PSYC-SOC 249 - Criminal Behavior
Course Syllabus
Fall Semester 2022

Instructor: Dr Melanie McCallum
Credits: 3
Contact Hours: 45
Prerequisites: none

Office Hours: by appointment after a class or via Zoom (see Moodle site)

Course Type: Standard Course
Course Fee: None

Course Description

Crime comes in many different forms, has been known since the beginning of humankind and yet it is almost impossible to create a way of lifestyle that eliminates criminal activity completely from a society. The questions raised after a crime are stable over time: when, where, who, but the most important one is why. This course tries to give an answer by analyzing theories of crime, biological and psychological models of criminal behavior, crime and mental disorders, human aggression and violent crimes, cybercrimes and other specific offenses. Students will learn how to profile an offender based on their actions, risk factors in human development and policies of crime prevention. Students are required to develop critical thinking skills when analyzing case studies by using the theoretical material learned in class.

Learning Outcomes and Assessment Measures

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Learning Outcomes</th>
<th>Assessment Measures</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Summarize and List the main theories of crime.</td>
<td>Mid Term Exam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Classify the component parts of each model of criminal behavior.</td>
<td>Final Exam</td>
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By the end of Course Students will be able to:
**Course Materials**

**Readings**
A course reader, including all the indicated readings, will be available. The course's Moodle site is the primary location for readings and assignments.

**Assessment**
- Attendance: 10%
- Weekly Moodle Quizzes: 15%
- Midterm Exam: 25%
- Course Journal: 20%
- Office Hours: 5%
- Final Paper: 25%

**Grading**
Students are reminded that it is their responsibility to note the dates of exams and other assignments. No alternative exam dates will be offered and professors are not required to give partial credit for any late work (they do so at their discretion: the Institute's default policy is no extensions and a zero for any work turned in late). Students who book travel when they have an exam or other assessment will have to change their plans or accept a zero. Letter grades for student work are based on the following percentage scale:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Letter Grade Range</th>
<th>Numerical Score Equivalent</th>
<th>Student Performance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93% - 100%</td>
<td>Exceptional</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90% - 92%</td>
<td>Excellent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87% - 89%</td>
<td>Superior</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>83% - 86%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Course Requirements

Grades are based on the following criteria.

**Attendance (10%)**
Attendance is an important part of this course. You have two “sick days,” per Institute policy. As long as you are at all the other meetings, you will receive the full 10% for this part of your grade. There are no make-ups offered for attendance.

**Quizzes (15%)**
Students will be assigned a short quiz every week, which will be due before the first class time and will not be reopened. The quiz will be on Moodle and it is not timed. Students can take the quiz as many times as they like, with the recorded grade being the highest grade they receive. There will be a combination of technical, methodological, and content questions. The content questions will help students zoom in on the most important ideas of the readings. The technical questions will help students learn the class’ policies and administrative procedures. The methodological questions will test on skills that will pop up every week, like finding an author’s argument and assessing sources.

**Midterm Exam (25%)**
An exam covering all topics presented in the first half of the course.

**Course Journal (20%)**
Students will need a notebook at the start of the semester, which they will use as a personal space through which to reflect on course material and ideas; alternately, they can use a Google doc or Word document for these entries. In-class assignments will be regularly scheduled and graded twice throughout the semester, i.e. before the mid-semester break (Week 7) and at the end of the course (Week 12). Each of these checks is worth 10% of your grade, for a total of 10%. See the full prompt on Moodle for more information.

**Office Hours (5%)**
Getting to know your professor makes you more comfortable with that person and therefore more likely to ask for help. It also might help for you to ask questions about the various assignments or discuss a paper idea. In this course, you get 5% of your grade for coming one time before Week 9 to office hours.

**Final Paper (25%)**
Students will choose a case/crime to work on and write a paper (2000 words, double-spaced, Times, 12 font) after analyzing the topic. The paper will consist of two parts: a short section that describes the actual crime and one that applies theories and researches in the field in order to analyze the criminal behavior of the offender. The findings section can include previous knowledge about the topic, a critique of research methodology, or ideas for further intervention in order to prevent criminal behavior. The paper needs to be written in APA Style, including references. The reflective paper is due in week 9; students will submit a proposal for approval in week 4. A full prompt will be given on Moodle.

A specific hand out is given out in class before the midterm break. Part of grade will reflect the draft due in week 4.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80% - 82%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77% - 79%</td>
<td>Satisfactory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>73% - 76%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>70% - 72%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>67% - 69%</td>
<td>Low Pass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>63% - 66%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D-</td>
<td>60% - 62%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>59% or less</td>
<td>Fail (no credit)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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4.

Extension & Submitting Late Work

Work submitted after the deadline will receive a grade of zero, not partial credit. Each student is allowed one extension of 24 hours over the entire semester. This can be used for any assignment but the final project. Students need to email the instructor before the deadline and inform the instructor of their use of the extension. Any work submitted after the 24-hour extension will be marked zero. As for all policies, exceptions can be made by the Director for students with special accommodations or in case of medical emergencies, etc.

