



Applied Criminal Psychology | CRIM 400 – 005

Instructor

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Adjunct Professor

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Office Hours

By appointment

Course Details

Science & Technology Campus, Thursdays 10:30am – 1:10pm, Bull Run Hall, Room 132

Course Overview

The objective of this course is to analyze criminals who commit heinous crimes. This class will examine what factors influence serious violent criminals, e.g. biological, environmental, situational, and developmental. Students will examine research in the field of criminal investigative analysis. Throughout this course, students will learn the history and methods of criminal profiling, analyzing crime scenes for offender characteristics and behaviors utilizing critical thinking, science and logical reasoning. Students will examine numerous case studies and criminological theories that apply to criminal behavior.

Required Text

Criminal Profiling: An Introduction to Behavioral Evidence Analysis, Fourth Edition, Brent E. Turvey. ISBN 978-0-12-385243-4

Caveat:

The materials we will be covering contain ***graphic photos and disturbing content***, which can be upsetting to some. This class covers several gruesome murder cases in order for us to learn and analyze offender behavior. Please be advised about this material, as it can be disturbing. If you feel you need to talk to someone, please contact the George Mason Counseling and Psychological Services at 703-993-2380, Crisis Text Line 741-741 or online at caps.gmu.edu.

Course Format/Communications

Class will mainly be presented in **lecture format**. There may be class participation discussions as well as relevant documentary media clips. Materials will be posted on Blackboard throughout the course. Lecture notes will be posted to Blackboard after class, however they may not necessarily be identical to those presented in class. Therefore, attending lectures on a regular basis will be beneficial to your grade in this course. Discussions, quizzes and exams will be completed on Blackboard. Students must have access to Blackboard to access course materials, announcements, discussions, take quizzes and check exam scores.

Course Policies

Videotaping and audio recording in any form are not permitted unless prior approval has been given.

Attendance/Class Participation

Students are responsible to attend class. Attendance will be taken in class using Qwickly Attendance on BlackBoard. Attendance logging will only be open during class time through the use of a pin code only provided in class. Attendance/class participation will count towards your final grade. **A student will be penalized 1 grade point for each absence.** Reading assignments must be done prior to the start of class. Please come to class prepared to discuss the readings and participate in exercises/discussions.

Honor Code & Academic Integrity

Academic Integrity: *It is expected that students adhere to the George Mason University Honor Code as it relates to integrity regarding coursework and grades. The Honor Code reads as follows: "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 and/or lie in matters related to academic work." More information about the Honor Code, including definitions of cheating, lying, and plagiarism, can be found at the Office of Academic Integrity website at <https://oai.gmu.edu>. **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.***

The instructor reserves the right to use manual and/or automated means including SafeAssign to detect plagiarism in any work submitted by students for this course. Any use of the words or ideas of another person(s), without explicit attribution that clearly identifies the material used and its source in an appropriate manner, is **plagiarism** and will not be tolerated.

The following are requirements for this course:

- All work is to be prepared by the individual student, unless the Professor explicitly directs otherwise.
- All work must be newly created by the individual student for this course for this semester. Any usage of work developed for another course, or for this course in a prior semester, is strictly prohibited.
- Any work to be submitted is prepared entirely and exclusively by the student submitting it. Students are expressly prohibited from sharing any quantifiable work for this course in any manner with other students, unless all students involved have had their work graded and returned and

the Professor has explicitly approved such sharing.

Students with Accommodations

If you are a student with academic accommodations, please let me know. If you need accommodations please see the Office of Disability Resources at 703-993-2474. All academic accommodations must be arranged through that office. Be sure to send your accommodation letter directly to the professor to ensure they are received.

Important Dates:

Last day to add classes	September 3
Last day to drop	September 9
Mid-term	September 23 – October 18
Thanksgiving recess	November 27 – December 1
Final exam period	December 11 – December 18

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

Attendance/Participation: 10 points

Mid-Term Exam: 25 points

Final Exam: 25 points

Profile Paper: 20 points

Quizzes: 20 points (total of 4 @5 points each)

Grading Scale:

Letter Grade	Total Points	Letter Grade	Total Points
A+	97 – 100	C+	76 - 79
A	93 – 96	C	72 - 75
A -	90 – 92	C-	70 - 71
B+	86 – 89	D	65 - 69
B	82 – 85	F	64 & below
B-	80 – 81		

Exams/Assignments:

The midterm and final exams will be a combination of short answer, multiple choice, fill-in-the-blanks and essay. Make-up exams will only be given under exceptional, unavoidable circumstances with proper documentation.

