**Understanding Criminal Behavior**  
CRIJ 4330_01: Spring 2012

**Instructor:** Kristen L. Welch  
**Class Hours:** W: 4:20-6:50 pm

**Office:** Bay Hall 306  
**Classroom:** TBD

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**Office Hours:** T/R 3:30-5, W 2-4, or by appointment

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### REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS


Additional readings will be assigned and provided by the instructor as handouts or via BB.

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### COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course examines various aspects of human behavior from a criminal justice perspective: the development of personality, psychological disorders, interpersonal relationships, violent offending, property and public order offending. This course is designed to give students a basic understanding of criminal behavior and psychological disorders which are encountered by criminal justice professionals. This course is aimed at future criminal justice professionals who may be exposed to individuals with a variety of psychological issues and problems throughout the course of their career.

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### LEARNING OBJECTIVES & OUTCOMES

The course objectives are:

1. To introduce the student to research and theory in psychology and sociology that is relevant to the problems of adjustment in a demanding criminal justice environment.

2. To obtain a basic understanding of personality theory, psychological disorders, and various aspects leading to criminal behavior.

By the end of the semester, the students should be able to:

1. Identify and discuss the risk factors and origins of criminal behavior, including predictors and explanations of violent and property crime;

2. Define aggression and describe social learning factors associated with aggression and violence;

3. Describe mental illness and mental disorders, including their relationships to violence and crime, role in determining criminal responsibility and insanity defenses, and implications for the criminal justice system and criminal justice professionals.
ATTENDANCE POLICY

Attendance is highly important because discussion groups, and in class assignments will be assessed throughout the session. The student is expected to attend all classes and actively participate in class discussions. Because of this, students **must** complete the assigned readings **PRIOR** to the scheduled class meeting to contribute to meaningful class discussions.

**Class attendance is mandatory and attendance requirements will be followed in accordance with University Policy.** Attendance will be recorded pursuant to University policy. Penalties for absences will be governed by rules promulgated by the University. A student may be penalized for more than three hours of absence at the discretion of the instructor. It is the responsibility of the student to monitor number of absences.

Accordingly, after the first unexcused absence, the instructor will deduct points from the final grade based on the following scale:

- 2 absences = 10 point reduction in final grade
- 3 absences = 20 point reduction in final grade
- 4 + absences = 30 point reduction final grade

**Student Absences on Religious Holy Day Policy**

Section 51.91 (b) of the Texas Education Code requires that an institution of higher education excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observation of a religious holy day, including travel for the purpose. A student whose absence is excused under this subsection may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence. University Policy 861001 provides the procedures to be followed by the student and instructor.

A student desiring to absent himself/herself from a scheduled class in order to observe (a) religious holy day(s) shall present to each instructor involved a written statement concerning the religious holy day(s). This request must be made within the first fifteen days of the semester or the first seven days of a summer session in which the absence(s) will occur. The instructor will complete a form notifying the student of a reasonable time frame in which the missed assignments and/or examinations are to be completed.

**GRADES**

**GRADING POLICY:**

- **A** = 90-100%
- **B** = 80-89%
- **C** = 70-79%
- **D** = 60-69%
- **F** = Below 60%
**Class Participation (5%)**: Students will receive a grade based upon attendance, participation in class discussions, and completion of in-class assignments. *Students are expected to have read the chapters prior to class lecture/discussion* so that any questions may be clarified and meaningful class discussion may be conducted.

**Homework Assignments (10%)**: Students are required to complete any homework assignments which may be assigned and turn them in on the assigned date. In addition, students are required to regularly access the Web CT portal to check for announcements, assignments, and additional readings for this class.

**Quizzes (5%)**: Quizzes will be given throughout the semester to ensure students are keeping up with assigned readings. Quizzes may be composed of true/false, multiple choice, short answer, or a combination of each. The quizzes will comprise 20% of the students’ final grade.

**Journal Project (20%)**: Students will be required to complete a journal project throughout the course session in which students discuss and describe their ideas on assigned course topics using terminology and concept from their readings. The complete journal project is due at the end of the semester, but will require students to turn in assignments throughout the semester. This project is worth 25% of the student’s final grade.

**Midterm (30%)**: The midterm exam will be given on the date listed in the course outline. The exam will be composed of multiple choice, true/false, short answer, essay questions, or a combination of each. The midterm exam will cover chapters 1-8 in Bartol & Bartol, articles, and class notes.

**Final Exam (30%)**: The final exam will be given on the date listed in the course outline. The exam will be composed of multiple choice, true/false, short answer, essay questions, or a combination of each. The final exam will cover chapters 9-10 & 12-16 in Bartol & Bartol, articles, and class notes.

**Late Work**: Late work will *NOT* be accepted without appropriate documentation of an excused absence, such as a physicians note.

**MAKE UP EXAM POLICY**

Students are required to take the examinations on the dates indicated in the course schedule. Any scheduling difficulties should be addressed the first week of class. If an emergency arises, students should notify the instructor as soon as possible *before* the absence. Notifications after the absence are not acceptable, barring extreme circumstances. If you miss an examination without prior approval from the instructor, the grade recorded will be a zero. If it is not possible to discuss the absence prior to the exam date due to an emergency, it is the student’s responsibility to contact the instructor as soon as possible after the emergency. Appropriate documentation of the nature of the absence must be provided to the instructor.
**ADDITIONAL IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

**Extra Credit:** In general, extra credit opportunities will not be given, but may be offered at the instructor’s discretion. However, if an extra credit opportunity is extended to one student, then all students will be given the opportunity to complete the same assignment for extra credit.

