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American Public University System

The Ultimate Advantage is an Educated Mind

School of Security and Global Studies
Criminal Justice
CMRJ 531
Criminal Profiling
3 Credit Hours
8 Weeks
None

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Instructor Information

Please see the syllabus tool for instructor contact information.

Course Description (Catalog)

This course will examine in detail crimes such as murder, serial killing, rape, and related crimes of violence from a socio-psychological profiling perspective. Topics covered will include the foundations of criminal profiling, the elements and goals of criminal profiling, multidisciplinary theory, victimology, geographic profiling, the scientific method as applied to behavioral theories, and ethical considerations. Modus operandi and signature behaviors will be analyzed, and inductive and deductive profiling methods will be assessed.
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Course Scope

This course is organized to provide students insight into the behavioral, cognitive, emotional and demographic components that formulate the discipline of criminal profiling. This discipline, part art/part science, has been glamorized by popular media in the last decade or so. While many believe they “know” what criminal profiling, few grasp the theory and research on the discipline. This course introduces the student to the theories and research surrounding criminal profiling and provide the student with broad understanding of the discipline.

Course Objectives (CO)

At the conclusion of this course, the students should be able to:

CO1: Evaluate scientific approaches to crime scene profiling.
CO2: Critique technology based tools utilized in criminal profiling.
CO3: Apply the concepts of criminal profiling to specific crimes.
CO4: Examine the concepts psychological profiling.
CO5: Discuss the utilization of the psychological autopsy.

Course Delivery Method

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 assignment 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.

Course Materials

Required Readings:


The following are available in the APUS Library and other Internet sources:
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Recommended Readings:

See the Online Library.
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Evaluation Procedures

CONTACTS: Contact between students and faculty can occur in a number of ways: phone, fax, and electronic mail are three examples. Students are expected to maintain routine contact with faculty throughout the course. And while the number of these may vary according to the specific course and individual student need, the University requires at least four contacts during the semester. While these contacts will not be graded, students should be aware that they count toward the total of required course exercises. The basic requirement for a contact is for the student to let the professor know how they are progressing in the course. Additionally, a forum will be set up within the online classroom to facilitate discussion between students. The professor will monitor and participate in the forum.

EXAMINATION POLICIES AND PROCEDURES:

Examinations will be available online. Final, official grades will be issued by the University on the grade report form. Professors have 7 days from the end of the semester to submit their grades to the University. Students should not telephone the University looking for grades until at least 30 days after the end of the semester.

Final Exam

The Final Exam will comprise 25% of your final grade. It will be structured to cover material from the entire course. Students may earn a score of up to 100 for each exam. You will be provided with essay questions. You are required to respond to each question or a selection of questions depending on the professors design. Each response will be weighted equally. You are to provide at least 3 references other than your textbook and assigned articles to support each response. These references are to be in APA format. Corresponding citations should be included in your response to document/support the facts you provide. You may access the exam several times during the exam period however it may only be submitted once. The exams must be submitted to your professor as indicated on the Course Schedule and Grading Policy Summary Table. Exam essays will be graded based on the Criminal Justice Exam Essay Rubric found in your course site.

There are no make-up exams.

Furthermore, remember each course ends on the Sunday of Week 8. No late work will be accepted.
Review and choose a subject of interest from the text and/or assigned articles for a 10-12 page research paper. The paper is due at the end of week 7. In your response to the forum “Research Paper Topic”, post the intended subject you wish to research and why it is of special interest to you. I will approve, comment, or disapprove. Please wait for approval before you begin your research. This should be completed by the end of Week 2.

Discuss a selected topic on criminal profiling. Support your opinion on/of this topic by demonstrating examples of that influence. Your opinion does not determine your grade. Your grade is determined by how well you support your argument utilizing the materials discussed in this course and research and reference material you locate through your own research. What I do not want is a regurgitation of the course materials. Expand on the materials, do not repeat them. Document your facts utilizing standard APA style. This paper is to be submitted to me as indicated on the Course Schedule and Grading Policy Summary Table. The paper is to be in APA format and the body of the paper is to be between 10 and 12 pages. The body of the paper does not include the title page, table of contents, appendix or references. This is to be of high quality, free of spelling and grammatical errors, and of original work. Plagiarism will be dealt with harshly. You are to title your paper by your last name. For example, my paper would be called “russo.docx” with “.docx” being the MS Word file extension. You are to submit your paper by uploading it to your student folder in the course site prior to the due date.

For this assignment you:
1) Should submit your research paper to turnitin.com
2) Must submit your research paper to this assignment as a Word document.

Papers will be graded based on the Criminal Justice Paper Rubric.

Forum Questions
Forum Questions, found under the heading of Forum, have been developed for each unit of study (module) in this course and will comprise 50% of your final grade. These questions are designed to help the students apply critical thinking techniques to the material learned through experience and readings. The questions are designed to give students direction in integrating old and new ways of thinking and to examine the relationship between theory and practice of criminal justice.
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Each student will post his/her individual response to each FQs on the message board on/by Thursday at 11:55 pm ET of each week. Students must then interact with other students by posting questions addressed to others based upon their initial response and furthering the discussion on the forum boards. Students may earn a score of up to 100 for each module by doing so. Please note that the questions are comprehensive, requiring the base knowledge presented in the text before applying the analytical and critical evaluation necessary to meet program goals. Once the corresponding week has ended (Sunday night), no work will be accepted for that forum for credit. Be on time.

