

COURSE OUTLINE **Criminal Behavior**

Course Description

AJ 117. Criminal Behavior. 3 hours credit. This course will enable the student to understand the biological, psychiatric, psychological and social/environmental explanations of criminal and deviant behavior. The student will explore relevant perspectives, theories and research methods. The student will examine sociobiological, psychological, psychoanalytical and social-psychological theories of behavior. The student may also consider psychological explanations of specific behavior such as aggression and violence, homicide and assault, sexual offenses, drug use, property offenses, and public disorder offenses. Included in this explanation are cross-cultural perspectives regarding the issues involved in criminal behavior.

Course Relevance

The concepts learned in the course give the student the ability to understand the history and theory of criminal behavior and the causes of crime. These concepts will further enhance the student's ability to investigate the basic concepts and principles employed in explaining crime. Lastly, it will assist the student in generating a working knowledge on the nature and extent of crime and society's reaction to crime.

Required Materials

Bartol, C.R., (2008) *Criminal behavior – A psychosocial approach*, (8th ed.), Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice-Hall Inc

Learning Outcomes

The intention is for the student to be able to:

1. Evaluate the complexity of criminal behavior.
2. Explain psychosocial perspectives on the causes of crime.
3. Assess the developmental aspects of criminal behavior.
4. Describe the psychological processes underlying behavior defined as crimes against person such as murder and rape.

Learning Pact Skills that will be developed and/or documented in this course

Through involvement in this course, the student will develop ability in the following PACT skill area(s):

Analytical Thinking Skills

1. Critical thinking
 - Through written assignments and other activities conducted in class the student will develop critical thinking skills by analyzing criminal behavior.

Major Summative Assessments Task(s)

These learning outcome(s) and the Learning PACT skill(s) will be demonstrated by

1. Completing an essay or written project in which the student analyzes criminal behavior from a psychosocial perspective.

Course Content

- I. Skills/Competencies – Actions that are essential to achieve the course outcomes:
 - A. Writing
 - B. Reading
 - C. Computer literacy
 - D. Analytical thinking
 - E. Ability to compare and contrast
 - F. Memorization
 - G. Application of concepts

Learning Units

- I. Introduction to criminal behavior
 - A. Develop perspectives on human nature
 - B. Identify the various multiple causes
 - C. Specify the various perspectives in criminology
 - D. Deduce definitions of criminal behavior
- II. Juvenile delinquency: Development factors
 - A. Discuss the various definitions of juvenile delinquency
 - B. Analyze the incidence of juvenile delinquency
 - C. Explain the predictors of juvenile delinquency
- III. Origins of criminal behavior: Biological factors
 - A. Define the born criminal
 - B. Explain the relationship between physique and crime
 - C. Assess and discuss adoption studies
 - D. Explain personality and crime
- IV. The psychopath: A focus on bio-psychological factors
 - A. Generate a behavioral description of the psychopath
 - B. Differentiate the various gender traits.
 - C. Analyze the childhood of the psychopath
- V. Origins of criminal behavior: Learning factors
 - A. Define behaviorism
 - B. Explain social learning
 - C. Analyze frustration-induced criminality
- VI. The mentally disordered offender
 - A. Define mental disorders and crime
 - B. Explain the mentally disordered offender and criminal responsibility
 - C. Analyze and explain the concept of dangerousness

- VII. Human aggression and violence
 - A. Define aggression
 - B. Explain the theoretical perspectives on aggression
 - C. Analyze environmental factors and aggression
 - D. Explain the effects of mass media on violence

- VIII. Criminal homicide and assault
 - A. Define homicide and assault
 - B. Analyze sociological correlates of homicide and assault
 - C. Define family violence

- IX. Criminal homicide: A closer look
 - A. Describe criminal homicide investigative methods including profiling
 - B. Differentiate between multiple murderers, serial murderers and mass murderers.
 - C. Explain the relationship between satanic cults and homicide
 - D. Discuss the psychological factors in violent crime and homicide

- X. Sexual offenses
 - A. Differentiate between instrumental sexual aggression and expressive sexual aggression
 - B. Define rape
 - C. Describe pedophilia
 - D. Discuss personality characteristics associated with the exhibitionist and voyeur
 - E. Analyze and explain the various treatments for sexual offenders

- XI. Economic crime, public order crime, and other crime
 - A. Differentiate between burglary and robbery
 - B. Describe the offender characteristics of the thief
 - C. Discuss offender motivations for white-collar and cyber crime
 - D. Identify for major categories of hostage-taking incidents
 - E. Analyze terrorism and arson crimes

- XII. Drugs and crime
 - A. Explain the different classifications of psychoactive drugs
 - B. Discuss the relationships between hallucinogens and crime
 - C. Identify the three primary categories of amphetamines
 - D. Describe narcotic drugs
 - E. Analyze the psychological relationship between alcohol and crime

- XIII. Correctional psychology
 - A. Discuss the correctional system
 - B. Explain classification and prediction
 - C. Analyze the psychological effects of imprisonment
 - D. Define rehabilitation
 - E. Explain the various forms of psychological treatments

- XIV. Cross cultural perspective
 - A. Theories
 - B. Criminal behavior

Learning Activities

Learning activities will be assigned to assist the student to achieve the intended learning outcome(s) through lecture, instructor-led class discussions, group study, field trips, library research, various audio/visual aids, case studies, guest speakers and student presentations. The student will be required to examine professional journals in this course.

Grade determination

The student will be graded on completion of assessment tasks, research papers, tests daily work, class participation, out-of-class assignments and other methods of evaluation at the discretion of the instructor.