

## Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology

### CRIJ 3363 VIOLENT OFFENDERS FALL 2017

Instructor: Mitchel P. Roth, PhD  
Office: CJ Hotel 224  
Office Hours: By appointment before class  
Telephone: 936-294-1649  
E-mail: [icc\\_mpr@shsu.edu](mailto:icc_mpr@shsu.edu)  
Classroom: THWC

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK: Alex Alvarez & Ronet Bachman, *Violence: The Enduring Problem*, Sage, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition, 2017.

#### Course Description

This course examines the psychological and behavioral characteristics of the most violent criminal types. The course will explore patterns and correlations of individual and collective violent acts. With the fear of violence pervasive around the world, this class will also examine various legislative, social and political efforts to curb violent behavior. Students will come away from this course with a broader perspective on violence at the personal and collective level. We will examine collective violence activities such as terrorism, mob violence and genocide as well as personal violence ranging from common violent crimes to stranger perpetrated crimes, sexual crimes, mass murder and serial homicide and rape.

#### Learning Objectives

1. To understand the role of genetic, environmental, and psychological factors that influence criminal and violent behavior.
2. To have a basic understanding of adult mental disorders and how they relate to criminal and violent behavior.
3. To have basic understanding of the research related to serial violent offenders.
4. To have basic understanding of the research related to stalking offenders.
5. To have basic understanding of the research related to profiles and causes of sexual offending.
6. To have basic understanding of the research related to domestic violence perpetrators
7. To have basic understanding of the research related to hate crimes perpetrators

#### COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

There will be 3 **tests**, none comprehensive. They will consist of multiple choice and true and false questions and will cover lectures, text readings (or any other readings that are assigned), and documentaries shown in class. Exams will not be comprehensive.

Be sure and bring scantron for at least 50 questions to tests and a pencil.

**Newspaper assignment:** Many articles on violence are published in newspapers almost every day. Each student is required to bring in a current newspaper article (less than one week old) beginning on Aug. 31, and then each Thursday afterwards unless told otherwise. Be prepared to discuss why you selected this article. If you neglect to do this

on assigned date you will not receive any credit and it will be recorded as a 0. You can earn up to 10 points for each of the ten newspaper presentations (**10 X 10 =100**).

You must turn in article the night it is due along with a paragraph explaining why you selected it.

**Presentation:** Each student will be required to give a presentation related to violent offenders. You can pick a specific criminal or crime or any topic relevant to the course of study. Topic must be approved by Professor on **Sept 7**. If you do not have one I will **deduct 5** points from your presentation and select a topic for you. Presentation should be between 10 and 15 minutes and presented in a power point format. We will discuss this more in class.

You must turn in copy of your slides to professor the night before giving presentation. BE SURE you do not use someone else's words without attribution—this is plagiarism. There are no makeups for presentations. Each person will be assigned a date in class when their topic will be presented (by lottery).

**GRADING:**

Presentation: =	20%
Tests X 3	60% (20% each test)
Newspaper articles X 5 (X20)	20%

**MAKE-UP EXAMS:**

All make-ups will be given immediately after the final exam. The exam will be different than one already given.

**COURSE ATTENDANCE:**

Since this class is scheduled to last from 6-8:50 each Thursday, be sure you can be here for entire class. Get here on time and don't leave early, it will be counted against you. It is imperative that each person participates in class. If you miss two or more classes without an acceptable excuse the professor has the option of reducing your grade one letter grade. The most successful students in the class will be those that attend every class. **WHEN A STUDENT ATTENDS HE/SHE MUST PAY ATTENTION AND BE PREPARED TO PARTICIPATE (RATHER THAN SURFING INTERNET, ETC.)**

**STUDENT ACADEMIC POLICIES** concerning Attendance, Academic Honesty, Disabled Student and Services for Disabled Students, and Absences on Religious Holy days may be found at:  
<http://www.shsu.edu/dept/academic-affairs/aps/aps-students.html>

**USE OF TELEPHONES AND TEXT MESSAGES IN ACADEMIC**

**CLASSROOMS AND FACILITIES:**

<http://www.shsu.edu/dept/academic-affairs/aps/aps-curriculum.html>

**A STUDENT MAY NOT USE AN ELECTRONIC DEVICE DURING CLASS TIME WITHOUT THE EXPRESS PERMISSIOM OF INSTRUCTOR.**

Use of cell/smartphones during class time is always prohibited. If permission is granted the student shall employ such device solely in a manner appropriate to the course work and avoiding distractions or interruptions to classmates or instructor.

The course instructor reserves the right to withdraw previously granted approval for use of an electronic device, on an individual or blanket basis, if in the instructor's best judgment its continued use detracts from learning environment.

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USE OF TELEPHONES AND TEXT MESSAGES IN ACADEMIC CLASSROOMS AND FACILITIES:  
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### **Tentative Schedule and Readings**

**AUG 24** Introduction

**AUG 31**

Violence in American Society

***Read Chapter 1 pp. 1-34***

Connecting Violence

Defining Violence

Measuring Violence

Violence in America

**SEPT 7**

Explaining Violence

***Read Chapter 2 pp. 35-69***

Etiological and Biological Explanations

Sociological Explanations

Explaining Collective Violation

**SEPT 14**

Aiding and Abetting Violence

***Read Chapter 3 pp. 70-105***

Guns and Violence

Alcohol and Drug Use

Media and Violence

**SEPT 21 AND 28-----EXAM 1 (Sept 21)**

Assault and Murder: A Continuum of Violence

***Read Chapter 4 pp. 106-144***

Defining Assault and Homicide

Violent Interactions

Multiple Murder

Mass Murder

Serial Murder

**OCT 5**

Violence in the Home

***Read Chapter 5 pp. 145-180***

Intimate partner Violence

Violence in LGBT Relationships

Elder Abuse

**OCT 12**

Rape and Sexual Assault

***Read Chapter 6 pp. 181-220***

Rape on College Campuses

Rape in Prison

Rape in Military

Genocide and Rape

**OCT 19 and 26-----EXAM 2 (OCT 9)**

***Read Chapter 7 pp. 221-256***

Stranger Danger and Violence in the Streets

Robbery

Workplace Violence

Violent Hate Crimes

Lone Wolf Violence

Street Gang Violence

**NOV 2**

***Read Chapter 8 pp. 221-256***

Crowd Violence

Mobs and Crowds

Riots

Lynching and Vigilantism

**NOV 9**

***Read Chapter 9 pp. 288-336***

Terrorism

Defining Terrorism

Types of Terrorism

History of Terrorism

NOV 16 and 30 (last class day)

***Read Chapter 10 pp. 337-376***

Genocide

Defining Genocide

Genocide in the 20<sup>st</sup> Century

**DEC 7-----FINAL EXAM**