PSYC/SOC 249: Criminal Behavior

Course Syllabus

Instructor: Doris Kessenich, M.A.
Credits: 3
Contact Hours: 45
Prerequisites: None
Class Hours: TBA
Office Hours: TBA

Course Type: Standard Course
Lab Fee: 30 €

Course Description
Crime comes in many different forms, is 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 in base of 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

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Learning Outcomes</th>
<th>Assessment Measures</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Knowledge in Theories of Crime</td>
<td>Mid Term Exam</td>
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<tr>
<td>Critical Thinking Skills</td>
<td>Class Participation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Presentation skills</td>
<td>Case Analysis Presentation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Critical thinking skills</td>
<td>Annotated Bibliography</td>
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<tr>
<td>Linking psychological models of criminal behaviour to an example case</td>
<td>Reflective Paper</td>
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<tr>
<td>Knowledge in a range of different crimes</td>
<td>Final Exam</td>
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Course Materials

Readings


2) A Course reader available at local copy shop. See “Umbra Institute Course Materials - Textbooks and Readers” handout provided in the orientation folder for more information. Readings will include:


A course reader, including all the indicated readings, will be available at a local copy shop for about 5 €. Please see “Umbra Institute Course Materials - Textbooks and Readers” handout provided in the orientation folder for more information.
Further Readings


Assessment

Class Participation 10%
Case Analysis 10%
Mid Term Exam 20%
Reflective Paper 20%
Final Exam 25%
Annotated Bibliography 15%

Grading

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>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80% - 82%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77% - 79%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>73% - 76%</td>
<td>Satisfactory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>70% - 72%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>67% - 69%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>63% - 66%</td>
<td>Low Pass</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>
</table>
Course Requirements

Grades are based on:

Class Participation (10%)

For the purposes of assessment, class participation refers to the following:
- Extent and quality of contributions to class discussions reflecting knowledge and understanding of the issues/topics in question.
- Demonstration of having read assigned material and extent of understanding such material.
- Asking perceptive and original questions.
- Recognizing the value of the opinions of others.
- Respecting the work of others.
- Demonstration of teamwork skills in small group work.
- Helping to foster a positive group environment.

Consider that physical presence alone is NOT class participation.

Case Analysis (10%)

Each student will receive a precise assignment and each student needs to expose his/her work to class on established dates by PowerPoint presentation followed by a short discussion of the topic inside class. Each assignment will be linked to the topic of the class and is part of the material for exams.

Mid Term Exam (20%) and Final Exam (25%)

Students will be required to complete written midterm and final exam. Both exams will be comprised of different types of questions (e.g., definitions, short essays, short answers), and at least 50% of these exams will be essay questions that will require students to utilize critical thinking skills and to apply knowledge learned from class and from required readings. Students will be asked to describe and discuss key concepts in the field of criminal behavior and apply these concepts to case examples. Students will need to describe various research methods as well as their strengths and limitations.

Reflective Paper (20%)

For the paper, students will choose one case/crime to work on and write a paper (2500 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; submit proposal for approval in week 5. A specific hand out is given out in class before the midterm break.

Annotated Bibliography (15%)

This assignment will prepare you for the research paper. An annotated bibliography includes a summary and evaluation of each of the sources you will use for researching your topic. By reading and evaluating a variety of sources on your topic, you will see what the most important issues are, and you will then be able to develop
your own point of view. For more specific guidelines and instructions please see separate hand-out. The annotated bibliography is due February 20, together with your research topic.

Course Content Disclaimer
The course will use short movies or case examples that are NOT containing explicit violent images or material.

Attendance Policy
Class attendance is mandatory. Students are allowed two “free” absences, which do not need to be justified. 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, unless for a very serious reason, will lower the students’ grade by one grade level (i.e., a final grade of a B+ would be lowered to a B).

If students miss class, they are responsible for obtaining class notes from other students and/or for meeting the professor during office hours. It is also the policy of the Institute that any student who has eight or more absences automatically fails the class.

Except in the case of medical emergencies, 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.

Presence during mandatory field trips is especially important for student performance in class. Missing a mandatory field trip, unless for a very serious reason that is communicated to the professor and Umbra Academic Director in a timely manner, will lower students’ final grade by one grade level (i.e., a final grade of a B+ would be lowered to a B).

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 turned off before the beginning of each class. Computers and other electronic devices cannot be used during class lectures and discussions.
Schedule of Topics, Readings, and Assignments

WEEK 1

Introduction to Crime and Criminal Behavior

Readings
Walsh/Jorgensen, Criminology, pp.1-21 Chapter 1

Measuring Crime

Readings
Walsh/Jorgensen, Criminology, pp. 22-43 Chapter 2

WEEK 2

Victims and Victimization

Readings
Walsh/Jorgensen, Criminology, pp.44-63 Chapter 3

A CASE STUDY: Natasha Kampbusch 3096 Days

WEEK 3

Social Structure Theory

Readings
Walsh/Jorgensen, Criminology, pp. 100-120 Chapter 6
Social Process Theory

Readings
Walsh/Jorgensen, Criminology, pp. 121-140 Chapter 7

WEEK 4

Developmental Theories

Readings
Walsh/Jorgensen, Criminology, pp. 203-222 Chapter 11

A CASE STUDY: The Slenderman Case

Readings

WEEK 5

Psychosocial Theories: Traits and crime

Readings
Walsh/Jorgensen, Criminology, pp162- 181 Chapter 9

Biosocial Approaches: Crime and Mental Disorders

Readings
Walsh/Jorgensen, Criminology, pp. 182-202 Chapter 10

SUBMIT YOUR PROPOSAL FOR THE REFLECTIVE PAPER WITH ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY

WEEK 6

A CASE STUDY: Armin Meiwes

Evaluation of Psychopathy in Court Proceedings

Start to studying for the Midterm Exam!

WEEK 7

Review for the Midterm Exam: Have question ready!

MIDTERM EXAM

SEMESTER BREAK

WEEK 8

Violent Crimes I: Violence and aggression

Readings

Walsh/Jorgensen, Criminology, pp. 223-245 Chapter 12

**A CASE STUDY: Anders Breivik**

**WEEK 9**

Violent Crimes II: Homicide

**Readings**


**A CASE STUDY: The Monster of Florence**

**REFLECTIVE PAPER IS DUE!**

**WEEK 10**

Violent Crimes III: Stalking

**Readings**


Violent Crimes IV: Profiling and crime scene investigation

**Readings**


**WEEK 11**
Cybercrime

Readings
Walsh/Jorgensen, Criminology, pp. 314-318 Chapter 16

A CASE STUDY: ANONYMOUS

WEEK 12

Violent Crimes V: Sexual Assault

Readings
C.R. Bartol/A.M.Bartol (2014) Criminal Behavior- A Psychological Approach, 10th Chapter VII

Public Order Crime

Readings
Walsh/Jorgensen, Criminology, pp. 283-302 Chapter 15

FIELD TRIP: MEETING TIME AT THE FOUNTAIN TBA (duration 4hrs)

WEEK 13

Crime prevention and influence of climate change on human behavior

Review and Exercise for Final Exam

Have questions ready!

WEEK OF FINAL EXAMS AND SPECIAL ACADEMIC EVENTS
The Final Exam and Special Academic Events Calendar will be provided later in the semester.
Bibliography


