



# Applied Criminal Psychology | CRIM 400 – 003

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## Course Details

### Instructor

FALL 2021 | **Hybrid course** meeting Tuesdays and Thursdays via live Zoom, 3:00pm –4:15pm | August 23, 2021 – December 15, 2021. We will move forward in a synchronous format week by week as a group.

Gwen M. Udell, M.S.,  
**Adjunct Professor**

**Please note: All meets will be held virtually via live Zoom**

### Text/Phone

**Tuesday meets 3:00pm-4:15pm**  
**Thursday meets 3:00pm-4:15pm**  
Details on the Zoom meetings and codes can be found on BlackBoard under the Zoom tab.

571-233-6024

## Course Overview

### Email

gudell@gmu.edu

The objective of this course is to analyze criminals who commit heinous crimes. This class will examine what factors influence serious violent criminals. 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.

### Office Hours

Virtually by appointment

## Required Text

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

## 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 would like 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 be presented in a hybrid format. We will meet in person and online **in a synchronous format**. We will move forward week by week as a group. There will be online class discussion posts and relevant documentary media clips. Materials will be posted on Blackboard throughout the course. Students must have access to

Blackboard for course materials, announcements, discussion forums, exams, quizzes and to view course grades. Any changes to our regularly scheduled meetings will be announcement via Blackboard asap.

## **Course Policies**

### **Discussion Post/Class Participation**

Students are expected to actively participate in the course through viewing the lectures, case studies, completing any required preparatory work (including assigned reading – see syllabus), participating in online discussions and turning in assignments/materials on time. Class participation/attendance will account for part of your final grade. You will be graded on your participation in online class discussions.

### **Discussion Post/In-class Discussion Participation Expectations**

Be respectful, polite, professional and open-minded. Disagreement on ideas is expected; respectfulness of one another is also expected. Disrespect to others during discussion or presentation is prohibited and will reflect negatively and severely impact your final grade.

**Post expectations:** Your initial discussion post must be at a minimum 3-5 sentences. Be sure to cite your sources if you include any concepts or opinions that are not your own. APA format should be used for any quoted or paraphrased material. Students must also comment on a minimum of 1 post of a peer either confirming or continuing the discussion.

### **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.**

<b><u>Important Dates;</u></b>	
	Aug. 30
<b>Last day to drop</b>	Sept. 14
<b>Reading Days</b>	Dec. 6-7
<b>Final exam period</b>	Dec. 8 – Dec 14

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

**Discussion Posts/Participation: 10 points**

**Mid-Term Exam: 25 points**

**Final Exam: 25 points**

**Profile Paper: 20 points**

**Quizzes: 15 points (total of 3@5 points each)**

**Grading Scale:**

<b>Letter Grade</b>	<b>Total Points</b>	<b>Letter Grade</b>	<b>Total Points</b>
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 multiple choice and true/false. Make-up exams will only be given under exceptional, unavoidable circumstances with proper documentation. **Quizzes/papers must be turned in on time to receive full credit.** In the weeks with a discussion post that **post is due by midnight on Friday of that week.** 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 three terminology quizzes throughout the course. These will be taken in class or on Blackboard. Each quiz is worth 5 points for a total of 15 points.

### **Profile Paper:**

You are to select a serial killer/serial criminal, examine their crimes and provide motive, intent, MO and signature, and victimology 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 September 30, 2021. All profile selections need to be approved. The profile paper is due on November 23, 2021. A penalty of 2 points per day will be deducted for any late papers. No late papers will be accepted after December 2, 2021.**

- ❖ 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/mixed, power assertive, sadistic).
- ❖ Include information on the criminal's M.O./Signature, motive and intent.
- ❖ Examine victimology and provide forensic victimology if victim information is available.
- ❖ Your offender selection needs to be approved by Professor Udell no later than September 20, 2021. Stay away from the more well-known serial killers like Ted Bundy, Jeffrey Dahmer, John W. Gacy etc. Offenders that are covered in the course textbook or in the case studies are not permitted to be profiled for your paper. This will result in a zero for your paper.

### **Copyright Notice**

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### **Bad Weather and Other Emergencies:**

Check Mason's homepage at [www.gmu.edu](http://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/>.

