

University of North Texas at Dallas
Spring 2012
SYLLABUS

CJUS 4870: Topics in Criminal Justice Serial Killers 3Hrs

Department of	Criminal Justice	Division of	Urban and Professional Studies
Instructor Name:	Dr. Arrick Jackson		
Office Location:			
Office Phone:	(817) 515-7770		
Email Address:	Arrick.Jackson@unt.edu		
Office Hours:	By appointment Friday 10am – Noon		
Virtual Office Hours:	Monday & Wednesday 9:00am – 11:00am		
Classroom Location:	Founders Hall, Room 303		
Class Meeting Days & Times:	Monday & Wednesday 6:00pm – 9:50pm		
Course Catalog Description:	This course will examine the topic of serial murder in the United States. The social and historical theories will be discussed with emphasis on contemporary events. This course will also examine the problems associated with addressing serial murder, beginning with its definition and expanding on issues with apprehension. Other topics that will be covered include serial murder and its relations to race and gender; the myth of serial murder; the media and serial murder; profiling; and some explanations of selected serial killers.		
Prerequisites:	None		
Co-requisites:			
Required Text:	Serial Murderers and Their Victims by Hickey, 6 th E		
Recommended Text and References:	Without Conscience: The disturbing world of the psychopaths among us by Hare (1993); & Evil: Inside human violence and cruelty by Baumeister (1999).		
Access to Learning Resources:	UNT Dallas Library: phone: (972) 780-3625; web: http://www.unt.edu/unt-dallas/library.htm UNT Dallas Bookstore: phone: (972) 780-3652; e-mail: 1012mgr@fheg.follett.com		
Course Goals or Overview:			
	The goal of this course is to...		
Learning Objectives/Outcomes: At the end of this course, the student will			
1	Be able to explain the theoretical and social construction of serial murder		
2	Demonstrate the ability to define various types of serial murder		
3	Define important concepts related to understanding the legal difficulties of processing serial murder		
4	Identify the various interviewing techniques and obstacles		

Course Outline:

This schedule is subject to change by the instructor. Any changes to this schedule will be communicated by e-mail to all students to ensure documentation of changes.

TOPICS	TIMELINE
1. Introduction; Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4; Movie; On-line Forum (1)	Week June 4 th and 6 th
2. Chapters 5, 6, 7, & 8; Response Paper Due; On-line Forums (2)	Week June 11 th and 13 th
3. Chapters 9, 10, & 11; Movie	Week June 18 th and 20 th
4. On-line assignments; Response Paper Due; On-line Forums (3); Work on Case Study	Week June 25 th and 28 th
5. Movie and Final Case Study Due	Week July 2 nd

Course Evaluation Methods

This course will utilize the following instruments to determine student grades and proficiency of the learning outcomes for the course.

Response Papers – On-Line response papers are designed to measure knowledge of presented course material

On-Line Forums-Designed to encourage student engagement, discussion, and reinforce course material.

Case Study – Students will be responsible for developing a case study of a noted serial killer. The goal of this assignment is to enhance writing skills across the discipline and allow the student to engage in an in-depth analysis of a unique crime and criminal behavior. This assignment allows student to utilize higher order skills and apply theoretical knowledge to the assumptions underlining theories.

In-Class Participation – Participation in each class session is required. Students should come to class prepared to actively engage one another and the course materials on the critical issues that will be explored. In order to facilitate participation students will be required to participate in two (2) ten minute critical thinking exercises during class.

The subject matter of this course is serial murder. Many serial homicides are sadistic and violent in nature. This course will contain some graphic material and descriptions that may offend some students. Students who may be offended by graphic sexual scenes or crimes, or other information should speak with the professor as the course develops.

This course will utilize the following instruments to determine student grades and proficiency of the learning outcomes for the course.

Grading Matrix:

Instrument	Value (points or percentages)	Total
Response Summaries	2 Response Summaries 100 points each	200
On-Line Forums	6 Forums at 40 points each	240
Case Study	1 Serial Killer Case Study 100 points each	100
In-Class Participation	20 points per critical thinking exercise	240
Total:		780

Grade Determination:

A = 780 – 702 pts; i.e. 90% or better

B = 701 – 624 pts; i.e. 80 – 89 %

C = 623 – 546 pts; i.e. 70 – 79 %

D = 545 – 468 pts; i.e. 60 – 69 %

F = 467 pts or below; i.e. less than 60%

Grading Rubric (also see instructions in Response Summary folder)

<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Criteria For Response Summary</i>	Points
Introduction /Thesis	The author briefly introduces the topic to be discussed and state the purpose of the discussion.	10
Summary	The author summarizes all of the main ideas in an essay format. The summary informs the reader of the relevance, accuracy, and quality of the argument made.	25
Critique	The author provides an evaluation/critique of the summary and uses his/her own OPINIONS in relation to the article being summarized.	25
Conclusion	The author appropriately concludes by re-addressing the initial thesis and summarizing final thoughts.	15
Reference	The author utilizes only peer review sources only.	15
APA format	The author uses current APA format to cite sources (see instructions).	10
TOTAL		100

