Department of Sociology & Criminal Justice
CJ 420 – Crime Profiling
Online
Course Syllabus Spring 2018

Professor: Jimmy Womack, MS, LCC, MPO
Office Phone: 817-771-6053
Office Fax: 903-886-5330
University Email Address: womack208@hotmail.com
Email Correspondence: Available through email and phone M-F

COURSE INFORMATION

This course meets: **Online Only**

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings:


**Supplementary Readings:**

**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 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.

**Student Learning Outcomes/Course Objectives:** 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.
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 (in writing) on the profiling of criminals based on their understanding of the investigative analysis process.

---

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

**Instructional / Methods / Activities Assessments**

**CLASS FORMAT:** Every effort will be made to provide the best possible learning experience by blending PowerPoint presentations with discussions, reading assignments, and other materials.

Because we will be dealing with controversial contemporary social issues, an open mind and a mature attitude are important requirements for this course. Students are expected to be polite and courteous and conform to online etiquette at all times. For detailed rules on “netiquette” go to the website: [http://www.albion.com/netiquette/corerules.html](http://www.albion.com/netiquette/corerules.html). A summary of netiquette rules are provided below.
• **Rule 1: Remember the Human**

• **Rule 2: Adhere to the same standards of behavior online that you follow in real life**

• **Rule 3: Know where you are in cyberspace**

• **Rule 4: Respect other people’s time and bandwidth**

• **Rule 5: Make yourself look good online**

• **Rule 6: Share expert knowledge**

• **Rule 7: Help keep flame wars under control**

• **Rule 8: Respect other people’s privacy**

• **Rule 9: Don’t abuse your power**

• **Rule 10: Be forgiving of other people’s mistakes**

Method of Evaluation:

**Course requirements:**

**Introduction/Discussion Posts (SLO)**

The **Introduction** is a chance for you to ‘meet’ your colleagues (although most of you likely know each other by now) in the class and an opportunity to introduce yourself to your professor. You will also be required to answer a course-related question. Specific instructions on what to post are available. The Introductory post is due on **Wednesday of Week #1** of the course. Let’s do it ASAP.

1 Introduction = 100 points

**Discussions** are directly related to the assigned readings. Upon completion of the assigned readings, you are expected to engage in an ongoing discussion/debate with your classmates. Your contributions to the discussion forums will be graded for quality and a detailed analysis linking the material to a critical appraisal of theory, policy, and practice. The introduction of outside materials in not mandatory (unless otherwise noted in the discussion topic assignment), but is highly recommended. In all cases, students must cite in-text and provide a full bibliography/works cited at the end of their post for all citations mentioned in the post.

These posts should be **the equivalent of 1 page in length or a minimum of 250 words.**

15 discussion posts @ 50 points each = 750 course points

Posts are due by 11:00PM CST

**Comment Posts (SLO)**

Comment posts are responses you make to the discussion posts that you and your classmates post each week. You are **required** to make a minimum of five comments each week. I would strongly encourage you to engage your colleagues well past the five-comment minimum in order to maximize your opportunity for meaningful discussion and learning.
Comment posts should be meaningful. Merely agreeing or disagreeing with a classmate will not be looked upon favorably and will result in a loss of points. A meaningful post is one that moves the discussion forward in some substantive way through providing one’s perspective, additional information through research, or reframing the discussion in some new way. You are expected to engage in an ongoing discussion/debate with your classmates. Your comments will be graded for quality, and relevance. Your comments will also be graded based on your ability to engage in critical thinking. Students must provide one outside source for at least one comment that they make.

**NO LATE COMMENTS ARE ACCEPTED.** All comment posts are due by 11:59PM.

**Assessment Method:** Comments will be graded using the Comments Grading Rubric attached to the Discussion Post Grading Rubric. The discussion and comments for each week will be graded together and posted as one grade.

**Quizzes**

You will take 16 quizzes, 100 points each in this course. They will be multiple choice/true false assessments of your knowledge of your textbook. These exams will cover each chapter of the book.

**Assessment Method:** Exams will be graded automatically with scores available in eCollege.

**Assignments (SLO)**

Students are required to complete one writing assignment.

**Assessment Method:** 450 points assigned for the essay. Students will be graded on their essays using the Essay Grading Rubric.

**GRADING**

Assignments for this course will be scored using a points system. Below is an explanation of how each assignment type will be scored.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment Type</th>
<th># of Assignments</th>
<th>Point Value</th>
<th>Total Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discussions</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>750</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comments</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>750</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assignments</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Essay</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>450</td>
<td>900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>1500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pre/Post-test</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>4,000</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Grades will be available in the gradebook so that students can track their progress in the course in ‘real time’.