### Exam Schedule

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Exam	Week	
Exam #1	Week 7 – October 5-7, 2021	Mid-Term
Exam #2	Week 16 – Dec 8 - 14, 2021	Final Exam

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**\*Exam #1 will be open from October 5 - 7, 2021, closing at midnight**

**\*Exam #2 will be open from December 8 – 14, 2021 closing at midnight**

### Assignment Schedule

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Assignment	Open	Due
Quiz #1	Week 4 – Sept. 14, 2021	By Midnight (12/02)
Quiz #2	Week 9 – Oct. 19, 2021	By Midnight (12/02)
Quiz#3	Week 13 – Nov. 16, 2021	By Midnight (12/02)
Profile Paper	Week 6 – Sept. 30, 2021 (selection due)	Nov. 23 (paper due)

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\*Discussion posts are due by midnight on Friday of that same week

Mason resources for technical support can be found using the following links [Mason ITS Technical Support](#), [Mason Blackboard Courses Support](#), and [Blackboard Help Videos](#).

### Technology Requirements

To participate in this course, students will need to satisfy the following technical requirements:

High-speed Internet access with standard up-to-date browsers.

Students must maintain consistent and reliable access to their GMU email and Blackboard, as these are the official methods of communication for this course. Per university policy in compliance with federal law, the professor will only communicate with students via their GMU email accounts and will be unable to respond to emails sent from other accounts (i.e., Gmail, Yahoo, work email, etc.). Any announcements regarding the course will only be sent to student's GMU email accounts.

### On-line Expectations

- **Course Week/Workload:** Please be aware that this course is **not** self-paced. Students are expected to meet *specific deadlines* and *due dates* listed in the **Class Schedule** section of this syllabus. It is the student's responsibility to keep track of the weekly course schedule of topics, readings, activities, any on campus meetings, live virtual sessions and quizzes/assignments due.

- **Log-in Frequency:** Students must actively check the course Blackboard site and their GMU email for communications from the instructor, class discussions, and/or access to course materials at least 3 times per week.
- **Participation:** Students are expected to actively engage in all course activities throughout the semester, which include viewing of all course materials, completing course activities and assignments, and participating in course discussions and group interactions.
- **Technical Competence:** Students are expected to demonstrate competence in the use of all course technology. Students who are struggling with technical components of the course are expected to seek assistance from the instructor and/or University technical services.

**Course Outline – Tentative & Subject to change.**

**Please note: All meets will be held virtually via zoom until week 4, after which the schedule will be reassessed.**

Week	Date/2021	Topic	Required Reading/Assignment
1	8/24 & 8/26	Introduction/Course Overview	Acquire course textbook
2	8/31 & 9/02	History of Criminal Profiling CASE STUDY	Chapter 1 (pages 18-40) <b>*Discussion Post due by Friday 09/03 at midnight</b>
3	9/07 & 9/09	Criminal Profiling: Science, Logic, and Cognition/Methods of Criminal Profiling CASE STUDY	Chapter 2 & 3 <b>*Discussion Post due by Friday 09/10 at midnight.</b>
4	9/14 & 9/16	Behavioral Evidence Analysis/Crime Scene Analysis CASE STUDY	<b>Quiz #1 open</b> Chapter 5 & 6
5	9/21 & 9/23	Forensic Victimology/False Reports CASE STUDY	Chapter 4, 7 & 10
6	9/28 & 9/30	Crime Scene Characteristics/Crime Reconstruction CASE STUDY	Chapter 11 & 12 <b>*Profile Paper Selection Due*</b>
7	10/05 - 10/07	MID-TERM Exam Online -No class meetings	Exam on BlackBoard

8	10/12-No Class & 10/14 (regular zoom)	Crime Scene Analysis/Interpreting Motive Case Linkage: MO & Signature/Serial Crimes CASE STUDY	Chapter 13 & 14 *Discussion Post due by Friday 10/15 at midnight
9	10/19 & 10/21	Inferring Offender Characteristics Serial Murder Typologies CASE STUDY	QUIZ #2 open Chapter 17 & 22
10	10/26 & 10/28	Serial Rape/Serial Rapist Typologies CASE STUDY	Chapter 8 & 19 *Discussion Post due by Friday 10/29 at midnight
11	11/02 & 11/04	Sex Crimes/Sexual Deviance CASE STUDY	Chapter 18 & 9
12	11/09 & 11/11	Mass Murder/Active Shooter CASE STUDY	Chapter 21
13	11/16 & 11/18	Arson CASE STUDY	Chapter 16 Quiz #3 open
14	11/23 & 11/25 -no meeting	Serial Offenders CASE STUDY	Criminal Profile Paper DUE 11/23/2021 by 11:59pm on Blackboard.
15	11/30 & 12/02 (last class meet)	Course Wrap-up	All course quizzes due by midnight on 12/02.
16	12/7 -Read day 12/8-12/14	FINAL EXAM	Final Exam Dec 8 – Dec 14, 2021