="#"><u>Reading 4</u></a>
	- <i>Bipolar video clip</i>	
	Psychotic and Personality Disorders	
	- <i>Schizophrenia video clip</i>	
	The relationship between mental illness & violent behavior	
	Psychopaths	<a href="#"><u>Reading 5</u></a>
	- <i>APD video clip</i>	
	- <i>Bundy video clip</i>	
<b>EXAM 1</b>	Due by <a href="#"><u>Midnight on June 10<sup>th</sup></u></a> (open from June 9 <sup>th</sup> at 3pm to June 10 <sup>th</sup> at 11:59pm)	
Module 3	Killers (June 11 <sup>th</sup> – 15 <sup>th</sup> )	
	Killers and their victims	<a href="#"><u>Reading 6</u></a>
	Male serial killers	<a href="#"><u>Reading 7</u></a>
	- <i>Video of Richard Ramirez</i>	
	Women who kill	
	The female serial killer	<a href="#"><u>Reading 8</u></a>
	- <i>Aileen Wuronos video</i>	
Module 4	Sexual Offenders (June 16 <sup>th</sup> – 19 <sup>th</sup> )	
	Overview and rapists	<a href="#"><u>Reading 9</u></a>
	Pedophiles	<a href="#"><u>Reading 10</u></a>
	Female sexual offenders	
	Treatment and management	
<b>EXAM 2</b>	Due by <a href="#"><u>Midnight on June 19<sup>th</sup></u></a> (open from June 18 <sup>th</sup> at 3pm to June 19 <sup>th</sup> at 11:59pm)	
Module 5	Domestic Violence and Stalking Perpetrators (June 19 <sup>th</sup> – 22 <sup>nd</sup> )	
	Domestic violence perpetrators	<a href="#"><u>Reading 11</u></a>
	Stalkers	<a href="#"><u>Reading 12</u></a>
	- <i>Stalker video</i>	
Module 6	Hate Crime Perpetrators (June 23 <sup>rd</sup> – June 25 <sup>th</sup> )	
	Perpetrators of hate crimes	<a href="#"><u>Reading 13</u></a>
<b>EXAM 3</b>	Due by <a href="#"><u>Noon (12pm) June 26<sup>th</sup></u></a> (open from June 25 <sup>th</sup> at 3pm to June 26 <sup>th</sup> at NOON)	