

CRIM 400 - 001: Applied Criminal Psychology
Thursdays - 4:30pm-7:10pm
Innovation Hall 134

Professor and Contact:

Professor: Dr. Terry Gudaitis

Contact Info: tgudaiti@gmu.edu

In emergencies only: tgudaitis@mindstarsecurity.com

Office hours: Enterprise Hall, Room 305

Wednesdays and Thursdays: 2:30pm - 4pm or by appointment.

Email/Blackboard and Communication:

Please check your Mason email. I will communicate regularly with students through Mason email. See <http://masonlive.gmu.edu> for information on how to use your account. In an emergency, if you need to use a different email address please notify me or set up forwarding to that address. I check my email frequently and it's the quickest way to reach me. Notes/slides from class as well as any additional case studies or readings will be posted to Blackboard.

Course Description and Objectives:

The objective of this course is to analyze the mind of criminals who commit heinous crimes. This class will examine what factors that influence violent criminals, e.g. environment, mental disorders and personality. We 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 behaviors and characteristics utilizing science and logic reasoning. Students will study criminal profiles and equivocal death analysis from forensic and behavioral evidence. This course will also cover forensic victimology.

Required Textbook:

Criminal Profiling: An Introduction to Behavioral Evidence Analysis. Fourth Edition.

Author: Brent E. Turvey. ISBN 978-0-12-385243-4

Disclaimer and Alert:

The materials we will be covering contain graphic photos and disturbing content, which can be upsetting to some. This class covers several gruesome homicide 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 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 case studies. Corresponding materials will be posted on Blackboard throughout the course or emailed to the students. The posted materials on Blackboard 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.

Course Policies:

Audio recording of lectures to augment in-class note taking is only permitted with advanced notice and with professor's permission. Videotaping in any form is not permitted. Laptops, iPads & Tablets are permitted but must only be used for note taking. Smartphones should not be used for any reason during class. If you have an emergency (e.g., text, email, or other notice from social media), please excuse yourself from class to respond to the critical communication. 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. Class attendance is mandatory and will impact your grade. An attendance sheet will be passed around or taken 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 impact 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. All papers will be checked for plagiarism.

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 and Spring 2020 Calendar:

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. A full Spring 2019 calendar is available at: <https://registrar.gmu.edu/calendars/spring-2020/>

Grading:

Your final grade will be calculated with four components as follows for a total 100 points:

1. Attendance/Participation: Missing more than 4 classes will lower your final grade by ½ grade (e.g., A to A- or B- to C+). Missing more than 6 classes will automatically lower your grade by a full grade.
2. Exam #1 Midterm: 30 points
3. Exam #2 Final: 30 points
4. Criminal Profile Research 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

Exams (30 points each):

The midterm and final exams will be closed book and will use a combination of multiple choice, fill-in-the-blanks, short answer and essay. 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.

Midterm Date: Thursday March 5, 2020 (4:30pm – 7:10pm)

Final Exam Date: To be announced - <https://registrar.gmu.edu/topics/final-exam-locator/>

Criminal Profile Paper (40 points):

You are to select a serial killer or deviant criminal (or crime/terrorist group) and explain the psychological, emotional, biological, situational and/or developmental factors that contributed to the criminal's behavior. Examine his/her crimes and provide motive, intent, MO and Signature analysis. The profile paper needs to be thorough and detailed with a comprehensive description of the subject's background (both criminal and noncriminal) including the following:

- Seek to explain the subject criminal's behavior utilizing techniques and theories learned in class.
- Ground the profile in one or more of the methodologies discussed in class.
- Examine victimology and provide forensic victimology if victim information is available.
- Explain other relevant consequences of the crime (e.g., public reaction, secondary victims, media/reporting, law enforcement activities)

The paper should be 10-15 pages in length. References should be from various sources, including but not limited to textbooks, academic journals, professional journals, and web based materials.

NOTE: Wikipedia is not a valid source. All hard copy and online sources need to be properly cited in APA style.

Paper Due Date: Thursday April 9, 2020. Please turn in your report in .PDF format via GMU email by midnight. No hard copy papers will be accepted.

Privacy Policy:

Please respect the privacy of any students (and the instructor) 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 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. I encourage you to check your GMU email the night before class or the morning of to ensure there have been no cancellations.

Course Schedule

This is the intended course schedule. As the semester progresses and evolves, some of these dates and scheduled items may change due to weather closures, emergencies, or other circumstances. Changes will be provided as necessary and as soon as possible.

In addition to reviewing the chapter information, the classroom sessions will include lectures, case studies, applied profiling examples, and scenarios.

THURS JAN 23 Introductions and Introduction to the course - Goals, Objectives, and Expectations

Chapter 1 – History of Criminal Profiling

Lecture: Gainesville Florida – Police Informants and Serial Killer Case

THURS JAN 30 Chapter 2 – Science, Logic, and Cognition

Lecture: Linguistics, Culture, and Geography

Chapter 3 – Methods of Criminal Profiling

Lecture: Integrated Profiling Method Part 1

THURS FEB 6 Chapter 4 – Forensic Psychology/Psychiatry

Lecture: Integrated Profiling Method Part 2

Chapter 5 – Behavioral Evidence

Lecture/Exercise: Handling Clients and Case Analysis of Elder Abuse

THURS FEB 13 Chapter 6 – Crime Scene Analysis and Chapter 7 – Victimology

Lecture: Serial Stalking and the Graduate Student Stalker Case

THURS FEB 20 Chapter 8 – Sexual Deviance, Chapter 9 – Sexual Asphyxia
Lecture: Sexual Assault and Duty to Warn

Chapter 10 – False/Fabricated Reports
Lecture: Active Shooter Cases

Review the criteria for the profiling research paper

THURS FEB 27 Chapter 11 – Crime Reconstruction and Chapter 12 – Crime Scene Characteristics
Lecture: Deception and False Reports
Review for Midterm Exam

You should have your Research Paper Topic selected by now

THURS MAR 5 **EXAM #1: MIDTERM** (4:30pm-7:10pm)

SPRING BREAK – MARCH 11th – 15th

THURS MAR 19 Chapter 13 – Motive and Intent and Cyber Readings
Lecture: Computer Forensics

Chapter 14 – Modus Operandi (MO) and Signature
Lecture: Case Study - Email and Electronic Threats

Note: Skip Chapter 15

THURS MAR 26 Chapter 16 – Arsonists and Bombers and Chapter 17 – Offender Characteristics
Interpersonal Crimes – Blackmail, Extortion, and Embezzlement
Profiling Project (in-class)

THURS APR 2 Chapter 18 – Psychopathy and Sadism and Chapter 19 – Sex Crimes
Lecture: Pathological Communication – The Making of a Criminal
Profiler Health, Limits, and Ethics
Exercise – The Life Spiral

THURS APR 9 Chapter 20 – Domestic Homicide and Chapter 21 – Mass Murder
Profiling Exercise - Case of Jon Benet Ramsey

RESEARCH PROFILING PAPER DUE – Turn in PDF via email by midnight!

THURS APR 16 Chapter 22 – Pattern Crimes and Chapter 23 - Terrorism
Lecture: Guest Speaker

THURS APR 23 Chapter 24 – Ethics and Chapter 25 – Courtrooms and Trials
Lecture: Cold Case Study and Being an Expert Witness

THURS APR 30 LAST DAY OF CRIM 400 CLASS
Wrap-up and Review for Final

FINAL EXAM – DATE AND TIME WILL BE ANNOUNCED IN CLASS AND ON –
<https://registrar.gmu.edu/topics/final-exam-locator/>