# CRIM 400-03

**Applied Criminal Psychology**

**Spring 2019**

**George Mason University**

**Fairfax Campus**

**Monday & Wednesday**

**12:00 – 1:15 PM**

**Planetary Hall 224**



**Instructor**

**Professor Jack Kitaeff, PhD, JD, FACLM**

Contact Info: [jkitaeff@gmu.edu](mailto:jkitaeff@gmu.edu)

Office hours: By appointment, available before or

after class, and during breaks

See http://masionlive.gmu.edu for information on how to use your account. I check my email frequently and it’s the quickest way to reach me. **It is also strongly advised that you check your email daily, just to make sure there has not been any changes to the class meeting for that day**.

# Course Description and Objectives:

The objective of this course is generally to analyze the mind of criminals who commit heinous crimes. This class will examine factors that influence violent criminals, e.g. environment, mental disorders and personality. We will examine the field of criminal investigative technique and analysis. Throughout this course students will learn the history and methods of criminal profiling, analyzing crime scenes for offender behaviors and characteristics utilizing science and logic reasoning. Students will study criminal profiles and equivocal death analysis from forensic and behavioral evidence.

**NOTE: Instructor reserves the right to change or modify this syllabus at any time during the semester.**

# Required Textbook:

***Forensic Psychology***

**Prentice-Hall, First Edition (2010)**

**By Jack Kitaeff.**

**ISBN-13-978-0-13-235291-8**

**Optional Textbook:**

***Criminal Profiling: An Introduction to Behavioral Evidence Analysis***

**Elsevier Academic Press,** **Fourth Edition (2012)**

**By Brent E. Turvey.**

**ISBN - 978-0-12-385243-4**

# Caveat:

The materials we will be covering may contain graphic photos and disturbing contentwhich can be upsetting to some. If you feel you need to talk to someone about these issues, please contact George Mason Counseling and Psychological Services at 703-993-2380 or online at caps.gmu.edu.

# Course Format

Class will mainly be presented in lecture format. There may be class participation exercises as well as relevant documentary media films. Attending lectures on a regular basis will be beneficial to your grade in this course.

# Course Policies:

Audio recording of lectures to augment in-class note taking is permitted however; you must let me know you are doing so. Videotaping in any form is not permitted. Laptops, Ipads & Tablets are permitted but must only be used for note taking. Please be respectful of your peers and instructor and do not engage in activities that are unrelated to class.

# Attendance/Class Participation:

Students are responsible to attend class. An attendance sheet will be passed around during each class. Students are not permitted to sign the attendance sheet for another student. In-class participation is important and adds to the learning environment. Attendance/class participation will count towards your final grade.

# Honor Code:

George Mason University has an Honor Code, which requires all members of this community to maintain the highest standards of academic honesty and integrity. All students are expected to be familiar with this Honor Code. Cheating, plagiarism, lying, and stealing are prohibited. All violations of the Honor Code will be reported to the Honor Committee. See honorcode.gmu.edu for more detailed information.

# Students with Disabilities:

If you are a student with a disability and you need 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.

# Add/Drop Period:

Students are responsible for verifying their enrollment in class. Schedule adjustments should be made by the deadlines published in the Schedule of Classes available from the Registrar’s Website at registrar.gmu.edu.

After the last day to drop a class, withdrawing from the 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.

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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 at

registrar.gmu.edu.)  
   
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**Grading:**

Your final grade will be calculated as follows (total 100 points):

Attendance/Participation: Missing more than 5 classes will lower your final grade by ½ grade (e.g., A to A- or B- to C+).

Midterm Exam: 30 points

Final Exam: 30 points Profile Paper: 40 points

# Grading Scale:

**Letter Grade Total Points**

A+ 97 – 100

A 93 – 96

A - 90 – 92

B+ 86 – 89

B 82 – 85

B- 80 – 81

C+ 76 – 79

C 72 – 75

C- 70 – 71

D 65 – 69

F 64 and Below

# Criminal Profile Paper

You are to select a serial killer/criminal and explain the biological, situational and developmental factors that contributed to the criminal’s behavior. Examine their crimes and provide motive, intent, MO and Signature analysis. The paper must be double-spaced, 10-15 pages in length (not including the title page or references), and properly stapled. References should be from at least three sources, including but not limited to textbooks, academic journals, professional journals, and web-based materials (Wikipedia is not a proper source). All sources need to be properly citied in APA style. You will need to email me who you will be profiling by **February 27, 2019.** The paper is due **in class on April 24, 2019.** Hard copies only, no email submissions without my permission.The Profile paper needs to be thorough and detailed with a comprehensive description of the subject’s background (criminal and non- criminal). The paper should seek to explain the subject criminal’s behavior utilizing techniques and theories learned in class. Please include information on the criminal’s M.O./Signature. Include the offender’s motive and intent. Please examine victimology issues as appropriate.

