

**George Mason University**  
**Forensic Psychology, PSYC 461**  
**Summer 2013 (Term A)**

<b>Class Begins: May 20<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Class Ends: June 21<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>Last Day to Withdraw: June 4<sup>th</sup></b>
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**Instructor Information**

Instructor: Robin Shusko, M.A.	Office: N/A
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**Course Information**

Course: Psyc 461; AO1	Credits: 3
Meeting Day(s): Online	Meeting Time(s): On-line

**Course Description**

This course approaches the understanding of delinquent and criminal behavior from a developmental, cognitive-behavioral, and psychological perspective. Viewing the juvenile and adult offender as being embedded and continually influenced by multiple systems, the course examines the risk and protective factors that are believed to influence the developmental pathways on the road to delinquency and crime. The behavioral, emotional and cognitive aspects of crime are examined, focusing primarily on the offender but occasionally on the victim as well.

**Core Learning Outcomes**

1. Describe the various theories that may help explain crime.
2. Identify the different perspectives of human nature that underlie the theoretical development and research of criminal behavior.
3. Define crime, criminal behavior, and juvenile delinquency.
4. Describe the various measurements of criminal and delinquent behavior.
5. Understand the study of criminal behavior and delinquency, from a psychological perspective.

**Text**

Bartol, Curt R. and Anne M. Bartol. (2010). *Criminal Behavior, A Psychological Approach* 9<sup>th</sup> Ed. (Required)

**Assessment Method**

Homework/ Exams / Quiz / Discussion	Point Value	Final Grade Scale
Homework (5 @ 20 pts. each)	100 pts.	
<b>EXAM 1</b> (Chapters 1-5)	100 pts.	<b>A = 403+ pts.</b>
<b>Quiz Chapters 6-8</b>	50 pts.	<b>B = 358+ pts.</b>
<b>EXAM 2</b> (Chapters 9, 10; 12-15)	100 pts.	<b>C = 313+ pts.</b>
<b>Discussion Board</b> (5 @ 20 pts. each)	100 pts.	<b>D = 268+ pts.</b>
Extra credit	Additional points	<b>F = 267 and below</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>450 Pts.</b>	

## Codes of Academic Integrity and Student Conduct

Students are required to uphold the Code of Academic Integrity and the Code of Student Conduct. Students who violate either of these codes may receive a failing grade in the class. Regarding assignments and exams, students should always observe the highest standards of academic honesty and integrity. Your academic work should be the result of your efforts, thoughts, and ideas. When writing papers or assignments, you should use an appropriate citation style consistently, indicating exactly where you are quoting, or have been inspired by, the work of others.

Cheating on any assignment or exam will result in possible disciplinary actions against you (the student), and all cases of academic misconduct will be referred to the Student Honor Council at George Mason University.

Examples of conduct meriting such disciplinary actions include, but are not limited to, the following: (1) cheating on an exam, either with or without assistance of another student or students, (2) submitting as your own work a paper that is either wholly or partially plagiarized, such as purchasing a paper from an internet site or superficially rewriting the work of others without proper citation, or (3) collaborating with fellow students on assignments or exams for which you were instructed to work alone.

Should you need accommodations for assignments/exams due to a verified, documented learning or physical disability please inform me of your situation so that proper accommodation procedures are followed. Disability Resource Services (703) 993-2474 or <http://accessibility.gmu.edu/student-services.html>

### **\*\* Discussion Board and Participation Policy \*\***

Due to the online format of this class, you will not attend any classroom lectures. Class participation, to include participation in the discussion board, individual class work, and respectful interaction between the instructor and students are emphasized in this course.

**Participation:** The class participation for this course is designed within the framework of online classes and is intended to support the learning process. Being active and involved in the discussion board is considered your “participation” in this course, and students are expected to participate fully in all course activities. To complete this course successfully you do NOT have to be online at a particular day or time. However, the course follows a weekly schedule. Students are expected to complete all the work assigned for a particular week and to observe all deadlines throughout the semester. In case of illness, emergency, religious holidays, or participation in official college functions, students remain responsible for completing the requirements of the course. *Late assignments will not be accepted unless approved by the instructor ahead of time. Home computer problems will not result in a deadline extension.*

**Discussion Board:** I will post several questions/topics on the discussion board each week, and they will be labeled “Week 1, 2, etc.” This will make it easier for you to track the discussions. Each week will begin on Sunday and **close by noon on Saturday**. This means you have seven (7) days to complete your discussion board work. The discussion board is set up to be a “reflection loop.” In other words, you will need to respond to my initial questions (post) on Monday or Tuesday of each week; this posting is worth a maximum of ten (10) points. You will then need to respond to at least two of your classmates’ posts between Wednesday and Saturday. Each of these postings is worth a maximum of five (5) points. Thus, you could earn a maximum of 20 points per week by participating on the discussion board. We will use the discussion board for all five weeks of this class. Maximum points for the discussion board are 100 (10 for the postings to my initial question; 5 for each of the two postings to your classmates’ posts; for a maximum total of 20 points per week). Early posts create more discussion, so I do encourage posting early in the week. Below is the grading rubric for the discussion board.

Your responses should be in paragraph format and although the conferences are somewhat informal, spelling and grammar are still important. "I agree" will not count as a post.

