



PSYC-SOC 249 - Criminal Behavior
Course Syllabus
Spring 2023

Instructor: Dr. Melanie McCallum

Credits: 3

Contact Hours: 45

Prerequisites: None

Class Meeting Days & Time: Mondays and Wednesdays, 12.30 p.m. - 14.00 p.m.

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

Learning Outcomes	Assessment Measures
<i>By the end of Course Students will be able to:</i>	<i>Course requirements that will be used to assess students' achievement for each learning outcome</i>
<i>Summarize and List the main theories of crime.</i>	Final Exam
<i>Classify the component parts of each model of criminal behavior.</i>	Final Exam
<i>Use critical thinking to solve problems relating to behaviors and mental processes</i>	Case Study Assignments

<i>Deconstruct</i> a case study and <i>evaluate</i> the relevance of the measures described in relation to crime prevention.	Small Group Work and Class Discussion
<i>Communicate effectively</i> psychological profiles using oral formats	Case Presentations
<i>Recognize</i> socio-cultural and international diversity of Criminal Behaviors	Small Group Work and Class Discussion

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 %
Final Exam	15 %
Case Presentations	20%
Course Journal	10%
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:

Letter Grade Range	Numerical Score Equivalent	Student Performance
A	93% - 100%	Exceptional Excellent
A-	90% - 92%	
B+	87% - 89%	Superior
B	83% - 86%	
B-	80% - 82%	
C+	77% - 79%	Satisfactory
C	73% - 76%	
C-	70% - 72%	
D+	67% - 69%	Low Pass
D	63% - 66%	
D-	60% - 62%	
F	59% or less	Fail (no credit)

Please note: decimal numerals between 1-4 are rounded down while 5-9 are rounded up: e.g., expect 89.4 to be 89.0 while 89.5 to round up to 90.

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’s 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.

Final Exam (15%)

An exam covering all topics presented in the course. This paper will consist of multiple choice and short answer questions, and will take place during class time.

Case Presentations (20%)

Working in small groups students will prepare a presentation for the class on a criminal case study and present the best theory for the development of this behavior.

Course Journal (10%)

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 5% of your grade, for a total of 5%. 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 one 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 5. 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 5.

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 or through live connection) is mandatory. All students are allowed 2 “sick days” (i.e. unexcused absences), which do not need to be justified. It is the student’s responsibility to keep them in case of real necessity. i.e., sickness or any other unforeseen inconvenience that may prevent students from being in class. More than 2 absences will affect your final grade by 2% per absence. Excessive unexcused absences (8 or more) may result in a failing grade or disciplinary action. Three late arrivals to or early departures from class will count as an unexcused absence. It is the student’s responsibility to be aware of the number of absences or late arrivals for each course, and to ask the instructor when in doubt.

If students miss class, they are responsible for obtaining class notes from other students and/or for meeting the professor during office hours. 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.

Presence during mandatory field trips is especially important. Missing a mandatory field trip for a course, unless for a very serious reason that is communicated to Umbra staff in a timely manner, will be considered the equivalent of two unexcused absences. As such, absence from the co-curricular field trip will lower students’ final grade in that course by 4% (the equivalent of two unexcused absences).

Additional absences relating to illness may be approved by the Director but only if a medical certification is provided. 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.

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(wc 23.01.23)

Introduction to Criminal Behaviors

Meeting 1 Introduction to Criminal Behaviors and Measurements

Meeting 2: Victims and Victimization

Readings for the week:

1. Hugo S. Gomes, Ângela Maia & David P. Farrington. **Measuring Bias in self-reports of offending : systematic review of experiments.***Journal of experimentalCriminology(2019)*..Self reporting of
2. Walsh/Jorgensen, **Criminology**, Sage Publications(July 17, 2014) pp.1-21 Chapter 1

Assignment

Readings for week two.

Journal entry

WEEK 2 (wc 30.01.23)

The Origins of Criminal Behavior

Meeting 1 The Developmental Theories of Crime 1

Meeting 2: The Developmental Theories of Crime 2

Readings for the week:

- 3.Maria M. TTOFI, David P. Farrington, Friedrich Lösel, Rolf Loeber**The predictive efficiency of school bullying versus later offending: A systematic/meta-analytic review of longitudinal studies**
Criminal Behaviour and Mental Health Volume 21, Issue April 2011
4. Walsh/Jorgensen, *Criminology*, pp. 100-120 Chapter 6

Assignment

Weekly Quiz

WEEK 3(wc 06.02.23)

Further Origins of Criminal Behavior: Developmental Theories of Crime

Meeting 1 Developmental Theories of Crime 3

Meeting 2: The Developmental Theories of Crime 4

Readings for the week:

- 5.Jeremy Coid, Rafael A. González, Constantinos Kallis, Yamin Zhang, YuanYuan Liu, Jane Wood, Zara Quigg and Simone Ullrich .*The British Journal of Psychiatry* (2020) 217, 583–590. doi: 10.1192/bjp.2020.69 **Gang membership and sexual violence: associations with childhood maltreatment and psychiatric morbidity.**
6. Paternoster, Brame et al. **Multiple Routes to Delinquency ? A test of Developmental and General Theories of Crime.** *Criminology* 1997. vol 35, issue 1. p.49-84.

