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American Public University System

The Ultimate Advantage is an Educated Mind

School of Security and Global Studies
CMRJ527: Crime and Mental Disorders
8-week class
School of Public Safety and Health

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Instructor Information

Instructor: See information provided in the Syllabus link in the classroom

Email: Please use internal classroom messaging system

Course Description (Catalog)

In the last 30 years, the link between criminal behavior and mental disorders has become more evident. Because of the apparent link between mental health disorders and criminal behavior there has been an increasing need to understand how mental health diagnoses influences behavior. This class will analyze mental disorders such as schizophrenia, personality disorders, brain damage and mental retardation and their role in in criminal behavior. This graduate level class will focus on rehabilitation methods and its effectiveness for addressing the problem of mental health in the criminal justice system.
This course will examine the common psychological issues associated with criminal behavior and deviance. The course will focus on mental disorders such as schizophrenia, personality disorders, and fetishes and their link to criminal behavior. This class will address treatment options and their effectiveness as well.

This course addresses topics on and about criminal justice. Some may find the topics controversial and upsetting.

CO1: Summarize the link between mental illness and criminal behavior.
CO2: Debate how mental health issues influence behavior.
CO3: Synthesize several mental health diagnoses
CO4: Compare and contrast the role of effective rehabilitation and its effectiveness for addressing mental health disorders.
CO5: Analyze the social responses to mental illness historically and through discussion of current events.

This course delivered via distance learning will enable students to complete academic work in a flexible manner, completely online. Course materials and access to an online learning management system will be made available to each student. Online assignments are due by Sunday evening of the week as noted and include Forum questions (accomplished in groups through a threaded forum), examination, and individual assignments submitted for review by the Faculty Member). Assigned faculty will support the students throughout this eight-week course.

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Required Course Textbooks

Open Source Materials—No Book Required

Additional Resources

Additional Journal Reading:

Week One


Week Two


**Week Three**


**Week Four**


**Week Five**


**Week Six**


**Week Seven**


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**Web Sites**

In addition to the required course texts, the following public domain web sites are useful. Please abide by the university’s academic honesty policy when using Internet sources as well. Note web site addresses are subject to change.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site Name</th>
<th>Web Site URL/Address</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SAMHSA</td>
<td><a href="http://www.samhsa.gov/">http://www.samhsa.gov/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WHO</td>
<td><a href="http://www.who.int/mental_health/en/">http://www.who.int/mental_health/en/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NAMI</td>
<td><a href="http://www.nami.org/">http://www.nami.org/</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Evaluation Procedures**

Please note that every forum and assignment has an individual rubric that will be utilized in grading that week’s assignments.

**Forum Assignments:** Each student’s answer to the question should be between 500-1000 words. A minimum of two references need to be used in the development of your answer. Each feedback post needs to be 250 words or more, and should include information that helps to enhance the discussion on the topic. Do not include statements such as great work, or excellent post. Try to include info that is challenging and respectful and that will stimulate debate. Also, be mindful of including references and citations whenever citing facts to support your position. APA 6th edition citations and references must be used always!

Initial Post Due: Thursday 11:55 PM EST

Feedback Posts Due: Sunday 11:55 PM EST

**Homework Assignments:** All assignments need to be uploaded as a Word Doc attachment and uploaded as an attachment. Do not type the assignment into the assignment box. The assignment must be uploaded.

Assignment posts are due Sunday, 11:55 PM EST. The assignments cover the material from the textbook(s) and the supplemental
citations. Each assignment response needs to be 1000 words, with APA 6th ed citations and references. Do Not Use MLA or any other form of referencing.

**Final Project:** The research paper project is a two-part assignment. The first section of the project you will provide an in-depth analysis of a specific mental health diagnosis. This section of the paper should analyze the history of the diagnosis, the specific criteria to have a diagnosis for the disorder, and a discussion of the role the disorder has in contributing to criminal behavior. This section should be 10 pages long and include a minimum of 10 pages. Additionally, your paper needs to be in APA 6th edition formatting.

The second section of the paper will be a power point presentation that outlines treatment options for this diagnosis. Your power point should be 20 slides and cover methods of identification and treatment for this disorder. The treatment sections should provide an overview of what methods of treatment are effective and what methods are not. Treatment outcome data needs to be examined as well to support treatment and effectiveness. Additionally, you will need to record a voice narration for the power point presentation. Your voiceover should not be a regurgitation of the slide. Instead it should be a discussion of the concepts that you learned about providing effective therapy for your clients who suffer from their specific illness. Please refer to this web page for assistance in providing voiceover in power points: [http://office.microsoft.com/en-us/powerpoint-help/record-a-voice-narration-HP005195027.aspx](http://office.microsoft.com/en-us/powerpoint-help/record-a-voice-narration-HP005195027.aspx)

