CRIM 400-001: Applied Criminal Psychology
Fall 2023
George Mason University, Enterprise Hall, Room 276
Wednesdays: 1:30pm – 4:10pm

The course will be a combination of lectures, class discussions, group exercises, videos, and guest speakers. All course materials (lecture slides, assignments, & readings, etc.) will be posted on Blackboard each week.

Professor and Contact:
Professor: Dr. Terry Gudaitis
Contact Info: tgudaiti@gmu.edu
In emergencies only: tgudaitis@mindstarsecurity.com

Office hours: Wednesdays, Noon – 1pm, Enterprise Hall 339
Or by appointment – Email me and we can meet on Zoom or via phone.
Joining the Zoom Meeting
https://zoom.us/j/4688180957
Password: gmucrim

Email/Blackboard and Communication:
Please check your Mason email for updates. I will communicate regularly with my students through Mason email and Blackboard Announcements. See http://masionlive.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 is 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 behaviors of criminals who commit heinous crimes – to learn how to profile criminals. This class will examine the 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 focus on the various methodologies used to assess criminal behavior. Criminal profiling, analyzing crime scenes for offender behaviors and characteristics of deviant criminal includes utilizing social scientific theory and logical reasoning. Students will study criminal profiles and learn to create profiles from forensic and behavioral evidence. This course will also cover forensic victimology.

Required Textbook: None
Readings will be posted to Blackboard each week. Please prepare for class by reading the assigned articles and case studies. The content of the readings will also appear on the midterm & final exams.

Course Format:
Class will mainly be presented in lecture format. There will be class participation exercises as well as relevant case studies. Corresponding materials will be posted on Blackboard throughout the course, given out in hardcopy during class, or emailed to the students. Students will be profiling cases.

Policies and Information

Disclaimer and Alert:
The materials we will be covering contain graphic photos and disturbing content, which can be upsetting to some people. This class covers several gruesome homicide cases, sexual assault & pedophilia 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 Policies:
Audio recording of lectures to augment in-class note taking is only permitted with advanced notice and with professor's permission. Videotaping/recording in any form is not permitted – Lectures/classes this semester will not be recorded or posted.

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. The use of artificial intelligence apps, such as ChatGPT, are prohibited. All violations of the Honor Code will be reported to the Honor Committee. See https://oai.gmu.edu/full-honor-code-document/ 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. If you need additional time for exams or anything else, please let me know and I will work with you to achieve a workable solution.

GMU Diversity:
Our Pledge to Diversity – GMU's goal is to build and sustain an inclusive academic community and to foster a welcoming climate that values and respects all members of the community. GMU sets a standard for principled behavior by its faculty, staff, and students and we follow a code of conduct that demands that the highest criteria be met. Our classroom will likewise have an environment where everyone can exchange a broad range of ideas and share a multitude of experiences and perspectives. Our classroom should build a community in which everyone is heard, respected, and can thrive. See https://diversity.gmu.edu/diversity for more information.

Free Speech at the University & in the Classroom:
I encourage free speech and the freedom to express a wide range and diversity of thoughts and opinions. Learning can only occur through thorough, investigation, thought and assessing ideas from different perspectives. GMU has adopted the Chicago Principles of Free Expression—a commitment to free speech and expression widely regarded as the gold-standard for promoting the highest level of academic learning. We may not agree on every issue, but everyone is expected to respect both popular and unpopular ideas voiced in our class. I invite the expression of all ideas, questions, and comments during class.
See https://www.gmu.edu/about-mason/university-policy/free-speech-mason for more information.

Attendance/Class Participation:
Students are responsible to attend class. Class attendance is mandatory and will impact your grade. An attendance log will be generated. In-class participation is important and adds to the learning environment. In law enforcement and throughout the intelligence community, you are expected to be present, participate in meetings, and work with your colleagues – this class should mirror those expectations. Attendance/class participation will impact your final grade.

Privacy Policy:
Please respect the privacy of any students (and the professor or guest speaker) who may disclose personal information in the class. Please respect everyone's right to freely choose whether to disclose or not disclose personal information.

Emergencies and Closures:
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 situation, I will attempt to email you ASAP at your GMU email address and/or on Blackboard Announcements. I encourage you to check your GMU email the night before class or the morning of to ensure there have been no cancellations or changes.

Emergency Class(es) Online: If I need to hold a class virtually for any reason, we will do so via Zoom.
Join Zoom Meeting: https://zoom.us/j/4688180957
Zoom Password: gmucrim

Add/Drop Period and Fall 2023 Calendar:
Students are responsible for verifying their enrollment in class. Schedule adjustments should be made by the deadlines published in the Schedule of Classes which is available from the Registrar's Website at registrar.gmu.edu. See the Schedule of Classes for selective withdrawal procedures.
A full Fall 2023 calendar is available at: https://registrar.gmu.edu/calendars/fall-2023/

CRIM 400 – Applied Criminal Psychology
Dr. Gudaitis

Grades & Assignments

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

1. Mini-Profile: 15%
2. Exam #1 Midterm: 25%
3. Exam #2 Final: 25%
4. Criminal Profile Research Paper: 35%

Attendance/Participation: Missing more than 3 classes will lower your final grade by ½ grade (e.g., A to A- or B- to C+). Missing more than 4 classes will automatically lower your grade by a full grade.

Grading Scale:
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

Mini-Profile (15%)
You will be provided a data set (case file) in which you will have to apply the methods of criminal profiling. This 2-3 page mini-profile will contain an explanation of the subject's criminal behavior utilizing techniques and theories learned in class.

