

**Sociology 3566-090 – Society and the Criminal Mind  
Summer Semester 2019**

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3 Credit Hours  
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**Course Overview**

Recent research findings suggest that “cognitive behavioral interventions” have been shown to be the most promising approach in changing criminal behavior. A fundamental premise of this approach is that certain thought processes and thinking patterns are causally related to criminal behavior.

This course will explore the etiology, development, and current practice of the criminal thinking approach. The course will begin with a brief overview of sociological and criminological theory as it relates to the criminal thinking perspective. The origin of this approach will be traced through the works of early contributors to the “criminal thinking perspective.” Contemporary applications of the criminal thinking approach will be addressed in the context of the “Psychology of Criminal Conduct” perspective as detailed in the theories of Canadian criminologists James Bonta and Don Andrews. Additionally, the course will focus on a better understanding of sociopathic/psychopathic thinking patterns and behavior.

Finally, the overall success of cognitive behavioral interventions will be discussed and assessed as a means of correcting criminal behavior. Specific approaches and directions for future research will be explored.

**Objectives**

At the conclusion of the course the student should be able to:

- Understand the contributions of sociological and criminological theorists to the criminal thinking perspective
- Understand what is meant by the criminal personality
- Be able to define what is meant by the “Psychology of Criminal Conduct.”
- Assess the value of the criminal thinking perspective in changing criminal behavior
- Understand how assessment instruments are used to detect and assess criminal thinking patterns
- Gain an understanding of sociopathic/psychopathic behavioral patterns and thinking
- Understand contemporary recidivism reduction strategies

### **Topics to be covered**

- An Overview of the Criminal Thinking Perspective
- A Review of Contemporary Sociological and Criminological Theory as it Relates to Criminal Thinking
- Behavioral Thought Patterns of Criminal Thinking
- Psychopathic and Sociopathic Behavior
- Contemporary Applications of the Criminal Thinking Perspective
- Crime and the Life Course
- Risk, Needs, and Responsivity

### **Class Structure**

The class is based on an “online” learning style format. Course content includes assigned readings in the texts, online discussions, lectures, and assignments. Please check Canvas on a daily basis for announcements and updated course information. All class communication will be received via Canvas. **All of the quizzes for this class will be administered online.**

### **Required Texts**

- What Works (and Doesn't) in Reducing Recidivism (Latessa, Listwan, and Koetzle). Publisher: Routledge/Taylor Francis Group ISBN: 978-1-4557-3121-3
- The Psychology of Criminal Conduct 6<sup>th</sup> Ed. (Andrews and Bonta) Publisher: Routledge/Taylor Francis Group ISBN: 978:1-1-138-93577-8
- Without Conscience: The Disturbing World of Psychopaths Among Us (Robert Hare) Publisher: The Guilford Press ISBN: 978-1-5723-0451-2

\*Please use current editions for all texts.

### **Grading**

The final grade will be based on three multiple choice quizzes each worth 20 percent of the total grade (60 percent total), participation in 4 online class discussions worth 20 percent of the final grade, and a PowerPoint project worth 20 percent of the final grade. Grading Scale: A (100-93) A- (92-90) B+ (89-87) B (86-83) B- (82-80) C+ (79-77) C (76-73) C- (72-70) D+ (69-67) D (66-63) D- (62-60) E (>60). **Please note that there is no extra credit available for this course.**

### **PowerPoint Assignment**

Students will be required to prepare a PowerPoint presentation on a topic related to changing criminal behavior. Details of the assignment will be posted towards the end of May. The assignment is due on July 16.

### **Quizzes (60%)**

There will be three online multiple-choice quizzes based on the texts and **any other material assigned by the instructor**. The quizzes will be available for you to take during a **beginning on a designated Saturday at 8:00 A.M. and ending on the following Sunday at 11:30 P.M.** You will have approximately 60 minutes

to complete each quiz. Each quiz will count towards 20% of the overall class grade. Cumulatively, the quizzes account for 60% of the overall grade. All quizzes will be held on a Saturday - Sunday schedule.

**Quiz 1- June 8 (Begins Saturday morning at 8:00 A.M. and ends the next day (Sunday) at 11:30 P.M.)**

Quiz 1 will cover the following material:

**Reading Assignments**

Without Conscience (Hare) Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7.

The Psychology of Criminal Conduct (Andrews and Bonta) Chapters 1, 2, 4, 5, and 6.

Read Lecture 1 on Canvas (this is located in the files section of Canvas).