**Class Evaluation Criteria**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade Instruments</th>
<th>Percent</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Introduction Forum</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forums</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assignments</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Paper Project</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
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Please see the Student Handbook to reference the University’s grading scale.
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<th>Topic</th>
<th>Learning Objectives</th>
<th>Readings</th>
<th>Assignment</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Introduction to Mental Illness, Criminal Behavior &amp; Treatment</td>
<td>LO1: Summarize the link between mental illness and criminal behavior. LO5: Analyze the social responses to mental illness historically and through discussion of current events.</td>
<td>Introduction Forum: Introduce yourself to the class. Forum #1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Conduct Disorder</td>
<td>LO1: Summarize the link between mental illness and criminal behavior. LO2: Debate how mental health issues influence behavior. LO3: Synthesize the mental health diagnosis of conduct disorder.</td>
<td></td>
<td>Forum #2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Antisocial Personality</td>
<td>LO1: Summarize</td>
<td></td>
<td>Forum #3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disorder</td>
<td>the link between mental illness and criminal behavior. LO2: Debate how mental health issues influence behavior. LO3: Synthesize the mental health diagnosis of antisocial personality disorder.</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Pedophilia</td>
<td>LO1: Summarize the link between mental illness and criminal behavior. LO2: Debate how mental health issues influence behavior. LO3: Synthesize the mental health diagnosis of pedophilia.</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Fetishism</td>
<td>LO1: Summarize the link between mental illness and criminal behavior.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>behavior. LO2: Debate how mental health issues influence behavior. LO3: Synthesize the mental health diagnosis of fetishism.</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Sadism</td>
<td>LO1: Summarize the link between mental illness and criminal behavior. LO2: Debate how mental health issues influence behavior. LO3: Synthesize the mental health diagnosis of sadism.</td>
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<td>Forum #6 Assignment #2</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Treatment Options</td>
<td>LO4: Compare and contrast the role of effective rehabilitation and its effectiveness for addressing mental health disorders.</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Forum #7</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Conclusion</td>
<td>LO1: Summarize</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Final Paper and Project</td>
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| the link between mental illness and criminal behavior. |

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Policies

Please see the Student Handbook to reference all University policies. Quick links to frequently asked question about policies are listed below.

- Drop/Withdrawal Policy
- Plagiarism Policy
- Extension Process and Policy
- Disability Accommodations

Writing Expectations:

Forums
It is permissible to use “I” statements and write in the first person since these questions seek specific opinions.

Your initial post must contain at least two to four references. The sources for these references should be included at the end of your post in order to give appropriate credit to the individuals from whom you borrowed material. Large word-for-word quotes are not permitted. Direct quotes, if used, need to be only a sentence or two long. Instead, most cited material needs to be paraphrased. For more information on properly citing sources in your assignments please refer to the APA 6th edition manual.

References can include the textbook. However, you will need to include several additional academic sources. These sources should consist of scholarly journals that have been peer reviewed and academically based books. Web sources can be used, though they should come from credible sources such as government agencies, academics and private agencies with a strong reputation within the community they serve.
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Examples of peer reviewed scholarly based journals include:

- Journal of Criminology
- Crime and Public Opinion
- Journal of Criminal Justice and Public Policy
- Justice Quarterly: JQ

You will not be allowed to use web pages or web groups such as Wikipedia or Answers.com, as the information contained in these web pages are academically questionable. You cannot use web pages of a questionable background or academic source. Furthermore, you will not be permitted to cite encyclopedias, dictionaries, newspapers (unless otherwise permitted) and popular magazines. It is important to remember that this is a graduate level class and you are required to submit graduate level work, which is backed up by academically credible material. If you have a question about the quality of a potential resource, please e-mail your professor.

Most of this material that you need for your assignments can be found in the AMU library. You are encouraged to use the library to locate the needed material. Additionally, at the bottom of this syllabus is a list of acceptable organizations and groups found on the World Wide Web which you can use to find material for your assignments.

Assignments
All assignments must be written in an academic tone. You are not to write in the first person. Instead you need to use third person. Remember, an academic essay is not to be written like you are having a casual conversation with your friends. Do not include slang or foul language unless you are quoting someone.

Large word-for-word quotes are not permitted. Direct quotes, if used, need to be only a sentence or two long. Instead, most cited material needs to be paraphrased. For more information on properly citing sources in your assignments please refer to the APA 6th edition manual. While the assignments are to include an examination on current research of a particular problem, they also need include the student’s careful and informed analysis.

References can include the textbook. However, you will need to include several additional academic sources. These sources should consist of scholarly journals that have been peer reviewed and academically based books. Web sources can be used, though they should come from
creditable sources such as government agencies, academics and private agencies with a strong reputation within the community they serve.