**NOTE:** You will only be able to post for the current week. If you forget to post the previous week, then you lose your opportunity to earn any points for that week. (You can post as many times as you like each week. The more you post, the more you participate, and the higher your grade will be). Reminder: **The discussion board will close each week by Saturday at noon (EST).**

*Netiquette:* You will be communicating with one another via the discussion board. It is likely that you will not always agree with the opinions of your fellow classmates. Disagreement is fine but you will need to respect others' views. Thus, personal attacks and derogatory comments will not be tolerated. If, however, you do disagree with someone, then I expect you to state your position in an articulate fashion on the discussion board.

**Grading Rubric:**

0 Points	2 Points	4 Points	6 Points	8 Points	10 Points
Does not respond to postings; does not participate freely. No effort to participate in learning community as it develops. Didn't post in each required topic for each week.	Does not respond to most postings. Does not make effort to participate in learning community as it develops; seems indifferent. Comments or questions were not responsive to the discussion questions.	Occasionally makes meaningful reflection on group's efforts; marginal effort to become involved with group. Comments or questions provided some evidence that the participant had read the course material.	Frequently attempts to direct the discussion and present relevant viewpoints for consideration by group; interacts freely. Comments or questions enhanced the quality of discussion (i.e., suggested new perspectives on an issue, asked questions that helped stimulate further discussion, etc.)	Consistently responds to posting; demonstrates good self-initiative. Frequently attempts to motivate the group discussion; presents creative approaches to topic. Participant posted a significant response in the form of comments and/or questions to all required conference topics posted for that week.	Exceeds all expectations when responding to posts.

**Online Links of Help/Interest:**

Writing Center: <http://writingcenter.gmu.edu/>

Library: <http://library.gmu.edu/>

## Topical Outline

Every effort will be made to keep to this schedule; however, the instructor reserves the right to alter or amend it as necessary. The schedule is subject to change as the course progresses; as much advance notice as possible will be provided when this occurs.

Week	Dates	Readings/Assignments	Due Date
1	5/20 – 5/25	<p><b>Read:</b> Introductions and course expectations; Chapters 1- 5</p> <p><b>Assignments:</b> ‘Chapter review’ questions (posted in “assignments”); review posted webcasts (posted in “assignments”) and respond to discussion conferences</p> <p><b>Weekly Discussion conferences:</b> juvenile offenders; antisocial behavior; social learning; human aggression and violence</p>	<p>Saturday 5/25 by 11:59pm (EST)</p> <p>(Discussion board closes at noon, 5/25)</p>
		<b>** EXAM 1 CHAPTERS 1-5 **</b>	<b>** SUNDAY 5/26 – <u>this exam will be open for 24hrs.</u> **</b>
	<b>Drop / Add</b>	<p><u>May 24-</u> Last day to add and drop (no penalty)</p> <p><u>May 31-</u> Last day to drop (50% penalty)</p>	
2	5/26 – 6/1	<p><b>Read:</b> Chapters 6-8</p> <p><b>Assignments:</b> ‘Chapter review’ questions (posted in “assignments”); review posted webcasts (posted in “assignments”) and respond to discussion conferences</p> <p><b>Weekly Discussion conferences:</b> Juvenile delinquency; Criminal Psychopathy; treatment; Mental disorders; insanity standards</p>	<p>Due Date: Saturday 6/1 by 11:59pm (EST)</p> <p>(Discussion board closes at noon, 6/1)</p>
		<b>** QUIZ CHAPTERS 6 – 8 **</b>	<b>** SUNDAY 6/2 – <u>this quiz will be open for 24hrs.</u> **</b>
3	6/2 – 6/8	<p><b>Read:</b> Chapters 9, 10</p> <p><b>Assignments:</b> ‘Chapter review’ questions (posted in “assignments”);</p>	<p>Due Date: Saturday 6/8 by 11:59pm (EST)</p>

3	6/2 -- 6/8	<p>review posted webcasts (posted in “assignments”) and respond to discussion conferences</p> <p><b>Weekly Discussion conferences:</b> family violence; School Violence; Workplace Violence; Serial Murderers; Mass Murderers</p>	(Discussion board closes at noon, 6/8)
	<b><u>6/4</u></b>	<b><u>Last day to withdraw from this course</u></b>	
4	6/9 – 6/15	<p><b>Read:</b> Chapters 12, 13</p> <p><b>Assignments:</b> ‘Chapter review’ questions (posted in “assignments”); review posted webcasts (posted in “assignments”) and respond to discussion conferences</p> <p><b>Weekly Discussion conferences:</b> Rape; Sex Offenders; Pedophiles; treatment; Legislation; Offender characteristics</p>	<p>Due Date: Saturday 6/15 by 11:59pm (EST)</p> <p>(Discussion board closes at noon, 6/15)</p>
5	6/16 – 6/21	<p><b>Read:</b> Chapters 14, 15</p> <p><b>Assignments:</b> ‘Chapter review’ questions (posted in “assignments”); review posted webcasts (posted in “assignments”) and respond to discussion conferences</p> <p><b>Weekly Discussion conferences:</b> Fraud and ID Theft; White-collar crime; prostitution; Robbery; Stalking; Crimes of intimidation</p>	<p><b>Due Date: Thursday 6/20 by 11:59pm (EST)</b></p> <p>(Discussion board closes at noon, 6/20)</p>
		<b>*EXAM 2 CHAPTERS 9, 10; 12-15*</b>	<b>**FRIDAY 6/21 – <u>this exam will be open for 24 hrs.</u> **</b>