1. Two essay exams will be given during the semester, worth 450 points each. The exams will occur as the mid-term and final (Week 8 and Week 16). 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 two research papers (mid-term CH 1-8 and final exam CH 9-18) that will pertain to some facet or type of crime profiling that we have discussed. 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 submitted in APA format (double-spaced in Times New Roman 12-point font, black). The paper will be worth 100 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

3. Students will be expected to share their thoughts and comments in the course on the chapter being presented/covered. Failure to contribute to each chapter’s presentation will mean forfeiting of points for that assignment.

**Tentative Course Schedule**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WEEK</th>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>TOPIC</th>
<th>ASSIGNED READING</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Jan 17</td>
<td>Introduction to Class Requirements; Review Foundation of Class Initiate. The Evolution of Criminal Profiling</td>
<td>Ch. 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Jan 22</td>
<td>Induction and Deduction in Criminal Profiling</td>
<td>Ch. 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Jan 29</td>
<td>Behavioral Consistency, the Homology Assumption, &amp; the Problem Of Induction</td>
<td>Ch. 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Feb 5</td>
<td>Criminal Profiling Methods Read- &quot;Criminal profiling: Real science or just wishful thinking?&quot; Homicide Studies, 4(3), 234-262, (2000).</td>
<td>Ch. 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Feb 12</td>
<td>Geographical Profiling: From Pins in Maps to GIS</td>
<td>Ch. 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Feb 19</td>
<td>The Fallacy of Accuracy</td>
<td>Ch. 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Feb 26</td>
<td>Offender Signature and Case Linkage Read- &quot;Serial Homicide: An investigation of behavioral consistency.&quot; Journal of Investigative Psychology and Offender Profiling, 2, 121-144,</td>
<td>Ch. 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Activity Description</td>
<td>Chapter/Section</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------</td>
<td>----------</td>
<td>---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-----------------</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 8      | March 5  | Staged Crime Scenes – Literature & Types  
Mid-term essay due by March 11<sup>th</sup> 11:59pm | Ch. 8 Paper Due |
| 9      | March 12 | **Spring Break**                                                                        |                 |
| 10     | March 19 | Investigative Relevance  
| 11     | March 26 | Metacognition in Criminal Profiling                                                   | Ch. 10          |
| 12     | April 2  | Criminal Profiling as Expert Evidence  
Read- "The personality paradox in offender profiling..." Psychology, Public Policy, and Law, 8 (1), 115-135, (2002). | Ch. 11          |
| 13     | April    | Chapter 12 – Where to From Here?                                                      | Ch. 12          |
| 14     | April 16 | Serial harassment and Bullying  
| 15     | April 23 | Serial Rape– Understanding Serial Sexual Murder: A Biopsychosocial Approach         | Ch. 15 & 16     |
| 16     | April 30 | Motivations: Offender and Victim Perspectives  
Final Essay due by May 7<sup>th</sup> 11:59pm | Ch. 18 Paper Due |
| 17     | May 7    | **Finals Week**                                                                        | Final Exam Due  |

*Please be advised that this syllabus serves as a guide for the course and can be subject to changes as the instructor sees fit.*

Mark these dates on your calendars now, otherwise, if you miss assignments you will probably find it necessary to drop the course. There is a window for assignments to be completed and once it has passed, your grade will be negatively impacted. Again, this is your grade that you earn, not one that has been given to you.
DISCUSSIONS/PARTICIPATION: Reading all assignments and participating in all online discussions is essential for doing well in this course. If you miss the “window” for participating in any online discussion, there is no way to make it up. I expect you to post more than responses as you should read your classmates posts and engage in discussion with them. To earn the maximum points, you will need to actively engage in discussions over the course of the discussion window. One or two posts on one day will not cut it.

NOTE: Keep all discussions civil and academic/intellectual in nature. We will be dealing with controversial topics. It is essential to treat these subjects seriously and courteously. The discussions should focus on ideas, research, data, facts, and information from the textbook and class. You will have strong personal opinions about some of these topics. That is fine, but you need not share them with the class. Before you post, read what you have written. Any sentence beginning with the words “I feel . . .” or “I believe . . .” are probably better deleted. Your feelings and beliefs are important to you and we do not want to tread on them, but we also do not need to know them. These are academic discussions, NOT therapy sessions or attempts to convince somebody else to think like you. Every discussion should reflect that you have read the material, attended class, and are applying critical sociological thinking to the topic.