Due Date: Wednesday, September 20th (upload to Blackboard by midnight)

Exams (Midterm 25%; Final 25%):
The midterm and final exams will be administered in class (1:30pm – 4:10pm) and will use a combination of multiple choice, fill-in-the-blanks, short answer and essay. You will be expected to create profiles based on provided data and scenarios. 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: Wednesday, October 4th (in class)
Final Exam Date: Wednesday, December 6th (in class)

CRIM 400 – Applied Criminal Psychology
Dr. Gudaitis

Criminal Profiling Research Paper (35%):
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. You will be collecting the relevant data for your research.

The paper will examine the perpetrator's crimes and the profile will include motive, intent, MO and the analysis of a signature by using a variety of criminal profiling methodologies. 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 (not counting the cover page or reference pages). 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. Docu-dramas or other written/video sources that are not authored by credible sources or law enforcement professionals are not considered valid sources. All hard copy and online sources need to be properly citied in APA style.

Paper Due Date: Wednesday, November 8th (upload to Blackboard by midnight)

IMPORTANT NOTE: Assignments and exams are due on the dates provided. A full grade penalty will be issued for any late assignment.

IMPORTANT NOTE: I do not "round-up" final grades. In order to be fair to everyone, I use the grade scale consistently. So if you end up with an 89.2 – that is a B+. I use the base number, not the decimal points as the determining factor for final grades.

IMPORTANT NOTE: While Blackboard will be used to turn in assignments, you will need to keep track of your grades during the semester. I do not post or return grades via Blackboard.
Grade Calculator: https://www.calculator.net/grade-calculator.html

CRIM 400 Course Schedule

The below calendar/agenda is the intended course schedule. As the semester progresses and evolves, some of these dates and scheduled items may change due to unforeseen events, technical glitches, guest speaker schedules, emergencies, or other circumstances. Changes will be provided in class as necessary and as soon as possible. In addition to doing the required readings to prepare for class, the classroom sessions will include lectures, case studies, applied crime examples, videos, guest speakers, and class discussions. Readings will be posted to Blackboard Assignments.

WED AUG 23   Reading 1 – History of Criminal Profiling

In-Class Topics:
Introductions
Goals, Objectives, and Expectations
Serial Killer at the University of Florida

WED AUG 30   Reading 2 - Geographical and Environmental Criminology (Geographic Profiling)
Reading 3 - Organized versus Disorganized (Criminals and Crime Scenes
Reading 4 – 5 Factor Model of Profiling

In-Class Topics:
Review of Geographic Profiling, Org vs DisOrg, and 5-Factor Model
Linguistics, Culture, and Geography
Another FBI Method of Profiling

WED SEPT 6   Reading 5 – Terminology in Profiling
Reading 6 – Persons Involved in a Criminal Case & Digital Data

In Class Topics:
Review of terminology
Gudaitis Behavioral Method of Profiling (GBM)
Getting a New Case
Criteria and Requirements for the Mini-Profile Assignment

WED SEPT 13   Reading 7 – Victimology
Reading 8 – Crime Scene Analysis (including digital data)

In-Class Topics:
Collecting Case Data
Stalking & Serial Stalking
The Graduate Student Stalker Case

WED SEPT 20   Reading 9 – Sex Crimes & Sexual Assault
Reading 10 – FBI Categorization of Rapists

<u>In-Class Topics</u>:
Duty to Warn
Sex Crimes & Sexual Deviance
Review the criteria for the profiling research paper

DUE: Mini-Profile

WED SEPT 27   Reading 11 – False Reporting
Reading 12 – Detecting Deception

<u>In-Class Topics</u>:
Deception and False Reports
Review for the Midterm Exam

Early October, you should have your Research Profiling Paper Topic selected

WED OCT 4   **EXAM #1: MIDTERM**

WED OCT 11   Reading 13 – Motive and Intent
Reading 14 - Cyber Crime

<u>In-Class Topics</u>:
Criteria & Requirements for Profiling Research Paper
Physical Crime Meets Cyber Crime – Class Exercise

WED OCT 18   Reading 15 – Arsonists
Reading 16 - Bombers
Reading 17 – Offender Characteristics and Interpersonal Crimes

<u>In-Class Topics</u>:
Ransom Note Discussion
Blackmail, Extortion, and Embezzlement
Home Invasion Case Study

WED OCT 25   Reading 18 – Making of a Criminal: Nature versus Nurture
Reading 19 – Pathological Communication

<u>In-Class Topics</u>:
Profiler Health, Limits, and Ethics
The Life Spiral

CRIM 400 – Applied Criminal Psychology
Dr. Gudaitis

WED NOV 1   Reading 20 – Domestic Crimes
             Reading 21 – Stranger-on-Stranger Crimes

             In-Class Topic:
             The Case of JonBenet Patricia Ramsey

WED NOV 8   Chapter 22 – Pattern Crimes
             Chapter 23 – Crimes Against Children

             In-Class Topics:
             Child Abduction
             Pedophilia &Child Pornographers
             Victims of Child Abuse

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

WED NOV 15   Chapter 24 – Profiling Ethics
             Chapter 25 – Challenges of Cold Cases

             In-Class Topics:
             Being an Expert Witness
             Assessing and Profiling a Cold Case

             HAPPY THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY – NO CLASS ON WED NOVEMBER 22nd

WED NOV 29   LAST DAY OF CRIM 400 CLASS
             Wrap-up and Review for the Final Exam

WED DEC 6   FINAL EXAM (in class, 1:30 pm – 4:15 pm)
             More Information –
             https://registrar.gmu.edu/wp-content/uploads/Fall-2023-Final-Exam-Schedule.pdf

CRIM 400 – Applied Criminal Psychology
Dr. Gudaitis