# CRIM 400-03

**Applied Criminal Psychology**

**Fall 2019**

**George Mason University**

**Fairfax Campus**

**Tuesday**

**4:30 – 7:10 PM**

**Lecture Hall 3**



**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**

**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 also be 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.

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 at

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.

**Grading:**

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

Attendance/Participation: Missing more than 2 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 **September 24, 2019.** The paper is due **in class on November 26, 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)**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**40 points**

# Exams:

The midterm and final exams will be closed book and will use multiple choice 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**

AUG 27 Introduction to the course. Chapter 1: History and Current Issues in Forensic and Criminal Psychology.

SEPT 3 Chapter 1: Continued. Chapter 2: Roles and Responsibilities of Forensic Psychologists.

SEPT 10 Chapter 2: Continued. Chapter 3: Aggression and Violent Crime.

SEPT 17 Chapter 5: Mass Murders and Serial Killers.

SEPT 24 Chapter 5: Continued. Chapter 8: Investigations. Psychological Testing. **Paper topics due by today via email.**

OCT 1 Psychological Testing: Continued. Chapter 10: Psychology of False Confessions.

OCT 8 No Class

OCT 15 No Class (Midterm exam study topics posted on Blackboard).

OCT 22 **Midterm Exam**

OCT 29 Chapter 9: Eyewitness Testimony and Accuracy. History of Criminal Profiling and Profilers. Chapter 11: Capacity and Incapacity.

NOV 5 Chapter 13: Repressed Memories and Novel Syndromes. Forensic Victimology.

NOV12 False Reports. Interpreting Motive. Chapter 6: The Psychology of Terrorism. Cults and Extremism.

NOV 19 Chapter 6: Continued. Psychopathy, Sadism and Sex Crimes.

NOV 26 Review for Final Exam. **Papers due in class.**

DEC 3 Study Day

DEC 17 **Final Exam**: 4:30 - 7:15, same room.