Assignments/papers must be turned in on time to receive full credit. In the event a situation arises affecting your ability to complete an assignment on time, contact me in advance to discuss an extension. **Please be honest about your situation** and I will work with you to find a solution.

Terminology Quizzes:

There will be four terminology quizzes throughout the course. These will be taken in class or on Blackboard. Each quiz is worth 5 points for a total of 20 points.

Profile Paper:

You are to select a serial killer/serial criminal and explain the biological, situational, environmental and developmental factors that may have contributed to the criminal's behavior. Examine their crimes and provide motive, intent, MO and Signature analysis. The paper needs to be done in APA format and include a title and reference page. The paper should be 3-6 pages in length. References should be from various sources, including but not limited to textbooks, academic journals, professional journals, documentaries and Internet based research materials (Wikipedia is not a proper source). **You will need a minimum of 3 sources. All sources need to be properly cited APA style. You need to email me who you will be profiling by Thursday October 3, 2019. The profile paper is due on November 21, 2019. A penalty of 1 point per day will be deducted for any late papers.**

- ❖ Profile paper needs to be thorough and detailed with a comprehensive description of the subject's background (both criminal and non-criminal).
- ❖ Seek to explain the subject criminal's behavior utilizing techniques, typologies and theories learned in class (routine activities, crime pattern theory, organized/disorganized).
- ❖ Include information on the criminal's M.O./Signature, motive and intent.
- ❖ Examine victimology and provide forensic victimology if victim information is available.

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Bad Weather and Other Emergencies:

Check Mason's homepage at www.gmu.edu 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://ready.gmu.edu/masonalert/>. If I have to cancel class, I will email you ASAP at your GMU email address. It is recommended you check your email prior to departing for class.

Exam Schedule

Exam	Week	
Exam #1	Week 7 – October 10, 2019	Mid-Term Online
Exam #2	Week 16 – December 12, 2019	Final Exam Online

Assignment Schedule

Assignment	Open	Due
Quiz #1	Week 5 – September 26, 2019	By Midnight (9/26)
Quiz #2	Week 9 – October 24, 2019	By Midnight (10/24)
Quiz#3	Week 12 – November 7, 2019	By Midnight (11/07)
Profile Paper	Week 6 – October 3, 2019	November 21, 2019

Course Outline – Tentative & Subject to change.

Week	Date	Topic	Required Reading/Assignment
1	8/29/19	Introduction/Course Overview	
2	9/5/19	History of Criminal Profiling Theories of Criminal Behavior/Critical Thinking CASE STUDY	Chapter 1 (pages 18-40)
3	9/12/19	Criminal Profiling: Science, Logic, and Cognition Methods of Criminal Profiling/Behavioral Evidence Analysis CASE STUDY	Chapter 2, 3 & 5
4	9/19/19	Behavioral Evidence Analysis Continued Intro to Crime Scene Analysis CASE STUDY	Chapter 5 & 6
5	9/26/19	Forensic Victimology False Reports/Forensic Psych & Psychiatry CASE STUDY	Quiz #1 due by midnight on BlackBoard Chapter 4, 7 & 10

6	10/03/19	Crime Scene Analysis Crime Reconstruction Crime Scene Characteristics CASE STUDY	Chapter 11 & 12 *Profile Paper Selection Due*
7	10/10/19	MID-TERM Exam - Online	No on campus lecture – Mid-term online
8	10/17/19	Interpreting Motive Case Linkage: MO & Signature Motivational Model CASE STUDY	Chapter 13 & 14
9	10/24/19	Inferring Offender Characteristics Arson Serial Murder Typologies CASE STUDY	Chapter 16 & 17 QUIZ #2 due by midnight on BlackBoard
10	10/31/19	Serial Rape/Serial Rapist Typologies CASE STUDY	Chapter 19
11	11/7/19	Sex Crimes, Serial Cases & Investigating Pattern Crimes CASE STUDY	Chapter 22 QUIZ #3 due by midnight on BlackBoard
12	11/14/19	Psychopathy & Sadism CASE STUDY	Chapter 18
13	11/21/19	Mass Murder/Active Shooter CASE STUDY	Criminal Profile Paper DUE Chapter 21

14	11/28/19	Thanksgiving Break	No Classes Held
15	12/5/19- Last Lecture	Sexual Deviance CASE STUDY	Chapter 8 & 9
16	12/12/19	Final Exam	Online via BlackBoard – No lecture