

Course Outline
Psychology of Criminal Behavior FP6015

1

Argosy University – SF Bay Area Campus
Masters in Forensic Psychology Program
Course Outline

Psychology of Criminal Behavior – FP6015 BLA
On-Line Course – Fall II 2010
October 28-December 18, 2010

Instructor: Lesleigh Franklin, Ph.D.
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Course Description:

An introduction to the psychology of criminal behavior of several criminal types which have historically constituted the majority of criminal offenders that psychologists deal with in the criminal justice and mental health environments. Students will gain a more in-depth understanding of the behavior of gang members, drug addicts, women offenders, sexual predators and children and adolescents in the juvenile justice system. This course will also explore how issues of race and ethnicity play a role in criminal behavior

Course Objectives:

1. Understand and articulate the cause and effect factors that cause at-risk adolescents and adults to gravitate and assimilate into violent street and prison gangs, and women offenders.
2. Understand and articulate psychological and physiological causes of drug influence, addiction and the challenges of rehabilitation and sobriety.
3. Understand and become familiar with the familial, social and personal factors of crime and aggression.
4. To gain knowledge of the role race and ethnicity plays in criminal behavior.
5. Ability to prepare a criminal psychological profile sufficient to be able to identify a potential criminal behavior type.

Course Requirements & Grading Policy:

Students are encouraged to participate actively in the online process. Lack of participation will be reflected in your grade.

Course Outline
Psychology of Criminal Behavior FP6015

Course Requirements & Grading Policy, Continued:

All students' grades are based upon the same criteria. Grades will be formulated based upon total points from the three 10 page papers, online discussions, extra credit points and participation. This class is not graded on a "curve." Points/credits are listed below:

Class participation: 10% Grades by Percentage % *
First Paper 30% 150 points

Midterm 30% 150 points
 Final 30% 150p points
 100 – 90% A
 89 – 80% B
 79 - 70% C

* Class is not graded on a “curve.” All grades according to total points accrued.

Current Rubric for Grading Papers

Grade	Requirements
A = 90+	Paper is <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • well thought out with proper grammar/writing skills AND <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • in appropriate APA format AND <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provides excellent coverage of material
B = 80 – 89	Paper is <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • well thought out with proper grammar/writing skills BUT <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • is missing one component of APA format OR <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • coverage of material is adequate
C = 70 – 79	Paper has <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • poor grammar/writing skills present OR (one or more of the following) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • APA format is inadequate • Insufficient number of references provided • limited coverage of material
F = <70	Paper is (one or more of the following) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • disorganized • coverage is not adequate • does not conform to APA format • there is evidence of plagiarism • paper not submitted

Evaluation Criteria

Evaluations of papers will be based on demonstrated mastery of the readings, on critical reflection that shows originality and depth, on skill in integration of course objectives, and on clarity and brevity of presentation. We like to see specific quotations from the text, with page citations. Papers longer than the assigned length will be returned for editing.

Papers should be written in accordance with APA style. Two hard copies of each paper should be sent to your instructor. Or papers may be submitted by email. Be certain to include a title page with identifying information, including phone number(s) and E-mail address.

If you would like to initiate your own readings or papers, feel free to negotiate an assignment proposal with your instructor **via E-mail**. A short outline, listing your topics and readings, can serve as an alternative learning segment for any given segment of the course.

Required Texts and Readings:

1. *Inside the Criminal Mind*, Stanton Samenow
ISBN: #0812910826
2. *Trapped between Innocence and Death: A Guide to Being Free from Gang Life*, John Saroyan, Ed.D., Paul Cosores
ISBN #0974080004
3. *An Urban Ethnography of Latino Street Gangs in Los Angeles and Ventura Counties* - <http://www.csun.edu/~hcchs006/3.html>
4. *Comparing the Behavior of Youth Gangs and At Risk Youth*
<http://www.ncjrs.org/pdffiles/172852.pdf>
5. *Violence and Mental Disorder*, Monahan and Steadman
ISBN #0-226-53405-7
6. *Violent Offenders: Appraising and Managing Risk*, Quinsley, Harris, Rice, Cormier ISBN 1-55798-495-6
7. *The Social Psychology of Drug Abuse*, Sussman, Ames

Final Date to Drop the Class:

To receive a “W” grade a student must officially drop this class by the date listed below that corresponds to this course’s term and length. Students may not withdraw from this course after this date. If a student chooses to discontinue course work after the final drop date, the student may receive an “F” grade for the course.