Examples of peer reviewed scholarly based journals include:

- Journal of Criminology
- Crime and Public Opinion
- Journal of Criminal Justice and Public Policy
- Justice Quarterly: JQ

You will not be allowed to use web pages or web groups such as Wikipedia or Answers.com, as the information contained in these web pages are academically questionable. You cannot use web pages of a questionable background or academic source. Furthermore, you will not be permitted to cite encyclopedias, dictionaries, newspapers (unless otherwise permitted) and popular magazines. It is important to remember that this is a graduate level class and you are required to submit graduate level work, which is backed up by academically credible material. If you have a question about the quality of a potential resource, please e-mail your professor.

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**Citation and Reference Style**

Attention Please: Students will follow APA 6th Edition as the sole citation and reference style used in written work submitted as part of coursework to the University. Assignments completed in a narrative essay or composition format must follow the citation style cited in the APA 6th Edition Manual.

**Late Assignments**

Students are expected to submit classroom assignments by the posted due date and to complete the course according to the published class schedule. As adults, students, and working professionals, I understand you must manage competing demands on your time. Should you need additional time to complete an assignment, please contact me before the due date so we can discuss the situation and determine an acceptable resolution. Routine submission of late assignments is unacceptable and may result in points deducted from your final course grade.

**Deductions:**
Late forum posts can be penalized up to 5 points per day  
Late assignments can be penalized up to 5 points per day

**Netiquette**

Online universities promote the advancement of knowledge through positive and constructive debate – both inside and outside the classroom. Forums on the Internet, however, can occasionally degenerate into needless insults and “flaming.” Such activity and the loss of good manners are not acceptable in a university setting – basic academic rules of good behavior and proper “Netiquette” must persist. Remember that you are in a place for the rewards and excitement of learning which does not include descent to personal attacks or student attempts to stifle the Forum of others.

- Technology Limitations: While you should feel free to explore the full-range of creative composition in your formal papers, keep e-mail layouts simple. The Sakai classroom may not fully support MIME or HTML encoded messages, which means that bold face, italics, underlining, and a variety of color-coding or other visual effects will not translate in your e-mail messages.
- Humor Note: Despite the best of intentions, jokes and especially satire can easily get lost or taken seriously. If you feel the need for humor, you may wish to add “emoticons” to help alert your readers: ;-), : ), 😊

**Disclaimer Statement**

Course content may vary from the outline to meet the needs of this particular group.

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**Online Library**

The Online Library is available to enrolled students and faculty from inside the electronic campus. This is your starting point for access to online books, subscription periodicals, and Web resources that are designed to support your classes and generally not available through search engines on the open Web. In addition, the Online Library provides access to special learning resources, which the University has contracted to assist with your studies. Questions can be directed to librarian@apus.edu.

- *Charles Town Library and Inter Library Loan*: The University maintains a special library with a limited number of supporting volumes,
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A collection of our professors’ publication, and services to search and borrow research books and articles from other libraries.

- **Electronic Books:** You can use the online library to uncover and download over 50,000 titles, which have been scanned and made available in electronic format.
- **Electronic Journals:** The University provides access to over 12,000 journals, which are available in electronic form and only through limited subscription services.
- **Tutor.com:** AMU and APU Civilian & Coast Guard students are eligible for 10 free hours of tutoring provided by APUS. [Tutor.com](http://www.tutor.com) connects you with a professional tutor online 24/7 to provide help with assignments, studying, test prep, resume writing, and more. Tutor.com is tutoring the way it was meant to be. You get expert tutoring whenever you need help, and you work one-to-one with your tutor in your online classroom on your specific problem until it is done.

Request a Library Guide for your course

(http://apus.libguides.com/index.php)

The AMU/APU Library Guides provide access to collections of trusted sites on the Open Web and licensed resources on the Deep Web. The following are specially tailored for academic research at APUS:

- Program Portals contain topical and methodological resources to help launch general research in the degree program. To locate, search by department name, or navigate by school.
- Course Lib-Guides narrow the focus to relevant resources for the corresponding course. To locate, search by class code (e.g., SOCI111), or class name.

If a guide you need is not available yet, please email the APUS Library: [librarian@apus.edu](mailto:librarian@apus.edu).

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**Turnitin.com**

*Turnitin.com* is a web-based plagiarism prevention application licensed, for campus use, through the APUS Online Library. Students will not have to submit papers to Turnitin. The assignment section automatically checks and the class instructor will check other assignments as needed.
Selected Bibliography

Week 1


Week 2


Additional Reading

**Week 3**


**Additional Reading**


**Week 4**


Additional Reading

Week 5

Additional Reading
Asexual Explorations Bibliography (n.d.) Retrieved from: http://www.asexualexplorations.net/home/paraphilia_bibliography

Week 6
American Psychological Association Convention, National Institute of Mental Health, New York.


Additional Reading


Week 7


Additional Reading


Week 8


Overview of the Mental Health Service System for Criminal Justice Professionals (n.d.) Retrieved from: http://gainscenter.samhsa.gov/pdfs/jail_diversion/MassaroII.pdf
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