

Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology

CRIJ 3363 VIOLENT OFFENDERS SPRING 2018

Instructor: Mitchel P. Roth, PhD
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Office Hours: By appointment before class
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Classroom: THWC

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK: Alex Alvarez & Ronet Bachman, *Violence: The Enduring Problem*, Sage, 3rd 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.

Quiz: There will be a quiz most Wednesdays on the readings for that week. I will usually let you know ahead of time.

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 by January 31. 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.

Presentations will take place beginning on FEB 28 and ending last class day MAY 3

We will determine the order of presentations by lottery on Feb. 7

FEB 21-----SOURCES ARE DUE: MUST BE LIST OF AT LEAST 10 SOURCES YOU ARE CONSULTING. THEY SHOULD BE IN A CONSISTENT BIBLIOGRAPHIC FORMAT. IF IT IS A WEBSITE YOU MUST LIST NAME OF WEBSITE AS WELL AS WHERE IT CAN BE FOUND. FOR EXAMPLE:

Article with author.

Roth, Mitchel. "It is What it Is," *Smithsonian Magazine*, www.idontknow.com, Oct 1, 2015.

Article without author. "It is What it Is," *Smithsonian Magazine*, www.idontknow.com, Oct 1, 2015.

YOU must turn in printed (not handwritten) list of sources by Feb. 28 at beginning of class. If late I will deduct 5 points from final paper grade.

YOU must turn in slides by the week of your presentation. If you want me to look at your slides beforehand to give you feedback get them to me at least a week before your presentation.

PRESENTATION:

10-15 minutes. Be sure and practice ahead of time. You can bring cue cards with you (suggested).

DO NOT just read from slides!

BE SURE you know how to pronounce words you use.

No spelling or grammar mistakes.

Be familiar with you topic since I will ask you questions in most cases.

You can use your text for ideas on how to present material; but do not use as source or cite from it.

DO NOT USE WIKIPEDIA!

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: =	30%
Tests X 3	60% (20% each test)
Quizzes	10%

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 9-11:50 a.m. each Wednesday, 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.).

Laptops can only be used with the approval of the professor.

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 PERMISSION 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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Tentative Schedule and Readings

JAN 17 Introduction

JAN 24

Violence in American Society

Read Chapter 1 pp. 1-34

Connecting Violence

Defining Violence

Measuring Violence

Violence in America

JAN 31-----TOPIC DUE

Explaining Violence

Read Chapter 2 pp. 35-69

Etiological and Biological Explanations

Sociological Explanations

Explaining Collective Violation

FEB 7

Aiding and Abetting Violence

Read Chapter 3 pp. 70-105

Guns and Violence

Alcohol and Drug Use

Media and Violence

FEB 14 AND 21-----EXAM 1 (FEB 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

FEB 28-----PRESENTATIONS BEGIN

Violence in the Home

Read Chapter 5 pp. 145-180

Intimate partner Violence

Violence in LGBT Relationships

Elder Abuse

MARCH 7

Rape and Sexual Assault

Read Chapter 6 pp. 181-220

Rape on College Campuses

Rape in Prison

Rape in Military

Genocide and Rape

MARCH 14-----SPRING BREAK

MARCH 21 AND 28-----EXAM 2

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

APR 4

Read Chapter 8 pp. 221-256

Crowd Violence

Mobs and Crowds

Riots

Lynching and Vigilantism

APR 11

Read Chapter 9 pp. 288-336

Terrorism

Defining Terrorism

Types of Terrorism

History of Terrorism

APRIL 18 AND 25

Read Chapter 10 pp. 337-376

Genocide

Defining Genocide

Genocide in the 20st Century

MAY 2-----LAST CLASS DAY

MAY 9-----FINAL EXAM