**Confidentiality:** If you would like to discuss your course performance, an appointment with the instructor may be made at a mutually agreeable time. In order to protect student confidentiality, it is against TAMU-CC policy for an instructor to discuss grades by telephone or through email. Any discussions on student’s course performance must be conducted with the instructor in person.

**Academic Advising:** The College of Liberal Arts requires that students meet with an Academic Advisor as soon as they are ready to declare a major. The Academic Advisor will set up the degree plan which must be signed by the student, a faculty mentor, and the department chair. If you are majoring, or planning to major in a field taught in the College of Liberal Arts, and if you have not yet obtained a signed degree plan, you should see you Academic Advisor immediately. Degree plans are important and useful to successful progress toward graduation. The College’s Academic Advising Center is located in Driftwood 203E, and can be reached at 825-3466.

**GRADE APPEAL PROCESS**

**Grade Appeal Process:** As stated in University Rule 13.02.99.C2, Student Grade Appeals, a student who believes that he or she has not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in the class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. The burden of proof is upon the student to demonstrate the appropriateness of the appeal.

A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. If the problem cannot be resolved at this level, the student may take the steps below.

1. Presentation of grievance to instructor. (This step must be taken within fourteen calendar days after the beginning of the next term.)
2. Appeal to department chair or area coordinator.
3. Written appeal to the University Academic Standards Grievance Committee.
4. Preliminary review and advising by an ombudsman appointed by the Provost.
5. Submission of file by department chair to the chair of the University Academic Standards Grievance Committee.
6. Review of file by committee chair and submission of case to committee.
7. Proceedings of the University Academic Standards Grievance Committee. (Committee holds hearing, reviews data, presents findings to all parties, and makes recommendation to Provost.)
8. Decision by Provost.
9. Final appeal in writing to the Provost if student or instructor thinks appropriate procedures have not been followed.
For complete details, including the responsibilities of the parties involved in the process and the number of days allowed for completing the steps in the process, see University Rule 13.02.99.C2, Student Grade Appeals, and University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.01, Student Grade Appeal Procedures. These documents are accessible through the University Rules Web site at http://www.tamucc.edu/provost/university_rules/index.htm. For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Office of Student Affairs.

**ACADEMIC HONESTY**

The Faculty of the College of Liberal Arts expects students to conduct their academic work with integrity and honesty. Acts of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated and can result in the failure of a course and dismissal from the University. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating on a test, plagiarism, collusion – the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing work offered for credit, the abuse of resource materials, and misrepresentation of credentials or accomplishments as a member of the college.

**DISABLED STUDENT POLICY**

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact the Disability Services Office at (361) 825-5816 or visit the office in Driftwood 101. Students with a disability which affects their academic performance are expected to arrange for a conference with the instructor in order that appropriate strategies can be considered to ensure that participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired.

**CLASS CONDUCT**

**General Conduct**

All students are expected to be respectful to others and the instructor at all times. Class discussions may include controversial topics. Students should be respectful of others’ viewpoints and opinions, even those that they may not agree with. Any conduct deemed by the instructor to be disruptive to the class may result in the student’s removal from the class. The removal will count as an unexcused absence. Excessive tardiness (2+) without a legitimate excuse may be counted as an absence at the discretion of the instructor.

**Tobacco Products**

No tobacco products allowed in the classroom at any time. Violations will result in the student’s removal from the class and the removal will count as an unexcused absence.

**Use of Electronic Devices in the Classroom**

- Turn off all cell phones, pagers, iPods, and any other distracting device prior to class. This means no text messaging during class! Laptops may not be used without prior approval from the professor.
- Students are encouraged to use electronic resources outside of class for discussion forums and to access reading materials on class topics.
COURSE SCHEDULE

The course schedule is a tentative timetable of the readings and major assignments. This schedule may change during the semester. The anticipated schedule of lectures, readings, and examinations is as follows:

Jan. 11: Review of Syllabus: Course Introduction
Reading Assignment: Chapter 1 (Bartol & Bartol)

Jan. 18: Criminal Behavior: An Overview
Reading Assignment: Chapter 2 (Bartol & Bartol)
Last day to register or add a class

Jan. 25: Developmental Pathways and Criminal Risk Factors
Reading Assignment: Chapter 3 & 4 (Bartol & Bartol)

Reading Assignment: Chapter 5 (Bartol & Bartol)

Feb. 8: Aggression, Crime, & Violence
Reading Assignment: Chapter 6 (Bartol & Bartol)

Feb. 15: The Mask of Sanity: Criminal Psychopathy
Reading Assignment: Chapters 7-8 (Bartol & Bartol)

Feb. 22: Crime and Mental Disorders

March 1: Midterm Exam (Chapters 1-8 in Bartol & Bartol, class notes, & articles)
Reading Assignment: Chapter 9 (B & B)

March 8: Violent Crimes: Explaining Homicide and Assault
Reading Assignment: Chapter 10 (B & B)

March 15: Spring Break

March 22: Multiple Murders: Mass, Spree, and Serial Killings
Reading Assignment: Chapter 12 (B&B)

March 29: Sexual Assault
Reading Assignment: Chapter 13 (B&B)

April 2 Last day to drop a class

April 5: Pedophilia & Paraphillia
Reading Assignment: Chapter 14 (B&B)
April 12:  **Property and Public Order Offenses**  
Reading Assignment: Chapter 15 (B&B)

April 19:  **Crimes of Intimidation**  
Reading Assignment: Chapter 16 (B&B)

April 26:  **Substance Use & Crime**

**May 4:**  **Final Exam** (Chapters 9-10 & 12-16 in Bartol, class notes, & articles)  
(4:30-7:00 PM)