

**CRIM 490 Serial Murder**

**FALL 2012**

**SCHEDULE # 201270**

**SECTION: 008**

**SCHEDULED DAY AND TIME: TUESDAY, 10:30AM-1:10 PM**

**CLASS LOCATION: Prince William: Bull Run Hall 132**

**INSTRUCTOR: LUCINDA R. HATTON**

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**OFFICE HOURS: By Appointment**

**CRIM 490, Serial Murder** examines legal, biological, social, historic and theoretical parameters of serial murder, antecedent /post variables and context. Additionally, we will dedicate one section of this course to analyzing serial murder of children.

This course explores relationships between paraphilia, violence and serial offending. The curriculum includes serial murder & victim, typologies, serial murderer subtypes, predisposition, abnormal psychology & neurological dysfunction, forensic analyses of high risk offenders, environmental risk factors and theory, the application of law and constitutionality, diminished capacity and public policy regarding violent homicide.

**CRIM 490** is an *extremely* intense course and material presented can be upsetting. Whilst I recognize that being upset is an expected response, I mandate a high standard of respect, civility and professionalism regardless of your emotions. I also highly advise you seek counseling services if you feel the need to talk to someone and receive professional mental health counseling. I can facilitate your academic attainment and although I've been told I make an excellent 'agony aunt', I am simply not able to go any further than a referral. **If at any time** you need services, please contact the George Mason Counseling and Psychological Services:

<http://caps.gmu.edu/>

From the CAPS services website:

"During University office hours (8:30am - 5pm): If you are in a crisis\* and need assistance to deal with the psychological impact of this crisis, please contact Counseling and Psychological Services at **703-993-2380 or come to SUB I, Room 3129**. A counselor will meet with you to assess your situation and to identify options for dealing with the crisis."

I have posted reading materials on Blackboard including your course reference manual, "Managing Death Investigation." I also reserve the right to update reading materials according to the needs of this class. I stagger weekly course reading assignments so a heavy reading for one week is followed by a not quite so heavy reading load the next week. Whilst this reading schedule presents unique organizational challenges, it is a practice I use to save your visual acuity and comprehension. Regardless of what your reading load is for the week, lecture is intense and extensive; if you miss more than two lectures, you should re-think your enrollment in CRIM 490. If you miss three lectures, we will discuss your continuing participation in this course and establish an academic plan tailored to your abilities and particular circumstances.

We will have regular **in-class discussions/analyses, group work** and I expect you to keep up with all reading assignments so get to know your classmates **now**. I opened the Blackboard discussion forums and I highly encourage you to participate. Be respectful at all times or I will stop your ability to use the forum (this means you cannot make up those points).

This class is structured in a very straight-forward manner. All lectures, readings, visual materials require a high-level of academic commitment.

There are no extra credit assignments and trust me, you don't want any either. This is just a tough class so prepare accordingly please.

Remember that whilst everyone is entitled to their own opinions, everyone is not entitled to their own facts. I am a taskmaster in the classroom and relentlessly keep everyone on a grounded path because of the subject matter, the high level of emotional response to the subject matter, myths associated with serial murder, violence and the never-ending plethora of TV programs that misinform viewers. Finally, Serial murder is not a glamorous subject matter and whilst we will most definitely analyze case histories, this class is about Serial Murder rather than serial murderers only.

#### **Assignments:**

1. **All Weekly readings assigned** and you need to read them **BEFORE class on Tuesdays**.
2. **Responses to weekly questions** are to be **answered in class and turned in at the end of every class**. You will receive response questions after lecture and discussion. There will be time devoted so you can answer them appropriately in class.
3. **The Midterm:** *written essay format* and we will discuss the particulars in class.
4. **Research Project:** **in-class presentation and an 8-10 page written analysis of your research findings**. I will create assignment schedule *after the Midterm* and you will receive a Research Project handout (also posted on Blackboard) with assignment details, requirements and dates.
5. **Class discussions and group work** contribute importantly to your overall grade. In other words, come to class prepared, do the work necessary to participate, participate regularly, contribute meaningfully and work diligently because I pay attention and I demand the same from you. - Participation points can mean the difference between a B+ or an A-.

### Grading Logic:

100-97	A+	79-77	C+
93-96	A	76-73	C
90-92	A-	72-70	C-
89-87	B+	69-67	D+
86-83	B	66-64	D
82-80	B-	63-60	D-
59 and less =F			

### Assignment Grading Logic

Midterm: 25 points

Final Project/Paper: 35 points

Final Project Presentation: 10 points

Weekly Questions (in-class): 20 points

Participation (in-class): 5 points

Online Forum Participation: 5 points

### Assignment Dates

1. Research Project topic: due electronically before 4PM, Friday, October 12th.
2. Research Project Proposal including 6 sources: due electronically before 4PM, Friday, November 9<sup>th</sup>.
3. Analysis of research findings: due electronically before 4PM, Tuesday, December 4<sup>th</sup>.
4. I will create a project presentation schedule after I review approved topics.
5. I will decide on a midterm date after the first two weeks of class.

