Spring 2019  
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Office: 3041 David King Hall  
Office Hours: Thursdays 12:15pm-1:15pm/3pm-4pm or by appointment  

Prerequisites: PSYC100 or permission of instructor  

Required Textbook/Materials  
I strongly recommend that you purchase or rent the following textbooks:  
- Without Conscience: The Disturbing World of Psychopaths Among Us (Robert Hare) Publisher: The Guilford Press. 978-1572304512  
- Any lectures, videos, PowerPoints, or other material assigned by the instructor.  

Course Description  
In this online course, we will review the psychology of criminal conduct. More specifically, we will review the theoretical context and the major risk/need factors of criminal conduct. We will also study the real-world applications of relevant research findings. Additionally, this course will focus on a few specific criminological topics from the viewpoint of industrial/organizational psychology. For example, we will spend several weeks studying the profile of psychopaths (e.g., feelings, relationships, lifestyle) and ethical issues in criminology. A major goal of this course involves fostering critical thinking skills as both consumers and producers of research.  

Learning Objectives  
By the end of this course, you will be able to:  
- Identify the biological, personal, and social origins of the major/risk needs factors of criminal conduct  
- Evaluate the antecedents of criminal conduct using a personality and cognitive social learning approach  
- Identify the relative strengths and weaknesses of theoretical perspectives on criminal behavior  
- Critically evaluate evidence related to criminology and its real-life applications  
- Apply good critical thinking skills to any topic you encounter in the future  

Grading  
In this course, you will demonstrate what you’ve learned by completing a series of activities, discussion board posts, and exams.  

Graded work will involve varying amounts of preparation and effort (and graded course components are weighted accordingly), but all graded material will require you to engage seriously and substantively with the course material. Detailed instructions for assignments will be provided on Blackboard, along with grading rubrics that allow you to see the relative weight of the various components of each assignment.
### Turning in Assignments

All assignments must be submitted on Blackboard by 11:59pm on the day they are due (i.e., if work is due on Friday, it is due by 11:59 pm Friday night).

Late assignments will only be accepted with advance permission. Otherwise, a penalty of 5 percentage points will be assessed for each calendar day the project is late. That is, a project that would have earned 100% if turned in on time will earn 95% if turned in one day late, 90% if turned in two days late, etc.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week/Dates</th>
<th>Module</th>
<th>Topics/Readings</th>
<th>Assessments</th>
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</table>
| Week 1: January 22 – January 27 | 1 [Intro] | **The Psychology of Criminal Conduct** (5th ed.)  
**Chapter 1:** An overview of the psychology of criminal conduct  
**Assessment:** Discussion board post due January 27 | 10                             |
| Week 2: January 28 – February 3     | 1      | **The Psychology of Criminal Conduct** (5th ed.)  
**Chapter 2:** The empirical basis to the psychology of criminal conduct |                              | 10     |
| Week 3: February 4 – February 10    | 1      | **The Psychology of Criminal Conduct** (6th ed.)  
**Chapter 3:** From criminology theories to a psychological perspective of criminal conduct  
**Additional Reading:** Industrial Organizational Psychology  
Workplace Violence: p. 315-321  
**Assessment:** Discussion board post due February 10 | 10     |
| Week 4: February 11 – February 17   | 2      | **The Psychology of Criminal Conduct** (5th ed.)  
**Chapter 5:** Biological, personal, and social origins of the major risk/need factors and personal strengths  
**Chapter 8:** The person in social context: family, school, work, leisure/recreation, marital attachments, and neighborhood | 10     |
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<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Chapters</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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| 5      | February 18 – February 24 | The Psychology of Criminal Conduct (6th ed.) | **Chapter 5**: Antisocial Personality Pattern  
**Chapter 8**: Substance Abuse  
Drugs and Drug Policy  
**Chapter 5**: Patterns of Illegal Drug Use | Activity 1  
Due February 24                        | 25     |
| 6      | February 25 – March 3 | The Psychology of Criminal Conduct (6th ed.) | **Chapter 10**: Prediction of Criminal Behavior and Classification of Offenders  
**Chapter 11**: Offender Rehabilitation  
Social Psychology - Goals in Interaction  
Madness of Crowds: p. 194-195 | -                      | 10     |
| 7      | March 4 – March 10   | The Psychology of Criminal Conduct (6th ed.) | **Chapter 12**: Creating and Maintaining RNR Adherence: A Real-World Challenge  
**Chapter 14**: Criminal Subtypes: Intimate Partner Violence, the Mentally Disordered, and Sex Offenders  
Social Psychology - Meyers  
**Chapter 15**: Social Psychology in Court | Discussion board post  
Due March 10                | -      |
<p>| 8      | March 11 – March 17  | -               | -                                          | SPRING BREAK  | -      |
| 9      | -                   | -               | Midterm Exam                                | Midterm Exam               | 50     |</p>
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<tr>
<th>Week 10:</th>
<th>March 25 – March 31</th>
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<td>Introduction: The Problem</td>
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<td>Chapter 1: “Experiencing” the Psychopath</td>
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<td>Chapter 2: Focusing the Picture</td>
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<td>Week 11:</td>
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<td>Chapter 3: The profile: feelings and relationships</td>
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<td>Chapter 4: The profile: lifestyle</td>
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<td>Week 12:</td>
<td>April 8 – April 14</td>
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<td>Chapter 5: Internal controls: the missing piece</td>
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<td>Chapter 6: Crime: the logical choice</td>
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<td>Week 13:</td>
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<td>Chapter 7: White-collar psychopaths</td>
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<td>Chapter 8: Words from an overcoat pocket</td>
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<td>Week 14:</td>
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<td>Chapter 9: Flies in the web</td>
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<td>Chapter 10: The roots of the problem</td>
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<td>Week 15:</td>
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<td>Chapter 11: The ethics of labeling</td>
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<td>Chapter 12: Can anything be done?</td>
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<td>Chapter 13: A survival guide</td>
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<td>Week 16:</td>
<td>May 6 - May 12</td>
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<td>May 11 - May 12</td>
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**Final grade**
Your final grade will be based on the number of points you have earned out of the 200 possible. A standard grading structure will be used:

