Course: Psychology of Criminal Behavior
Section: PSY 372 99 [43166]
Semester: 2023 FALL
Instructor: Thomas Coghlan, PsyD
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Class Room: Online Learning Environment
Office Hours: By appointment.

John Jay College of Criminal Justice · The City University of New York · 524 West 59th Street · New York, NY 10019

Course Description:
A study of the psychological bases and dynamics of criminal behavior. Topics to be discussed include the "antisocial personality," the psychopath, psychosis and crime, psychopathology and mental defect, alcoholism and drug abuse, the adolescent offender, the female offender, the sexual offenses, cults and terrorism, and criminal profiling. The varying ways in which the criminal justice system processes, treats and affects the different types of offenders will also be discussed. This course will explore the psychological bases of criminal behavior through an examination of the various relevant psychological models, including developmental, psychodynamic, biological, neurocognitive, cognitive-behavioral and psychosocial. Ultimately, an understanding of criminal behavior is sought from a perspective which encompasses multiple systems. Students will come to understand criminal behavior as being the product of multiple factors, including psychological, biological, social, socio-economic, and political. The principal aim of this course is to provide a comprehensive understanding of criminal behavior based on scientific study and investigation. Prerequisites: English 102 and Psychology 242

Course Goals:
This course will offer a general overview about crime from a psychological perspective, and provide students with a broad understanding of issues in criminal law and what forensic psychology involves. Students will examine heavily researched topics and information related to the psychology of crime, the theoretical aspects of crime, specific crime categories, social risk factors, developmental principles, the psychology of aggression (including its biological basis), and psychopathy. The course begins by exploring the different theories behind criminal behavior, including the biological, the psychological, the sociological, and those that concern social learning and developmental risk. The course then moves beyond the theoretical to consider the relationship between mental illness, psychopathy, and criminal behavior. Finally, we will focus on specialized areas/crime(s) such as terrorism, property crimes, sexual offenses, homicide, assaults, family violence, and substance & alcohol-related crime. This course is designed to present the clearest picture possible about crime from a psychological perspective. More specifically, this course portrays the criminal offender as embedded in, and continually influenced by, multiple systems within the psychosocial environment.

Required Text:
Bartol & Bartol (2012). Criminal Behavior: A Psychological Approach. (11th edition). ISBN 9780134163741. Prentice Hall.

Additional readings will be posted to the course Blackboard page and / or distributed via email.

Course Evaluation:
Discussion Boards: 30%
Assignments: 30%
Final Writing Assignment: 30%
Attendance: 10%

Course Requirements:

Attendance: Attendance will be taken based on the student submitting weekly assignments or contributions to discussion boards. A student will be considered as having attended electronically if the student has submitted a response to the assignment or discussion board for that week. Attendance will be worth 10% of the final grade.

The online week runs from Sunday to 11:59pm Saturday. Weekly folders will open on Sundays.

Discussion Boards (30%): Discussion Boards will be posted to the course Blackboard page on the Sunday of each week. For every Discussion Board, students are expected to post a minimum of three times; one initial contribution as a response to the Discussion Board (worth a potential 70 / 100 points), and two replies to classmates' contributions (worth a potential 15 / 100 points each). If a student fails to post contributions or replies, they will receive a zero for that portion of their expected discussion board contribution. Discussion Boards will constitute 30% of the final grade.

All initial contributions are due by end of day on Thursday, and both replies are due by end of day on Saturday. For example, the initial responsive contribution for a discussion posted on a Sunday would be due by end of day on that Thursday (for a potential 70 / 100 points), and both replies to classmates are due by end of day on that Saturday (for a potential 15 / 100 points x 2). Discussion Board responses (both initial contributions and replies to classmates) must be substantive and must reflect familiarity with, and mastery of the assigned reading material. Posts which fail to demonstrate mastery of the assigned material, or familiarity with the assigned material, will receive low grades. Students MUST use in-text citations in both the initial contribution and in their replies to classmates as a way to demonstrate their mastery of, and familiarity with the assigned material for the week.

Replies to classmates which simply state non-substantive things which do not continue to contribute to the learning experience such as "I agree with you", "Great post!", "Good point!", will receive low grades, if any grade at all. Required word length will vary, and will be indicated in the Discussion Board assignment. **It cannot be stressed enough that non-substantive replies that do not further the academic or scholarly nature of the discussion will receive a low grade.** Simply replying that you agree with a classmate, rephrasing what the classmate wrote, or congratulating them on a "great post!" will receive a low grade.