On-Line Forums		
Dimensions		Points
Responses	The student must respond first to the original question posted by the professor and then respond to three different students posts. The response to professor and student must be no less than 150 words.	20
Relevance	The responses must be relevant to the topic and must add value to the on-line discussion. For example, responses that simply concur are not acceptable.	5
Content	Responses should be based upon research and supported by theory that is identified within the course readings.	10
Civility	The student responses must be consistent with college and course policy. If not student may lose the opportunity to participate in further discussions.	5
TOTAL		40

University Policies and Procedures

Students with Disabilities (ADA Compliance):

The University of North Texas Dallas is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of federal equal opportunity legislation; reference Public Law 92-112 – The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended. With the passage of new federal legislation entitled Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), pursuant to section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, there is renewed focus on providing this population with the same opportunities enjoyed by all citizens.

As a faculty member, I am required by law to provide "reasonable accommodations" to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of that disability. Student responsibility primarily rests with informing faculty of their need for accommodation and in providing authorized documentation through designated administrative channels. For more information, you may visit the Student Life Office, Suite 200, Building 2 or call 972-780-3632.

The Department of Criminal Justice is committed to full academic access for all qualified students, including those with disabilities. In keeping with this commitment and in order to facilitate equality of educational access, faculty members in the department will make reasonable accommodations for qualified students with a disability, such as appropriate adjustments to the classroom environment and the teaching, testing, or learning methodologies when doing so does not fundamentally alter the course.

If you have a disability, it is your responsibility to obtain verifying information from the Office of Student Life and to inform me of your need for an accommodation. Grades assigned before an accommodation is provided will not be changed. Information about how to obtain academic accommodations can be found in UNTD Policy 7.004, [Disability Accommodations for Students](#), and by visiting Student Life, building 2, Suite 200. 972-780-3632, studentlife@unt.edu.

Student Evaluation of Teaching Effectiveness Policy:

The Student Evaluation of Teaching Effectiveness (SETE) is a requirement for all organized classes at UNT. This short survey will be made available to you at the end of the semester, providing you a chance to comment on how this class is taught. I am very interested in the feedback I get from students, as I work to continually improve my teaching. I consider the SETE to be an important part of your participation in this class.

Assignment Policy:

All written assignments will follow APA guidelines. For guidance on APA guidelines please visit <http://apastyle.org/> or <http://www.ccc.commnet.edu/apa/> as sources. Although not required for this course, the APA manual will serve as an invaluable tool for you throughout your educational career and it is highly recommended that you consider purchasing this book.

See <http://olinuris.library.cornell.edu/ref/research/skill28.htm> for instructions and an example of an annotated bibliography.

Also see <http://www.sagepub.com/bjohnsonstudy/howtoarticle.htm> for instructions on how to read a research article.

*All assignments are to be completed and submitted on time. **All late assignments will be assessed a 20% grade reduction for each day the assignment is late.***

Academic Integrity:

Academic integrity is a hallmark of higher education. You are expected to abide by the University's code of conduct and Academic Dishonesty policy. Any person suspected of academic dishonesty (i.e., cheating or plagiarism) will be handled in accordance with the University's policies and procedures. Refer to the Student Code of Conduct at http://www.unt.edu/csrr/student_conduct/index.html for complete provisions of this code.

Bad Weather Policy:

On those days that present severe weather and driving conditions, a decision may be made to close the campus. In case of inclement weather, call UNT Dallas Campuses main voicemail number (972) 780-3600 or search postings on the campus website www.unt.edu/dallas. Students are encouraged to update their Eagle Alert contact information, so they will receive this information automatically.

Attendance and Participation Policy:

The University attendance policy is in effect for this course. Class attendance and participation is expected because the class is designed as a shared learning experience and because essential information not in the textbook will be discussed in class. The dynamic and intensive nature of this course makes it impossible for students to make-up or to receive credit for missed classes. Attendance and participation in all class meetings is essential to the integration of course material and your ability to demonstrate proficiency. Students are responsible to notify the instructor if they are missing class and for what reason. Students are also responsible to make up any work covered in class. It is recommended that each student coordinate with a student colleague to obtain a copy of the class notes, if they are absent.

Diversity/Tolerance Policy:

Students are encouraged to contribute their perspectives and insights to class discussions. However, offensive & inappropriate language (swearing) and remarks offensive to others of particular nationalities, ethnic groups, sexual preferences, religious groups, genders, or other ascribed statuses will not be tolerated. Disruptions which violate the Code of Student Conduct will be referred to the Center for Student Rights and Responsibilities as the instructor deems appropriate. Some of the topics in this class can be controversial and emotional in character. As students from diverse backgrounds it is imperative that we respect each other's opinion and understand that there will be disagreement. However the diversity in opinion is how we learn, so be respectful of other student's opinions. This is a class for learning.

NOTE: Rubric for Case Study is located in the Case Study Folder in BlackBoard. Other course requirements and instructions will be handed out or explained during class.