Paper Grading Rubric

Detailed & comprehensive description of background

(including biological, situational, & developmental factors): **10 points**

Description of crimes: **10 points**

M.O., signature features, motive, & intent: **10 points**

At least 10 pages in length: **2 points**

APA format: **5 points**

On time paper: **3 points (3 points**

**off per calendar**

**day of lateness)**

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**40 points**

# Exams:

The midterm and final exams will be closed book and will use a combination of multiple choice, and true or false questions. Make-up exams will only be given under exceptional, unavoidable circumstances with proper documentation. If you know in advance that you will have to miss an exam, please notify me ASAP.

# Privacy Policy:

Please respect the privacy of any students who may disclose personal information in the class. Please respect everyone’s right to freely choose whether to disclose or not disclose personal information.

# Bad Weather and Other Emergencies:

Check Mason’s homepage at [www.gmu.edu](http://www.gmu.edu/) or call GMU’s closing line at 703-993-1000 to see if classes are cancelled for inclement weather or other emergency circumstances. You can also register for Mason’s emergency alert system at https://alert.gmu.edu. If I have to cancel class due to an emergency, I will attempt to email you ASAP at your GMU email address.

**Course Schedule**

JAN 23 Introduction to the course.

JAN 28 Kitaeff, Chapter 1: History and Current Issues in Forensic and Criminal Psychology.

JAN 30 Kitaeff, Chapter 1: History and Current Issues in Forensic and Criminal Psychology Continued.

FEB 4 Kitaeff, Chapter 2: Roles and Responsibilities of Forensic Psychologists

FEB 6 Kitaeff, Chapter 2: Roles and Responsibilities of Forensic Psychologists

Continued.

FEB 11 Chapter 3: Aggression and Violent Crime.

FEB 13 Chapter 3: Aggression and Violent Crime Continued.

FEB 18 Kitaeff, Chapter 5: Mass Murders and Serial Killers

FEB 20 Kitaeff, Chapter 5: Mass Murders and Serial Killers Continued.

FEB 25 Kitaeff, Chapter 8: Investigations.

FEB 27 Psychological Testing (from lecture, not in book). **Paper Topics Due.**

MARCH 4 Psychological Testing Continued (from lecture, not in book).

MARCH 6 Kitaeff, Chapter 10: Psychology of False Confessions.

MARCH 11 Spring Break.

MARCH 13 Spring Break.

MARCH 18 Kitaeff, Chapter 9: Eyewitness Testimony and Accuracy. History of Criminal Profiling, Theoretical Foundations; Criminal Profiling: Science, Logic and Cognition; Alternative Methods of Criminal Profiling; Forensic Psychologists and Psychiatrists as Profilers

MARCH 20 **MIDTERM EXAM** (Review topics posted on Blackboard)

MARCH 25 Kitaeff, Chapter 11: Capacity and Incapacity.

MARCH 27 Kitaeff, Chapter 13: Repressed Memories and Novel Syndromes

APRIL 1 Kitaeff, Chapter 13: Repressed Memories and Novel Syndromes Continued.

APRIL 3 Forensic Victimology; Sexual Deviance; Sexual Asphyxia.

APRIL 8 Forensic Victimology; Sexual Deviance; Sexual Asphyxia Continued.

APRIL 10 False Reports; Crime Scene Characteristics; Interpreting Motive.

APRIL 15 Kitaeff, Chapter 6: The Psychology of Terrorism, Cults and Extremism

APRIL 17 Kitaeff, Chapter 6: The Psychology of Terrorism, Cults and Extremism

Continued.

APRIL 22 Psychopathy and Sadism.

APRIL 24 Sex Crimes; Domestic Homicide. **Papers Due in Class.**

APRIL 29 Sex Crimes; Domestic Homicide Continued.

MAY 1 Review for Final Exam

MAY 6 Study Day

MAY 13 **Final Exam** (10:30 am – 1:15 PM), same room.