Read Lecture 2 on Canvas (this is located in the files section of Canvas).

Any lectures, videos, PowerPoints, or other material assigned by the instructor.

**Quiz 2 – July 6 (Begins Saturday morning at 8:00 A.M. and ends the next day (Sunday) at 11:30 P.M.)**

Quiz 2 will cover the following material:

Without Conscience (Hare) Chapters 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13 and Epilogue.

The Psychology of Criminal Conduct (Andrews and Bonta) Chapters 7, 8, 9, 11, 13, and 15.

PowerPoint Presentation: An Overview of Evidence Based Corrections: Definitions and Applications.

Audio Lectures 1 and 2 (Media Gallery in Canvas)

Any lectures, videos, PowerPoints, or other material assigned by the instructor.

**Quiz 3 – July 27 (Begins Saturday morning at 8:00 A.M. and ends the next day (Sunday) at 11:30 P.M.)**

**Reading Assignments:**

What Works (and Doesn't) in Reducing Recidivism (Latessa, Listwan, and Koetzle). Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 9, 10, 11, and 12.

Review the PowerPoint on Serial Murder.

Audio Lectures 3 and 4 (Media Gallery in Canvas)

Any lectures, videos, PowerPoints, or other material assigned by the instructor.

## Discussions

You are **required** to participate in each of the 4 discussion sessions. All discussions will be offered through Canvas. You are expected to make a meaningful and thoughtful response to the discussion question. Dialogue with other students is encouraged.

Please note that a “discussion” is not an “essay” or an “op-ed” piece. To ensure that you receive full credit in for a discussion, make sure that you answer item by item any questions posed by the discussion and that you participate in the discussion by reading the other posts and then engaging in the discussion. A “single” post does not meet the criteria for engaging in the discussion. It is not uncommon for some students to post six or seven posts in the course of a discussion. The discussion topics are designed to help you apply critical thinking skills to contemporary problems engender by the course. You are encouraged to express your position, defend it and/or modify it as you gain a fuller understanding of the perspectives surrounding the discussion topic.

**In order to gain full credit for the discussion you should follow and participate in the discussion on a daily basis while it is active.**

Discussion sessions will not be extended beyond the end date. **Makeup discussion sessions will not be offered.** If you miss a discussion session you should plan on participating in the next discussion. If you have trouble “posting” a discussion in Canvas please get assistance through the Canvas help desk at (801) 581-6112 (option 2) and then notify me either by email or by phone. The discussions will last for 4 days. The dates of the discussions are as follows:

### Discussion Schedule

Discussion 1	May 28 – May 31
Discussion 2	June 11 – June 14
Discussion 3	June 25 - 28
Discussion 4	July 9 - 12

### Academic Misconduct

Per University of Utah regulations (Policy # 6-400). “A student who engages in academic misconduct,” as defined in Part I.B. and including, but not limited to, cheating, falsification, or plagiarism, “may be subject to academic sanctions including but not limited to a grade reduction, failing grade, probation, suspension or dismissal from the program or the University, or revocation of the student’s degree or certificate. Sanctions may also include community service, a written reprimand, and/or a written statement of misconduct that can be put into an appropriate record maintained for purposes of the profession or discipline for which the student is preparing.” Please refer to the Student Code for full

elaboration of student academic and behavioral misconduct policies (<http://regulations.utah.edu/academics/6-400.php>).

### **American Disabilities Act**

The University of Utah seeks to provide equal access to its programs, services and activities for people with disabilities. If you will need accommodations in the class, reasonable prior notice needs to be given to the Center for Disability Services, 162 Olpin Union Building, 801-581-5020. CDS will work with you and the instructor to make arrangements for accommodations. . . All written information in this course can be made available in alternative format with prior notification to the Center for Disability Services.

### **Addressing Sexual Misconduct**

Title IX makes it clear that violence and harassment based on sex and gender (which includes sexual orientation and gender identity/expression) is a Civil Rights offense subject to the same kinds of accountability and the same kinds of support applied to offenses against other protected categories such as race, national origin, color, religion, age, status as a person with a disability, veteran's status or genetic information. If you or someone you know has been harassed or assaulted, you are encouraged to report it to the Title IX Coordinator in the Office of Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action, 135 Park Building, 801-581-8365, or the Office of the Dean of Students, 270 Union Building, 801-581-7066. For support and confidential consultation, contact the Center for Student Wellness, 426 SSB, 801-581-7776. To report to the police, contact the Department of Public Safety, 801-585-2677(COPS).