



Texas A&M University-Commerce
Department of Sociology & Criminal Justice
Class Syllabus – Fall 2013
Criminal Justice 420 – Crime Profiling
Tues. 4:30pm – 7:10pm Rm SS 310

Dr. Willie Edwards, Assoc., Prof.
Office SS 217; Tel (903) 886-5331
Willie.edwards@tamuc.edu

Office Hours: Mon 2:00am -5:00pm
Tues/Wed 1:00pm – 4:15pm
Other times by appointment

Required Textbook:

Serial Crime: Theoretical and Practical Issues in Behavioral Profiling. 3rd Edition. Wayne Petherick, editor. Elsevier Academic Press, 2014. ISBN : 978-1-4557-3174-9

Supplementary Readings:

Criminal Profiling: International Theory, Research, and Practice. Richard N. Kocisis, editor. Humana Press, 2007.

Criminal Profiling: An Introduction to Behavioral Evidence Analysis. 2nd Edition. Brent E. Turvey. Elsevier Academic Press, 2008.

Useful Journals for this Course:

Behavioral Sciences and the Law
Homicide Studies
Journal of Criminal Justice
Journal of Forensic Psychology Practice
Journal of Interpersonal Violence
Journal of Investigative Psychology and Offender Profiling
Journal of Sexual Aggression
Police Quarterly

Course Design:

This course will employ lectures, class discussions, class presentations and media highlights to investigate the subject area. Students are expected to participate in class activities such as discussions and presentations. In fact, these techniques will be built into the student's evaluation process. A senior level amount of reading and becoming familiar with the literature within the field of criminal profiling will be required.

Course Description:

As referenced to in the catalog, this course examines various types of crime, in terms of offender profile, victim profile, and situational elements. National crime statistics and victimization data are used where appropriate. This course examines the characteristics of the most likely offender, and the circumstances under which the

crime is most likely to be committed. Theories relating to the crime, offender, and victim are introduced. Responses by various levels of law enforcement agencies are reviewed and integrated into the presentation of class material.

Course Student Learning Outcomes:

The following Student Learning Outcomes will be used to measure student achievement in learning course information, and serve as an indicator of student's level of performance in the class:

1. Students will demonstrate their familiarity with the history of criminal profiling by earning a passing score on the tests administered in this class. (A passing grade for this class will be 70 points or above. The method of testing will involve using multiple choice and essay type questions.)
2. Students will be able to define criminal profiling in a written form and orally.
3. Students will be able to describe the criminal profiling process.
4. Students will be able to critique the two different approaches to criminal profiling, induction and deduction.
5. Students will elaborate (written and orally) on the profiling of criminals based on their understanding of the investigative analysis process.

Method of Evaluation:

There will be a total of five grades available to be earned in this class:

1. Two essay exams will be given during the semester, worth 100 points each. The exams will occur as the mid-term and final (see Content schedule for dates). The mid-term exam will cover chapters 1 – 8, and the final exam will cover chapters 9-13 & 15, 16, 18. The two chapters that the class will not cover are chapter 14 and 17.
2. Students will develop/type one research paper that will pertain to some facet or type of crime profiling. The research paper must be a minimum of 10 pages of content, not counting the cover page or bibliography page(s). The paper should be double-spaced in Times New Roman 12 point font, black ink, and stapled. The paper will be worth 70 points.

Direct quotes, ideas or thoughts from authors or sources should be presented using the proper method of citation. Students should use the following web sites: web links or google (google.com) to become familiar with the desired citation method:

<http://www.liu.edu/cwiscwp/library/workshop/citapa.htm>

http://www.asanet.org/cs/root/topnav/sociology_depts/quick_style_guide

The professor will also provide a handout to assist in this assignment.

3. Students will be expected to share their thoughts and comments each class meeting on the chapter being presented/covered. Students will be able to earn 3 points per chapter, per night. Total points possible from this exercise are 45 points. If a student obtains all 45 points he/she will be given an extra 5 points to make this grade total to 50 points. There will be fifteen opportunities for this to occur, beginning on September 3, 2013. Failure to contribute to each chapter's presentation will mean forfeiting of those points for that class period. Absence from class for any reason will mean those points available for that class meeting will not be earned. As you see these points will accumulate over the semester.
4. Each student will be responsible for turning in four (4) typed summaries of research articles pertaining to some aspect of this course. Each article's summary will be worth twenty-five (25) points. The summaries will be due on designated dates, check the course schedule for those due dates. Instructions on the format to be used in developing the summary of the research article will be given out by the

professor. The total points for this exercise will be one hundred (100) points. **Dates these summaries will be due:**

September 17, 2013

October 15, 2013

November 12, 2013

December 3, 2013

5. Five research articles/chapters (from supplementary sources) pertaining to criminal profiling will be distributed by the professor. On designated dates each article/chapter will be discussed in class. A grade for discussion and a written exercise after each discussion will occur. The discussion grade will be worth five (5) points and the written exercise will be worth fifteen (15) points. This exercise will equal one complete grade (100 pts). Identified as "Class Discussion-Research Article" in the Course Content Schedule.