### Approved Sources

1. Peer-reviewed journals
2. Academic texts
3. Department of Justice publications
4. Federal Bureau of Investigation publications
5. Approved medical resources and trauma center publications
6. Investigative newspaper articles
7. National Center for Missing and Exploited Children
8. International Center for Missing and Exploited Children
9. Accredited University research centers and publications
10. The Vidoq Society
11. Interpol
12. Scotland Yard
13. <http://www.casebook.org/> (Jack The Ripper data)
14. The London Metropolitan Police

### Unapproved sources

1. Wikipedia
2. 'True crime' or 'Court TV' websites
3. Political websites
4. Conspiracy websites
5. Pornography sites (don't even think about it)

Bottom line: See me if you have any questions. I must vet all your sources before I approve your final paper and project.

### Late work:

If an assignment is going to be late, you must notify me before class the day the assignment is due. I will not accept late papers if you don't notify me. I will deduct 10 percentage points each week after the due date for those who do actually notify me.

**Academic Integrity and Honesty** are essential to everyone in a functional and civil society. I take plagiarism very seriously and apparently I have an amazing plagiarism radar so please, **do your own work**. I am always very willing to help and guide you but the work is up to you. George Mason has appropriate facilities and if you need extra help, please seek services. Don't leave everything until the last minute.

**Plagiarism:** If you use someone else's words, thoughts or work without crediting them, you are stealing and if you represent their work as yours, you are plagiarizing. Please don't even consider it. I am very straightforward about how I deal with plagiarists: NO MERCY. George Mason University has an Honor Code, which requires everyone to maintain the highest standards of academic honesty and integrity. Cheating, plagiarism, lying, and stealing are all prohibited. If I find anyone has plagiarized, we will have a rather horrid little discussion and you will not be a happy person thereafter.

**All violations of the Honor Code will be reported to the Honor Committee.** The entire honor code is available online: <http://academicintegrity.gmu.edu/honorcode/>

**George Mason's Honor Code:** "To promote a stronger sense of mutual responsibility, respect, trust, and fairness among all members of the George Mason University community and with the desire for greater academic and personal achievement, we, the student members of the University Community have set forth this: Student members of the George Mason University community pledge not to cheat, plagiarize, steal, or lie in matters related to academic work."

**MIDTERM:** We will regularly discuss important dates and I assign the Midterm in a timely manner so as to make sure you have good opportunity to assess your class standing. I will provide a Midterm date after the Labor Day Holiday. There is no 'final exam' in this class because your paper and project count as your final assignment.

**IMPORTANT DATES AND DEADLINES** are available online: <http://registrar.gmu.edu/calendar.html>

**CONCERNING CELL PHONES, SMART PHONES, BLACKBERRIES, LAPTOPS, ELECTRIC SHAVERS, MAGIC WANDS ETCETERA:** Turn off your cell phones and other communication devices during class. Unless you are an emergency responder or you have a possibly critical situation, please turn off all electrical devices. If you text or even so much as look at your cell phone (or anything else for that matter) during an exam, you will be asked to turn in your exam and it will not be graded. We will then have a rather horrid little talk. I really do NOT like laptops in the classroom because they are a distraction rather than an aid in this sort of learning environment. I demand a high level of interaction rather than more distraction. I assume you can take notes with paper and pen and the aid of your fingers. If this is an issue, come and speak with me please. Please make sure you purchase a notebook for taking notes.

**ATTENDANCE AND EXAMS:** If you are ill, have an accident or there is a death in the family and you miss the Midterm exam or cannot fulfill class work obligations, please make sure you provide a legal excuse such as:

A Doctor's notice

A Police report

A Death Examiner's Note

**A note from your parent/s or guardian/s is NOT a legal excuse.** The point here is to make sure you contact me! Also, if 'Grandmummy' miraculously dies twice in one semester, *I will notice* and please understand that I *always* send sympathy cards.

**All makeup exams are written.**

**DISABILITY:** If you have a disability or need to discuss anything, please feel free to come and speak with me. I always maintain confidentiality and I make great effort to facilitate every student's education. I want each and every one of you to succeed. If you have a disability or think you might need services and academic accommodations, please see me and contact the Office of Disability Resources at 703.993.2474. **All academic accommodations must be arranged through that office.**

**ENROLLMENT AND STATUS:** Students are responsible for verifying their enrollment in this class. Schedule adjustments should be made by the deadlines published in the Schedule of

**Classes:** Deadlines each semester are published in the Schedule of Classes available from the Registrar's Website registrar.gmu.edu. After the last day to drop a class, withdrawing from this class requires the approval of the dean and is only allowed for nonacademic reasons. Undergraduate students may choose to exercise a selective withdrawal. See the Schedule of Classes for selective withdrawal procedures. Sometimes schedules change and it is your responsibility to check official George Mason University scheduling dates. *There may be changes to lecture material or when I hand back your work,* but unless there is some odd weather (or earthquake) incident, the dates and requirements remain the same. I shall always give you notice of any changes but you really need to attend class because Blackboard doesn't always work or systems can go down and I use good old fashioned paper and my incredibly loud voice to present information.

**Students who regularly attend class, perform well academically.** I strive to make this a positive and productive learning environment for everyone. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you are having difficulties; I am happy to help you find solutions and/or send you to someone who can help you.

I reserve the right to make changes to this document and assigned readings as I see fit and according to the needs of this class. As we meet once per week, I must have the flexibility to coordinate academic demands and provide a rigorous learning environment that is fair for everyone.