

Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology
CRIJ 3363.04
Violent Offenders
Spring, 2018

SYLLABUS

Room: CJC A115
Time: TTH 3:30-4:50 PM
Office: CJC C204
Office Hours: By appointment only

Instructor: Dr. S. Kawucha
Phone: 936-294-3642
Email: skk003@shsu.edu

Required Texts

Hickey, Eric W. (2016). *Serial Murderers and Their Victims*. (7th ed.) Belmont, CA: Cengage

Leet, Rush, & Smith (2000). *Gangs, Graffiti, and Violence*. (2nd ed.) Belmont, CA: Cengage

Course Description

This course examines street violence across the human perspective; the incidence, measurement, typologies, and theories of why violence occurs. Specific attention is devoted to particular offenses such as gang violence, homicidal violence, motorcycle gang violence, and violence conducted by different groups. Topics can include psychopathy, profiling, and threat assessment of these offenders.

Course Goals and Objectives

At the end of this course, students will be able to:

1. Define criminal violence
2. Understand how violence is measured
3. Understand the basic theoretical explanations for violence
4. Explain the different typologies of criminal violence
5. Understand street gangs and gang violence
6. Understand the differences between serial, mass, and spree murders and the people that commit these acts
7. Define and explain the threat posed by outlaw motorcycle groups
8. Understand the roles of guns, drugs, and alcohol within incidents of violence
9. Understand the global nature and threat of street gangs and bikers
10. Understand violence within schools and the workplace
11. Define a hate crime

Course Requirements

Grade Scale:

90 - 100	A
80 - 89	B
70 - 79	C
60 - 69	D
0 - 59	F

Course Grading:

3 Exams	300 pts.
Participation / Attendance	50 pts.
Research Paper	<u>100 pts.</u>
Total	450 points

Exams

There will be 3 exams worth a total of 300 points. They may be multiple choice, short answer, fill in the blank, identifications, and/or essay. Each test will cover all material presented in the texts, handouts, videos, and presented in lecture. They will be somewhat comprehensive as they will draw upon earlier material presented throughout the class. Study guides may be provided prior to all exams. I do not provide word banks, word lists, or definition lists.

Participation & Attendance

I will take attendance by way of a sign-in sheet each class day. After 2 absences, you will lose 10 points for each additional absence. I also will keep track of all students who actively participate in class discussions and ask questions. Therefore, I strongly encourage all students not to miss class. In addition:

- Students may miss valuable information for exams from lectures and discussions, and as exams are drawn heavily from lectures, missing class will negatively impact your score.
- Students may miss extra credit quizzes.
- Students will miss out on participation points
- Students that miss more than 4 class sessions may be administratively dropped according to University Guidelines.

Note: Having another student sign in for you is the same as cheating since it involves points and a grade. Doing so may result in a grade of F for both students involved.

Quizzes

Throughout the semester, I may have several unannounced quizzes. Each will be worth 5 points. (5 questions worth a point each). They will be from assigned readings. Obviously, if you are not present, you will miss the quiz and the opportunity for extra points. **There are no make – ups under any circumstances on quizzes.**

Research Paper

All members of the class will research a topic related to the course. The grade will be determined from the accuracy and quality of research (fifty points), the quality of the writing (25 points), and the overall quality of the paper (25 points) for a total of 100 points. Topics will be set the first week of class.

Make – Up Work / Exams

Any make – up exams will only be given in response to legitimate, substantial reasons. Make – ups will be different from the exam offered in class, most likely entirely essay. Please make every effort to contact me **prior** to the absence via email or leave a message with the CJ office.

ADA Statement

Students with a certified disability may contact me at any time regarding any necessary accommodations. The department of Criminal Justice complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) in making reasonable accommodations for qualified students. Students who have established a file containing documentation of a disability must present a written accommodation request from the Office of Disability Accommodation to the instructor. Any accommodations supported by the Office of Disability will be complied with immediately.

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

Academic Honesty

I regret that I should even have to mention the issue of cheating, but here it is: If I catch you, the very least you can expect is an F. Honor and integrity is the very core of Criminal Justice and I value my profession and its reputation very highly.

Religious Holidays

For university policy on student absences on religious holidays, refer to SHSU Student Guidelines for complete information.

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

Miscellaneous

- Please turn off any cell phones or pagers; they are immensely distracting to other students and to me. No recording devices will be allowed unless required by ADA Guidelines. This includes any portable or laptop computers. For more information on phone use and texting in class, see: <http://www.shsu.edu/dept/academic-affairs/aps/aps-curriculum.html>.
- During exams, any cell phone or other electronic device that activates will be confiscated and returned at the end of the semester.
- Students are reminded that discussions may involve issues that are sensitive and inflammatory in nature. Please remember that everyone is entitled to their own opinion and view of a topic. However, intentional provocation, insult, or abuse directed at another student or the instructor *will not be tolerated*, and the offender will be asked to leave.
- If you want to fall asleep, please do so at home, not in my class.
- I round up final scores. For example, an 89.5 is an A, an 89.4 will remain a B. Other than this, I do not change grades.
- If you are having difficulties, the best course is to let me know immediately. Do not wait until finals when I cannot help you. My goal is to have every student attain the grade they wish in this course, whatever that grade may be.
- Incompletes will **only** be given for major medical or other personal emergencies, not just because you are doing poorly in the course.

Syllabus Changes

I reserve the right and have the discretion to make changes to this syllabus. If a change becomes necessary, I will announce the change(s) in class. It is your responsibility to be in class so you can be made aware of any changes. Failing to make syllabus changes because of missing class is not an excuse for missing or late work assignments.

Warning

This course covers many topics containing offensive, gruesome, and graphic language and images. We will watch several videos that depict real-life violence, and may be quite shocking for students. If you are offended by such language or images, this may not be the course for you.

Class Schedule

<u>Week</u>		<u>Topic</u>	<u>Reading</u>
1	1/18	Introduction and Syllabus	
2	1/23, 25	Measuring violence Historical perspectives of violence	Hickey (1, 2)
3	1/30, 2/1	Theories of Violence, Serial Murder	Hickey (3, 4)
4	2/6, 8	Serial, Mass, and Spree Murders (cont'd)	Hickey (5, 6)
5	2/13, 15	Serial, Mass, and Spree Murders (cont'd)	Hickey (7, 8)
6	2/20, 22	Exam 1 (Tuesday, 2/20) Serial, Mass, and Spree Murders (cont'd)	Hickey (9, 10)
7	2/27, 3/1	Serial, Mass, and Spree Murders (cont'd) Street Gangs and Gang Violence	Hickey (11, 12)
8	3/6, 8	Gangs and Gang Violence	Leet (1-4)
9	3/13-15	SPRING BREAK	
10	3/20, 22	Gangs and Gang Violence (cont'd)	Leet (8-11)
11	3/27, 29	Gangs and Gang Violence (cont'd) Domestic and International Terrorism	
12	4/3, 4/5	Exam 2 (Tuesday, 4/3) Domestic and International Terrorism (cont'd)	
13	4/10, 12	Hate Crime and Hate Groups	Leet (5-6)
14	4/17, 19	Hate Crime and Hate Groups (cont'd) <u>Research Papers Due Thursday 4-19</u>	
15	4/24, 26	School and Workplace Violence	
16	5/1, 3	School and Workplace Violence (cont'd)	
17		Final Exam Thursday, May 10	

NOTE TIME CHANGE 5:00 – 7:00 PM