- A+ 100% and higher
- B+ 87-89%
- C+ 77-79%
- F 59% and lower
- A 93-99%
- B 83-86%
- C 70-76%
- A- 90-92%
- B- 80-82%
- D 60-69%

**Modules**
As an online course, the content of PSYC405 will be delivered in modules. For our purposes, each module will begin on a Monday and end on a Sunday night at midnight. Information about specific due dates will be noted in assignment instructions.

I realize that some of you may be in different time zones. All dates and times listed on the course schedule and Blackboard are based on the time at the Mason campus in Fairfax, Virginia (EST).

Modules will be posted on Blackboard individually. In general, you can expect each module to be posted on the day before it is due to begin.

**Discussions**
You are required to participate in each of the 4 discussion sections. All discussions will be offered through Blackboard. You are expected to make a meaningful and thoughtful response to the discussion question. Dialogue with other students is encouraged.

Please note that a “discussion” is not an “essay” or an “op-ed” piece. To ensure that you receive full credit in for a discussion, make sure that you answer every component of the discussion prompt and that you participate in the discussion by reading the other posts and then engaging in the discussion. The discussion topics are designed to help you apply critical thinking skills to contemporary problems engender by the course. You are encouraged to express your position, defend it and/or modify it as you gain a fuller understanding of the perspectives surrounding the discussion topic.

Discussion sessions will not be extended beyond the end date. Makeup discussion sessions will not be offered.

**Online Exams**
The exams will be available for you to take during a 48 hour time period on Blackboard starting at 12:00AM on Saturday and will be available until 11:59PM on Sunday night. You will have 90 minutes to answer approximately 50 multiple choice questions. The exams will not be comprehensive and will cover the material since the last exam. Please plan to take the exams when scheduled.
STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

Technology expectations
You must have reliable access to the internet.

You will need to be able to access your Masonlive email account (http://itservices.gmu.edu/services/view-service.cfm?customel_dataPageID_4609=11028), and Blackboard (https://mymasonportal.gmu.edu), Mason’s web-based Learning Management System.