EXTRA CREDIT: Don’t ask, there won’t be any. Two types of students usually want to do extra credit work: those who would like to make an even “higher” A; and those who are failing the course. In either case, extra credit makes no sense. Put in the time, energy, and effort on the “regular” work and you will not need any “extra” credit. I will not make any exceptions so DO NOT ASK!

NOTE: We will NOT be negotiating for grades at the end of the semester. You have plenty of opportunities to earn points throughout the semester. A few “bonus” points are built into each week. At the end of the semester, e-college will calculate your total points and they will be applied to the scale on this syllabus. That is the grade you have earned, and that is the grade you will be assigned. (By the way, e-college reports percentages. There is a big difference between a percentage point and a raw point. For example, if you earn 69% of the 530 total points, you are not 1 point away from a C—you are actually 1 percentage point from a C which is 5.3 points). EARN your points during the semester, don’t try to BEG for them at the end of it.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

- Students need to have ready access to a broadband connection to the internet such as Cable, DSL, or the TAMU-C campus network. (Dial-up, satellite, or other non-broadband internet connections will not function sufficiently with eCollege.)
- A computer with a 2.0Ghz or better processor and 1 GB of RAM. MAC computers with similar configurations will also work.
- Windows XP, Vista, or 7 operating system. MAC with the OS 9 or X operating system.
- Microsoft Office or similar package with a word processor, Power Point type presentation application, and a spreadsheet application. (OpenOffice is a free, open source application that is very similar to the Microsoft Office applications and is available for download at www.openoffice.org )

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT
Interaction with Instructor Statement:

**CONTACTING THE PROFESSOR:** The best way to contact the professor will be through e-mail. If you go through eCollege, I may not receive that email. Every effort will be made to reply to inquiries made Monday thru Friday within a 24-hour period. **E-mails received over the weekend will most likely not receive a response until the following Monday. The professor absolutely will NOT be available on Saturdays or Sundays. YOU MUST INCLUDE THE COURSE NUMBER IN THE SUBJECT OF YOUR EMAIL IF YOU EXPECT A PROMPT RESPONSE.**

**E-MAIL COMMUNICATION:** I will communicate with the class through eCollege and/or e-mail. Consequently, it is YOUR RESPONSIBILITY to check your e-mail regularly for messages from me. I will attempt (not guarantee) to respond to any e-mail you send to me within 24 hours of receiving it unless the e-mail is received Friday night-Sunday. If that is the case, it more than likely will be the following Monday afternoon before you receive a response. If you have a class-related issue that occurs over the weekend, DO NOT PANIC.

Remember, this is not an adversarial relationship. I want you to be successful and am here to help you. If you do not receive an email from me in a timely matter, please try again. Sometimes emails go into the clutter folder and I may not see them.

---

**COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES**

Course Specific Procedures:

**CHEATING & PLAGIARISM:** All exams are expected to be taken closed-book with no outside help from book(s), notes, or other people. It should go without saying that every student is expected to do his/her own work. Departmental policy provides that anyone caught cheating in any form or fashion will receive an “F” for the course and may be subjected to further disciplinary action by the university. Plagiarism (the use of other’s words, phrases, and ideas in your writing without giving credit to the original author) is a form of cheating and not only violates academic ethical standards, but is against the law. Don’t do it!

University Specific Procedures:

**ADA Statement**

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 132  
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835  
Fax (903) 468-8148  
Email: Rebecca.Tuerk@tamuc.edu  
Website: www.tamuc.edu/camusLife/camusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndService/
**Nondiscrimination Notice**
Texas A&M University-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

**Student Conduct**
All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. (See Code of Student Conduct from Student Guide Handbook).

**POlicies on Enrollment, “X,” “DP,” “DF,” and Withdrawal:** All university policies regarding last day of enrollment, use of “X,” “DP,” and “DF,” and withdrawal from class will be rigidly adhered to in this course. Students should check the university catalog, current semester schedule, and other official sources for specific deadlines, policies, etc. IT IS THE STUDENT’S RESPONSIBILITY to see that all university procedures are properly followed.

**Classroom Etiquette:**
This is an online course so we will not meet face to face. A&M-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

**This Online Classroom is a “Safe Space”**
All persons who enter this classroom will be treated with dignity and respect regardless of age, race, sex, social class, religion, politics, sexual orientation, and/or lifestyle. There will be “Zero Tolerance” in this classroom for any form of ageism, racism, sexism, sexual harassment, or any other form of prejudice, discrimination, or bigotry.

**University Specific Procedures: Guns on Campus**
Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M-Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations. For a list of locations, please refer to (http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf) and/or consult your event organizer. Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.