Session II (7.5 week courses):

Deadline for withdrawal “W”: December 1, 2010

Course Outline
Psychology of Criminal Behavior FP6015

Paper Guidelines:

1. Length: not less than 10 pages
2. Style: All papers must be written according to American Psychological style and format. Papers should be submitted via email to the instructor. Paper must be received by the instructor (mail/email) by the due date.
3. Paper must include a table of contents (where necessary) and an annotated bibliography with at least five references: books, articles, video media, and interviews
4. Papers should have a separate cover sheet with title, course, instructor, author and course date.
5. Term Paper Subjects can be about anything directly related to the topics and areas of psychology covered in class. Please have your topic approved by the instructor prior to starting the paper.

Instructor Contact

Office Phone: (415) 515-4281 (There is voice mail for this line.)

Internet: Email Address: lhfranklin@argosy.edu

Course Outline *Psychology of Criminal Behavior FP6015*

Course Schedule **Class Meetings Topics Assignments** **& Dates**

Part One: The Criminal Mind and Gang Life

In this segment we will explore through Samenow's work the development of the Criminal Mind along with At Risk Youth, Psychological, Socio-Criminal and Familial causes of Gang Involvement. Along with the required reading you will be expected to cite at least 5 outside references in your paper.

Assignment One - Using the readings from this section discuss the socio-criminal, psychological and familial issues involved in both the development of the criminal mind, at-risk youth and gang membership. Also discuss the rehabilitation potential and challenges of working with both the gang member and individual with the criminal mind.

Midterm – the midterm will cover the first 4 readings

Part Two: Violence, Men and Women Who Offend, and the Role of Substances

In this section we will explore the types of offenders, the psychodynamics of sexual assault, the role of violence in the world of offenders along with the dynamics of addiction and the role it plays in the life of an offender. We will also explore the similarities and differences between male and female offenders, along with the role race and class plays in the development of criminal behavior.

Class Weekly Topics Assignments **& Dates**

Week 1 Course Introduction
 Reading: Inside the Criminal Mind

Week 2 & 3 Inside the Criminal Mind and Street Gangs
Reading: Trapped Between Innocence and Death
An Urban Ethnography
Topics: Socio-Criminal and Familial Causes, Street Gang Dynamics

Week 4 Street Gangs
Reading: An Urban Ethnography
Comparing the Behavior of Youth Gangs

Week 5 Rehabilitation Potential & Challenges Quinsley, Ch. 2,3,4

MIDTERM EXAMINATION

Week 6 Dynamics of Addiction
Reading: The Social Psychology of Drug Abuse

Week 7 Dynamics of Addiction, Rehabilitation,
Therapeutic Programs, Successes & Failures

Week 8 Sexual Predators: Offender Types; Psychodynamics of
Sexual Assault; Prediction for Violence, Relapse
Quinsley, Ch. 2,5,7,8

FINAL EXAMINATION

Library

All resources in Argosy University's online collection are available through the Internet. The campus librarian will provide students with links, user IDs, and passwords.

Library Resources: Argosy University's core online collection features nearly 21,000 full-text journals and 23,000 electronic books and other content covering all academic subject areas including Business & Economics, Career & General Education, Computers, Engineering & Applied Science, Humanities, Science, Medicine & Allied Health, and Social & Behavior Sciences. Many titles are directly accessible through the Online Public Access Catalog at <http://library.argosy.edu>. Detailed descriptions of online resources are located at <http://library.argosy.edu/misc/onlinedblist.html>.

In addition to online resources, Argosy University's onsite collections contain a wealth of subject-specific research materials searchable in the Online Public Access Catalog. Catalog searching is easily limited to individual campus collections. Alternatively, students can search combined collections of all Argosy University Libraries. Students are encouraged to seek research and reference assistance from campus librarians.

Information Literacy: Argosy University's Information Literacy Tutorial was developed to teach students fundamental and transferable research skills. The tutorial consists of five modules where students learn to select sources appropriate for academic-level research, search periodical indexes and search engines, and evaluate and cite information.

In the tutorial, students study concepts and practice them through interactions. At the conclusion of each module, they can test their comprehension and receive immediate feedback. Each module takes less than 20 minutes to complete. Please view the tutorial at <http://library.argosy.edu/infolit/>

Argosy Communication:

If you choose to use an email address other than the assigned Argosy email, please be advised that you do so at your own risk. Any difficulty receiving Argosy emails will be your responsibility.