Assignments (30%): Assignments will be posted to the course Blackboard page. Students are expected to check Blackboard regularly for posted assignments. Students are expected to submit work responsive to each posted assignment. Each assignment will be worth 100 points. Assignments will constitute 30% of the final grade. Each assignment is due by the end of day on the Saturday of that week (i.e., an assignment posted Sunday would be due by end of day on that Saturday).

Final Writing Assignment: A final writing assignment will be posted on May 12, 2024. It will be due by end of day on May 22, 2024. It will be worth 30% of the final grade.

Writing Center (01.68 New Building)

The Writing Center is a service that provides free tutoring to students of John Jay. The Center has a staff of trained tutors who work with students to help them become more effective writers, from planning and organizing a paper, to writing and then proofreading it. The Writing Center is a valuable resource for any student and I encourage you to use it. If I give you a Referral form to

the Writing Center, you must attend to get further instruction on the specific items addressed on the form. This is not optional.

Disability Accommodations
Qualified students with disabilities will be provided reasonable academic accommodations if determined eligible by the Office of Accessibility Services (OAS). Prior to granting disability accommodations in this course, the instructor must receive written verification of a student's eligibility from the OAS which is located at L66 in the New Building (212-237-8031). It is the student's responsibility to initiate contact with the office and to follow the established procedures for having the accommodation notice sent to the instructor. Source: Reasonable Accommodations: A Faculty Guide to Teaching College Students with Disabilities, 4th ed., City University of New York, p.3.
(http://www.jjay.cuny.edu/studentlife/Reasonable_Accommodations.pdf)

Academic Integrity
The instructor has a zero tolerance policy in regard to breaches of academic integrity.
The instructor will remain vigilant regarding academic integrity.
The instructor will report all concerns regarding academic integrity to the college's Academic Integrity Unit in the Office of Academic Affairs.

Statement of the College Policy on Plagiarism
Plagiarism is the act of presenting someone else's ideas, words, research, or work as one's own creation. Using the ideas or work of another is permissible only when the original author is identified and acknowledged. Plagiarism may be intentional or unintentional. Lack of dishonest intent does not necessarily absolve a student of responsibility for plagiarism – it is the student's responsibility to recognize the difference between stating common knowledge (those that do not require documentation) and restating others' ideas. Paraphrase, summary, and direct quotation are acceptable forms of restatement, as long as the source is cited. Students who are unsure how and when to provide documentation are advised to consult with their instructors. The Library has free guides designed to help students with problems of documentation. (See John Jay College of Criminal Justice Undergraduate Bulletin, http://www.jjay.cuny.edu/academics/654.php, Chapter IV Academic Standards)

Department of Counseling (L68.02 New Building) The Department of Counseling offers a variety of services for John Jay students. Its mission is to support the college community and it offers individual and group counseling, psychological services, crisis intervention, outreach, and consultation. It provides specialized services to support students with their adjustment to college life, choice of majors, and exploring the special programs offered through the college. There are also Peer Counseling services, which provide information to students about test anxiety, time management, and how to make the most at John Jay. I encourage anyone who is interested in these services to seek them out.

Date	Topic	Reading
1/25	Introduction. Syllabus.	Syllabus
1/28	Origins of Crime.	Bartol 1
2/4	Developmental Risk Factors.	Bartol 2
2/11	Genetic & Biological Factors.	Bartol 3
2/18	Learning and Situational Factors.	Bartol 4
2/25	Aggression & Violence.	Bartol 5
3/3	Psychopathology. Lecture.	Assigned Reading
3/10	Antisocial Personality & Psychopathy.	Bartol 7
3/17	Mental Defect, Dangerousness & Risk.	Bartol 8
3/24	Homicide.	Bartol 9
3/31	Behavioral Evidence Analysis / Profiling.	Bartol 10
4/7	Cults, Terrorism, Extremism and Hate.	Bartol 11
4/14	Sexual Offenses and Paraphilias	Assigned Reading
4/21	Spring Recess 4/22 to 4/30	Spring Recess
4/30	Special Topic TBA	Assigned Reading
5/5	Synthesis.	Assigned Reading
5/12	Final Writing Assignment Posted.	
5/22	Final Writing Assignment Due.	End of Course.
5/28	Final Grades Due to College.	

Any and all information presented in this syllabus is subject to change at instructor's discretion. Immediate notification will be provided to students should this occur.