Instructor: Kristen L. Welch
Office: Bay Hall 306
Telephone: (361) 825-3613
Email: kristen.welch@tamucc.edu

Class Hours: MTWR 12:00-3:45 pm
Classroom: CI-102
Office Hours: M/W 4-5 or by appointment

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS


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

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.

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:

1 absences = 10 point reduction in final grade
2+ absences = Student automatically fails course

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.

STATEMENT OF ACADEMIC CONTINUITY

In the event of an unforeseen adverse event, such as a major hurricane and classes could not be held on the campus of Texas A&M University–Corpus Christi; this course would continue through the use of Blackboard and/or email. In addition, the syllabus and class activities may be modified to allow continuation of the course. Ideally, University facilities (i.e., emails, web sites, and Blackboard) will be operational within two days of the closing of the physical campus. However, students need to make certain that the course instructor has a primary and a secondary means of contacting each student.
GRADES

GRADING POLICY:

A = 90-100%
B = 80-89%
C = 70-79%
D = 60-69%
F = Below 60%

Class Participation (5%): Students will receive grade based upon attendance and participation in class discussions. *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 & In Class Assignments (20%): Students are required to complete any homework assignments which may be assigned and turn them in on the assigned date. In addition, there will be a number of in-class assignments that students must complete. Students are required to regularly access the Blackboard portal to check for announcements, assignments, and additional readings for this class. The assignments are worth a total of 20 points and will comprise 20% of the student’s final grade.

Quizzes (10%): 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 are worth a total of 10 points and will comprise 10% of the student’s 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. The project is worth 20 points and will comprise 20% of the student’s final grade.

Midterm Exam (20%): The midterm exam will be given on the date listed in the course outline. The exam is worth a total of 30 points. The exam will be composed of multiple choice, true/false, fill in the blank, essay questions, or a combination of each. The midterm exam will cover course materials such as readings in the Bartol & Bartol text, journal articles, documentaries and movies shown in class, and class notes. The midterm is worth 20 points and will comprise 20% of the student’s final grade.

Final Exam (25%): The final exam will be given on the date listed in the course outline. The exam will be composed of multiple choice, true/false, fill in the blank, essay questions, or a combination of each. The final exam will cover course materials such as readings in the Bartol & Bartol text, journal articles, documentaries and movies shown in class, and class notes. The midterm is worth 25 points and will comprise 25% of the student’s final grade.
Late Work: Late work will NOT be accepted without appropriate documentation of an excused absence, such as a physician’s 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.

**GRADE APPEAL PROCESS**

As stated in University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.01, Student Grade Appeal Procedures, 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. 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 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.html](http://www.tamucc.edu/provost/university_rules/index.html). For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Dean’s office in the college in which the course is taught or the Office of the Provost.

**ADDITIONAL IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

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.

Dropping a Class: I hope that you never find it necessary to drop this or any other class. However, events can sometimes occur that make dropping a course necessary or wise. Please consult with me before you decide to drop to be sure it is the best thing to do. Should dropping the course be the best course of action, you must initiate the process to drop the course by going to the Student Services Center and filling out a course drop form. Just stopping attendance and participation WILL NOT automatically result in your being dropped from the class. May 23rd is the last day to drop a class with an automatic grade of “W” this term.
**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 your 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.

**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.

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**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.

**Academic Integrity/Plagiarism:** University students are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the highest standards of academic honesty. Academic misconduct for which a student is subject to penalty includes all forms of cheating, such as illicit possession of examinations or examination materials, falsification, forgery, complicity or plagiarism. (Plagiarism is the presentation of the work of another as one’s own work.) In this class, academic misconduct or complicity in an act of academic misconduct on an assignment or test will result in a zero.

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**DISABILITIES ACCOMMODATIONS**

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation 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 call or visit Disability Services at (361) 825-5816 in Corpus Christi Hall 116.

If you are a returning veteran and are experiencing cognitive and/or physical access issues in the classroom or on campus, please contact the Disability Services office for assistance at (361) 825-5816.
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.

**Classroom/professional behavior:** Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, as an academic community, requires that each individual respect the needs of others to study and learn in a peaceful atmosphere. Under Article III of the Student Code of Conduct, classroom behavior that interferes with either (a) the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or (b) the ability of other students to profit from the instructional program may be considered a breach of the peace and is subject to disciplinary sanction outlined in article VII of the Student Code of Conduct. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior may be instructed to leave the classroom. This prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including classrooms, electronic classrooms, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc.

**Statement of Civility:** Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi has a diverse student population that represents the population of the state. Our goal is to provide you with a high quality educational experience that is free from repression. You are responsible for following the rules of the University, city, state and federal government. We expect that you will behave in a manner that is dignified, respectful and courteous to all people, regardless of sex, ethnic/racial origin, religious background, sexual orientation or disability. Behaviors that infringe on the rights of another individual will not be tolerated.

**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:

May 15: Review of Syllabus: Course Introduction
Reading Assignment: Chapter 1-2 (Bartol & Bartol)

May 19: Developmental Pathways and Criminal Risk Factors
Reading Assignment: Chapter 3-4 (Bartol & Bartol)

May 20: Nature vs Nurture: Origins of Criminal Behavior
Reading Assignment: Chapter 5 (Bartol & Bartol)

May 21: Aggression, Crime, & Violence
Reading Assignment: Chapter 7 (Bartol & Bartol)

May 22: The Mask of Sanity: Criminal Psychopathy
Midterm
Reading Assignment: Chapters 8 (Bartol & Bartol)

May 26: Crime and Mental Disorders
Reading Assignment: Chapter 9 (B & B)

May 27: Violent Crimes: Explaining Homicide and Assault
Reading Assignment: Chapter 10 (B & B)

May 28: Multiple Murders: Mass, Spree, and Serial Killings
Reading Assignment: Chapter 12-13 (B&B)

May 29: Sexual Assault, Pedophilia & Paraphillia

May 30: Final Exam