You must respond to each individual question on the forum. The required individual response for EACH question is 500 words with citations and two references in APA format. Failure to respond with an individual response of 500 words of your original work to a particular question and/or citations and two references in APA format will result in the student NOT earning maximum credit for that response. While 500 words of your original work is the MINIMUM acceptable response length, there is no maximum word limit. So you are aware, the classroom software utilized by AMU, SAKAI, automatically provides faculty with the word count in each individual response.

In addition, you must reply to at least two of your classmates in the forum on/by Sunday at 11:55 pm ET. Replies must be at least 150 words in length and include citation(s) and one reference in APA format. These responses are to be informative and contribute to advancing the knowledge of the topic. This is the minimum required. To earn a grade higher than acceptable/minimum, your activity should include more than two reply postings.

You are required to post your original work to the forum. You are to input your original response directly to the dialog box. Attachments will not be accepted.

Additionally for Week 1 you are required to post a biography on the Biography forum. You will earn a grade for this submission. No additional participation is required on this administrative forum.

When responding to forum questions, please do so in the follow fashion:
1. Log on to the appropriate forum board.
2. Select the appropriate forum question
3. Upon viewing the question, select the Post New Thread or Reply button
4. Enter your response to the question then select the Post Message button

This will place your response under (or threaded) to the original question and
groups responses under the appropriate section. Forum Questions (FQs) will be graded based on the Criminal Justice Forum Rubric (Graduate Level).

**Evaluation criteria**

The points earned on course assignments will determine the course grade. The final grade in the course will be based on total weighted points. Grades will be assigned based on the following term composite scores:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade Instruments</th>
<th>% of Final Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Forum Questions</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paper</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Examination</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Please see the student handbook to reference the University’s grading scale.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Course Objectives</th>
<th>Readings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 1    | Introduction and Crime Scene Profiling | CO1: Evaluate scientific approaches to crime scene profiling.  
CO2: Critique technology based tools utilized in criminal profiling.  
CO3: Apply the concepts of criminal profiling to specific crimes.  
CO4: Examine the concepts psychological profiling.  
CO5: Discuss the utilization of the psychological autopsy. | Text:  
Chapters 1-2  
Article(s):  
| 2    | Scientific and Technological Approaches | CO1: Evaluate scientific approaches to crime scene profiling.  
CO2: Critique technology based tools utilized in criminal profiling. | Text:  
Chapters 3-4  
Article(s):  
| 3    | Applications to Specific       | CO3: Apply the | Text: |
|----------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 4                         |                                                    | Article(s): Homant, R.J., & Kennedy, D.B. (1998). *Psychological aspects* |
| 5 | Suspect-Based Profiling and the Psychological Autopsy | **CO3**: Apply the concepts of criminal profiling to specific crimes.  
**CO4**: Examine the concepts psychological profiling.  
**CO5**: Discuss the utilization of the psychological autopsy. | Text:  
Chapters 7  

Article(s):  

|---|---|---|
| 6 | Obtaining Skills Needed | **CO1**: Evaluate scientific approaches to crime scene profiling.  
**CO2**: Critique technology based tools utilized in criminal profiling.  
**CO3**: Apply the concepts of criminal profiling | Text:  
Chapter 8  

Article(s):  
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Admissibility in Court</th>
<th>Final exam. Assessing the Validity of Profiling by the Psychological Community</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 7    | CO1: Evaluate scientific approaches to crime scene profiling.  
CO2: Critique technology based tools utilized in criminal profiling.  
CO3: Apply the concepts of criminal profiling to specific crimes.  
CO4: Examine the concepts psychological profiling.  
CO5: Discuss the utilization of the psychological autopsy. | CO1: Evaluate scientific approaches to crime scene profiling.  
CO2: Critique technology based tools utilized in criminal profiling.  
CO3: Apply the concepts of criminal profiling to specific crimes.  
CO4: Examine the concepts psychological profiling.  
CO5: Discuss the utilization of the psychological autopsy. |
| 8    | Text Readings:  
Chapter 9  
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| CO4: Examine the concepts psychological profiling. | library. |

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Polices

Please see the student handbook to reference all University policies. Quick links to frequently asked about policies are listed below:

Drop/Withdrawal Policy
Plagiarism Policy
Extension Process and Policy

Writing Expectations
Written assignments will be free of English and grammar errors. All in-text citations and references will be properly formatted in APA Style 6th edition. Only acceptable scholarly references will be used during the class.

Citation and Reference Style
Attention Please: Students will follow the APA Format 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 Format.

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
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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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**Academic Services**

**ONLINE LIBRARY RESEARCH CENTER & LEARNING RESOURCES**

The Online Library Resource Center 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 Center provides access to special learning resources, which the University has contracted to assist with your studies. Questions can be directed to orc@apus.edu.
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- **Charles Town Library and Inter Library Loan:** The University maintains a special library with a limited number of supporting volumes, 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.

- **Smarthinking:** Students have access to 10 free hours of tutoring service per year through Smarthinking. Tutoring is available in the following subjects: math (basic math through advanced calculus), science (biology, chemistry, and physics), accounting, statistics, economics, Spanish, writing, grammar, and more. Additional information is located in the Online Research Center. From the ORC home page, click on either the “Writing Center” or “Tutoring Center” and then click “Smarthinking.” All login information is available.

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### Selected Bibliography


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