Information about a variety of course tools, including Blackboard Mobile, can be found at http://doit.gmu.edu/students/course-tools/

Time commitment
At the university level, in addition to time spent in class, students are expected to put in 2 to 3 times as much time outside of class. For a 3-credit-hour, online class taught over 14 weeks, you can expect 2.5 hours per week of “class time”, plus an additional 5-7.5 hours of reading and other work outside of class, for an approximate total commitment of 7.5-10 hours per week.

Response times
In general, you can expect email or online responses from me within 48 hours. I expect that you will respond to my emails within a similar time frame.
Grading will take longer, since this is a large class with substantive assignments.

Civility
In this course, we will be covering topics about which people are likely to have differing opinions. Disagreement is fine and, in fact, it advances our thinking to consider other viewpoints and perspectives. However, I expect that disagreement will be respectful. Part of civil disagreement involves focusing on ideas, rather than people. For example, it is generally better to say “I disagree with your conclusions about …”, rather than “I disagree with you about …”

Official communications via GMU e-mail
Mason uses electronic mail to provide official information to students. Examples include communications from course instructors, notices from the library, notices about academic standing, financial aid information, class materials, assignments, questions, and instructor feedback. Students are responsible for the content of university communications sent to their Mason e-mail account, and are required to activate that account and check it regularly. If you are having your Mason mail forwarded to another account,
please ensure that your Mason account doesn’t exceed the assigned limit, causing mail to bounce back to the sender.

**Cancellations**
University closings will not typically affect this online course, however if inclement weather or other unexpected situations affect your ability to complete graded work on time, please contact me to discuss options.

**OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

**Disability accommodations**
If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations, please let me know early in the semester. If you have not already done so, contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS) at 703-993-2474. All academic accommodations must be arranged through that office. Please keep in mind that it might not be possible to grant last-minute requests for accommodations, so it is important to make all arrangements well before the date when the accommodation is needed. The Office of Disability Services website can be found at [http://ods.gmu.edu](http://ods.gmu.edu)

**Academic integrity**
The integrity of the University community is affected by the individual choices made by each of us. Mason has an Honor Code with clear guidelines regarding academic integrity. Three fundamental principles to follow at all times are: (1) all work submitted be your own; (2) when using the work or ideas of others, including fellow students, give full credit through accurate citations; and (3) if you are uncertain about the ground rules on a particular assignment, ask for clarification. No grade is important enough to justify academic misconduct.

More information on Mason’s Honor Code can be found at [http://oai.gmu.edu/the-mason-honor-code-2/](http://oai.gmu.edu/the-mason-honor-code-2/)
Mason’s Writing Center provides detailed information about plagiarism, APA citation style, and more at [http://writingcenter.gmu.edu/writing-resources/wc-quick-guides](http://writingcenter.gmu.edu/writing-resources/wc-quick-guides)

**Diversity**
George Mason University promotes a living and learning environment for outstanding growth and productivity among its students, faculty and staff. Through its curriculum, programs, policies, procedures, services and resources, Mason strives to maintain a quality environment for work, study and personal growth.

An emphasis upon diversity and inclusion throughout the campus community is essential to achieve these goals. Diversity is broadly defined to include such characteristics as, but not limited to, race, ethnicity, gender, religion, age, disability, and sexual orientation. Diversity also entails different viewpoints, philosophies, and perspectives. Attention to these aspects of diversity will help promote a culture of inclusion and belonging, and an environment where diverse opinions, backgrounds, and practices have the opportunity to be voiced, heard and respected.

**Psychological Services**
Life is stressful and we all need a little support sometimes. Students are encouraged to contact Counseling & Psychological Services (caps.gmu.edu) for assistance with any kind of psychological/life problem or crisis situation. I can help with referrals for students with particular counseling needs, so please feel free to talk with me for help with anything.

**Student support resources**
A variety of useful services for distance learners are listed at [http://masononline.gmu.edu/student-resources/](http://masononline.gmu.edu/student-resources/)

**Deadlines**
- First day of class: January 22
- Last day to add a class: January 29
- Last day to drop a class: February 12
- Selective withdrawal period: February 26 – March 25
- Last day of class: May 6
- Reading day: May 7
- Final exams: May 8 – May 15

**Enrollment**
Every student is responsible for verifying correct enrollment. Graded work will not be returned to students who are not officially enrolled.