Course Possible Points:

2 Essay Exams @ 100 pts., each	200 pts.
1 Research Paper	70 pts.
16 Chapter Comments @ 3 pts., each	48/50 pts.
4 Research Article Summaries @ 25 pts. each	100 pts.
5 Class Discussion-Research Articles @ 20pts each	100 pts.
1 Objective Exam	<u>80 pts.</u>
	600 pts

The following grade scale will be used:

A = 90 – 100	600 – 560 pts.
B = 80 - 89	559 – 519 pts.
C = 70 - 79	518 – 450 pts.
D = 60 - 69	449 – 400 pts.
F = 59 or below	399 or less pts.

All criminal justice majors must make at least a C in all classes required for the major.

There will be no extra credit work, and no make-up exams. If an exam is missed a comprehensive exam must be taken by the student near the end of the semester. If a student misses more than one exam he or she should drop the course. Graded discussions and summaries cannot be turned in late or made up. **Late work is unacceptable.**

Tips on How to be Successful in this Class:

1. Students must commit serious time to reading the textbook, and other assigned readings.
2. Students should ask questions of the professor if there is any information he/she does not understand.
3. Students should attend class regularly.
4. Students should take good, clear and understandable notes from the lectures.
5. Students must commit a serious amount of time to preparation for the exams.
6. Students must make the most of the “easy” grades so they help to balance or soften the more difficult grades.

Class Policy:

Class attendance and participation are expected. Tardiness is reacted to in an unfavorably manner. Students will not be permitted to enter the class after the professor has initiated the focus for that class period.

Telephone and pagers must be turned off unless you work for some type of emergency agency (medical or law enforcement, etc.).

This department has a strong policy and a low tolerance for cheating. Plagiarism is disliked and treated very seriously.

Statement on Student Behavior: As stated in the student handbook: “All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment.” (See Student’s Guide Handbook, Policies and Procedures, Conduct, for more information.)

Students with Disabilities: The Americans with disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services
Texas A&M University-Commerce
Gee Library, Room 132
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835
Fax (903) 468-8148
StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu

It is the student’s responsibility to be aware of the rules or policies relating to withdrawal or “X.” You are encouraged to follow the appropriate procedures of the university as they relate to this matter. I will be as helpful and understanding where possible, but please be aware that this professor does not like to give an incomplete as a grade.

For research assistance, students should contact:

Megan K. Beard, MLIS

Megan.Beard@tamuc.edu

903.886.5719

Gee Library Office 217

Office Hours: Tuesday 8 AM – 12:30 PM Thursday 12:30 PM – 5:00 PM or by appointment

Course Content Schedule – CJ 420
Fall 2013 Semester

Date	Activity(ies)
August 27, 2013	Introduction to Class Requirements; Review Foundation of Class Initiate Chapter 1 – The Evolution of Criminal Profiling & Chapter 2 – Induction and Deduction in Criminal Profiling
September 3, 2013	Continuation of Chapter 2 – Induction and Deduction in Criminal Profiling Chapter 3 – Behavioral Consistency, the Homology Assumption, & the Problem Of Induction
September 10, 2013	Chapter 4 – Criminal Profiling Methods

	Class Discussion/Research Article: "Criminal profiling: Real science or just wishful thinking?" <i>Homicide Studies</i> , 4(3), 234-262, (2000).
September 17, 2013	Chapter 5 – Geographical Profiling: From Pins in Maps to GIS Student Research Article Summary Due
September 24, 2013	Chapter 6 – The Fallacy of Accuracy
October 1, 2013	Chapter 7 – Offender Signature and Case Linkage Class Discussion/Research Article: "Serial Homicide: An investigation of behavioural consistency." <i>Journal of Investigative Psychology and Offender Profiling</i> , 2, 121-144, (2005).
October 8, 2013	Chapter 8 – Staged Crime Scenes – Literature & Types
October 15, 2013	Mid-Term Exam (Essay) Student Research Article Summary Due
October 22, 2013	Chapter 9 – Investigative Relevance Class Discussion/Research Article: "Serial murder in America: Case studies of seven offenders." <i>Behavioral Sciences and the Law</i> , 22, 395-414 (2004).
October 29, 2013	Chapter 10 – Metacognition in Criminal Profiling
November 5, 2013	Chapter 11 – Criminal Profiling as Expert Evidence Class Discussion/Research Article: "The personality paradox in offender profiling..." <i>Psychology, Public Policy, and Law</i> , 8 (1), 115-135, (2002).
November 12, 2013	Chapter 12 – Where to From Here? Student Research Article Summary Due
November 19, 2013	Chapter 13 – Serial harassment and Bullying Class Discussion/Research Article: "Rape and sexual assault in investigative psychology: The contribution of sex offenders' research to offender profiling." <i>Journal of Investigative Psychology and Offender Profiling</i> , 7, 1-13, (2010).
November 26, 2013	Chapter 15 – Serial Rape Chapter 16 – Understanding Serial Sexual Murder: A Biopsychosocial Approach Research Paper Due
December 3, 2013	Continuation of Chapter 16 – Understanding Serial Sexual Murder Chapter 18 – Motivations: Offender and Victim Perspectives Student Research Article Summary Due
December 10, 2013	Final Exams – Essay & Objective measurements