Assignment

Weekly Quiz

WEEK 4(WC 13.02.23)

Biosocial Approaches to Criminal Behavior

Meeting 1 Biosocial Approaches to Crime and Mental Disorders

Meeting 2: Review of Theories of Crime and Practical Applications /In Class Quiz

Readings for the week:

7. Babette C.M.van Hazebroek HildeWermink et al. **Biosocial studies of antisocial behavior: A systematic review of interactions between peri/prenatal complications, psychophysiological parameters, and social risk factors.** *Aggression and Violent Behavior* Volume 47, July–August 2019, Pages 169-188

8.C.R. Bartol/A.M.Bartol (2014) **Criminal Behavior- A Psychological Approach.**10th Edition; Chapt. 7

Assignment

Weekly Quiz

WEEK 5(WC 20.02.23)

Crime Scenes and Profiling

Meeting 1 Understanding Crime Scenes and Investigation

Meeting 2: Profiling and crime scene investigation

Readings for the week:

9.Burgess/Ressler et al. (2013) **Crime Classification Manual;** Wiley (May 2013)3th Edition; pp. 11-37

10. Torres, A. N., Boccaccini, M. T., & Miller, H. A. (2015). **Perceptions of the validity and utility of criminal profiling among forensic psychologists and psychiatrists.** *Professional Psychology: Research and Practice*, 37(1), 51–58.

Assignment

Weekly Quiz

Draft for Final Paper

WEEK 6 (WC 27.02.23)

Meeting 1 Case Presentations and Review of Theories of crime

Meeting 2: In Class video and Quiz

Assignment

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

Semester Break(wc 06.03.23)

WEEK 7 (wc 13.03.23)

Violent Crimes

Meeting 1 Human Aggression and Violence

Meeting 2: Homicide

Readings for the week:

11. Allely, C.S., Minnis, Thompson, P. Wilson & C. Gillberg, (2014). **Neurodevelopmental and psychosocial risk factors in serial killers and mass murderers.** *Aggression and Violent Behavior*, 19(3), pp. 288-301.

12. Lankford, Silver et al **An Epidemiological Analysis of Public Mass Shooters and Active Shooters: Quantifying Key Differences Between Perpetrators and the General Population, Homicide Offenders, and People Who Die by Suicide.** *Journal of Threat Assessment and Management*. (2021)Vol. 8, No. 4, 125–1

13. Elgar FJ, et al. **Corporal punishment bans and physical fighting in adolescents: an ecological study of 88 countries** *British Medical Journal* (October 2018).

Assignment

Weekly Quiz

Hand in Course Journal for First review

WEEK 8(wc 20.03.23)

Serial Killers

Meeting 1 Classification of Serial Killers

Meeting 2: Serial Killers: Case Studies

Readings for the week:

14. Miller, L. (2014). **Serial killers: I. subtypes, patterns, and motives.** *Aggression and Violent Behavior*, 19(1), pp. 1-11.

15. Miller, L. (2014). **Serial killers: II. development, dynamics, and forensics.** *Aggression and Violent Behavior*, 19(1), pp. 12-22

Assignment

Weekly Quiz

WEEK 9 (WC 27.03.23)

Modern Challenges in Criminal Behavior

Meeting 1 Cybercrime

Meeting 2: Crime, Climate and Human Behavior

Readings for the week:

16. Robert Agnew **Dire forecast: A theoretical model of the impact of climate change on crime** *Theoretical Criminology* 16(1), 21–42.

17. M.G. García 1, M.D. Pérez-Cárceles 1, E. Osuna, I. Legaz **Drug-facilitated sexual assault and other crimes: A systematic review by countries** *Journal of Forensic and Legal Medicine* 79 (2021) 102151

Assignment

Weekly Quiz

Final Paper Submission

WEEK 10(WC 03.04.23)

Assault and Trauma

Meeting 1 Sexual Assault

Meeting 2: Post Traumatic Stress Disorder

Readings for the week:

18. Charlie Brooker, Emma Durmaz **Mental health, sexual violence and the work of Sexual Assault Referral centres (SARCs) in England** *Journal of Forensic and Legal Medicine* 31 (2015)

19. Edgar Jones, Robert Hodgins Vermaas et al. **Flashbacks and post-traumatic stress disorder: the genesis of a 20th-century diagnosis.** *British Journal of Psychiatry*(2003)

Assignment

Weekly Quiz

HOLIDAY MONDAY 10.04.23

WEEK 11 (WC 14.04.23) PLEASE NOTE CLASS IS FRIDAY THIS 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

20. Bruce J. Rounsaville et al **Pathways to Opiate Addiction: An Evaluation of Differing Antecedents** *British Journal of Psychiatry.* (1982), 141.

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

22. Kamaldeep S. Bhui, Peter Byrne, Diane Goslar and Julia Sinclair. **Addiction care in crisis: evidence should drive progressive policy and practice.** *The British Journal of Psychiatry*(2019) 215, 702–703

Assignment
Weekly Quiz

WEEK 12(wc 17.04.23)

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 (wc 24.04.23)

Final Exams and Special Academic Events Week
TBA