Attendance & Lateness Policy

Class attendance (in person) is mandatory. Students are allowed two “sick days,” which do not need to be justified. However, it is considered common courtesy to inform the instructor of your absence when possible. It is the students’ responsibility to keep them in case of real necessity (sickness or any other unforeseen inconvenience that may prevent students from being in class). Each additional absence—even for another illness—will lower the students’ grade by half a letter grade (i.e., a final grade of a B+ would be lowered to a B). Missing a co-curricular field trip also lowers a student’s final grade by half a letter grade. It is the policy of the Institute that any student who has eight or more absences automatically fails the class.

If a student misses a class, it is ultimately their responsibility to find out what has been missed. Ideally, they should find out what they missed from a classmate. Any work missed in class because of an excused absence may be made up within one week of the return to the class. Any work missed that was a quiz or other test must be made up outside of class time and will, in the interest of intellectual honesty, be a slightly different test than the one given in class.

Except in the case of medical emergencies with a doctor’s certificate and approved by the Director, absences are not accepted when tests are scheduled; tests cannot be made up. Furthermore, scheduled times and dates indicated for exams, quizzes, oral presentations, and any other graded assignments cannot be changed for any reason. Even if more sections of the same class are activated, students may only take exams during the scheduled times and dates for the section they are enrolled in.

Consistent lateness (or leaving class early) is a sign of disorganization and lack of respect both for your instructor and for your fellow students. Umbra instructors are empowered to count three late arrivals as the equivalent of an absence.

Academic Integrity

All forms of cheating (i.e., copying during exam either from a fellow student or making unauthorized use of notes) and plagiarism (i.e., presenting the ideas or words of another person for academic evaluation without acknowledging the source) will be handled according to the Institute Academic Policy, which can be found in the Umbra Institute Academic Policies and Conduct Guidelines.

Classroom Policy

Students are expected to follow the policy of the Institute and demonstrate the appropriate respect for the historical premises that the school occupies. Please note that cell phones must be set on silent mode before the beginning of each class. Computers and other electronic devices cannot be used during class lectures and discussions for anything other than note-taking, unless there has been a specific academic accommodation.
Schedule of Topics, Readings, and Assignments

WEEK 1

Introduction to Criminal Behaviors

Meeting 1  Introduction to Criminal Behaviors and Measurements
Meeting 2:  Victims and Victimization

Readings for the week:

2. Walsh/Jorgensen, Criminology, Sage Publications (July 17, 2014) pp.1-21 Chapter 1

Assignment
Weekly Quiz

WEEK 2

The Origins of Criminal Behavior

Meeting 1  Social Structure and Social Process Theory
Meeting 2:  The Developmental Theories of Crime

Readings for the week:

4. Walsh/Jorgensen, Criminology, pp. 100-120 Chapter 6

Assignment
Weekly Quiz

WEEK 3

Further Origins of Criminal Behavior: Developmental Theories of Crime

Meeting 1  Developmental Theories of Crime
Meeting 2:  Psychosocial Theories: Traits and crime

Readings for the week:

Assignment
Weekly Quiz

WEEK 4

Biosocial Approaches to Criminal Behavior

Meeting 1: Biosocial Approaches to Crime and Mental Disorders
Meeting 2: Review of Theories of Crime and Practical Applications

Readings for the week:


Assignment
Weekly Quiz
First Draft of Final Paper to be Submitted (prompt will be given in Moodle)

WEEK 5

Crime Scenes and Profiling

Meeting 1: Understanding Crime Scenes and Investigation
Meeting 2: Profiling and crime scene investigation

Readings for the week:


Assignment
Weekly Quiz

WEEK 6

Mid Term Exam
Meeting 1: Revision Practice, case study revision and presentation practice

Meeting 2: Mid Term Exam

Semester Break

Week 7

Violent Crimes

Meeting 1: Human Aggression and Violence

Meeting 2: Homicide

Readings for the week:


Assignment
Weekly Quiz
Hand in Course Journal for First review

Week 8

Serial Killers

Meeting 1: Classification of Serial Killers

Meeting 2: Serial Killers: Case Studies

Readings for the week:


Modern Challenges in Criminal Behavior

Meeting 1: Cybercrime

Meeting 2: Crime, Climate and Human Behavior

Readings for the week:

Assault and Trauma

Meeting 1: Sexual Assault

Meeting 2: Post Traumatic Stress Disorder

Readings for the week:

Substance Abuse

Meeting 1: Drug Misuse an Overview: Who, Why and Prevention
Meeting 2  Criminal Considerations of Substance Misuse
In class Video and Discussion

Reading for the week
21. Caitlin Elizabeth Hughes and Alex Stevens. What can we learn from the Portuguese Decriminalization of Illicit Drugs? Brit Journal of Criminology 50, 999–1022 publication 21 July 2010

Assignment
Weekly Quiz

WEEK 12

Presenting Case Studies

Meeting 1  Why Case Studies are Useful in Crime Prevention, Methodology of presenting a Case

Meeting 2  Student Group Presentations of Case Studies, relating to Theories of Crime

Assignment
Weekly Quiz
Final Review of Course Journal

WEEK 13

Final Exams and Special Academic Events Week
TBA