Monday to Thursday: 9-11:30 am
Credit hours: 3
Contact hours: 45
Additional costs: none

1- DESCRIPTION
This course approaches the knowledge and understanding of criminal behavior and its impact upon individuals and society from a developmental, cognitive-behavioral, and other psychological perspectives. The basic premise of the course is that multiple variables affect people’s behavior and for this reason this study requires attention to personality factors and how they interact with situational variables. Topics include: criminological theories, biological and psychological models of criminal behavior, crime and mental disorders, human aggression and violence, sexual assault, and criminal homicide. Students will acquire a new framework for interpreting criminal behavior. Students will be familiarized with different perspectives on criminal behavior as well as etiology, risk factors, assessment and treatment in relation to different criminal behaviors. Recent research findings will be incorporated.

2- OBJECTIVES GOALS, and OUTCOMES
By the end of the course students should be able to demonstrate:
1. Knowledge of key concepts and propositions of psychological models of criminal behavior.
2. Capacity to identify the different perspectives on human nature that underlie the theoretical development and research of criminal behavior.
3. Familiarity with research methodologies commonly employed in the field of criminal psychology, as well as a capacity for analyzing their strengths and weaknesses, a biosocial frame of reference included.
4. Ability to examine critically specific offences and apply psychological models of criminality to case studies.
5. Awareness of the different prevention, intervention and treatment strategies for working with juvenile offenders.
6. A range of presentation skills.

3- PREREQUISITES
PSY 150 Introduction to Psychology, or equivalent.
Classes and lectures will be held in English.

4- METHOD
The method used in this class involves lectures, individual and group presentations of readings, group and individual in-class and out-of-class activities and data collection, class discussions, and questionnaires. Be prepared to share your opinions and insights.

5- ASSESSMENT
In class discussions and on assignments and exams, students will be asked to describe and discuss the key psychological concepts of criminal behavior. Students will be asked to identify social, family, and psychological risk factors that lead to delinquency and crime. Students will be asked to describe various research methods as well as their strengths and limitations in coursework and on exams. Students will be asked to describe the characteristics of successful prevention, intervention, and treatment programs with juveniles. Students will be asked to communicate their ideas to peers and their professor through oral and written presentations.

A. Homework and Class participation
Homework: Students are expected to complete reading assignments prior to class.
In addition, it is vital for students to keep in mind that, on a daily basis, some of their time inside and outside class will be devoted either to conducting research (i.e., examining case studies) or preparing class participation.

Class Participation: For the purposes of assessment, class participation refers to the following:
- Extent and quality of contributions to class discussions reflecting knowledge and understanding of the issues/topics in question.
- Demonstration of having read assigned material and extent of understanding such material.
- Asking perceptive and original questions.
- Listening and verbal communication skills.
- Recognizing the value of the opinions of others.
- Respecting the work of others.
- Demonstration of teamwork skills in small group work.
- Helping to foster a positive group environment.

Class participation and homework will comprise 15% of the student’s final grade.

**B. Presentation and Research Paper**

You will prepare a 15-minute (10 minute Power-Point presentation, 5 minutes for class questions) presentation that closely examines a case study of a criminal offender. You should identify a case that provides plenty of information about the offender’s background, because you will be applying the psychological models discussed in class to the criminal behavior in the case study. The process of choosing the case should be linked to a subject of our course. The sources for the presentation needs to be primarily from peer-reviewed journals (e.g., *Journal of Personality and Criminal Psychology*) but newspaper articles, etc. The presentation will be graded according to content, organization, and delivery.

Research Paper: On the day of your presentation, your research paper (2000 words, double-spaced, Times, 12 Font) will be due. The paper needs to be written in APA Style, including references. For help with APA Style, Purdue University offers an excellent website on the basics of APA style-formatting needed for this paper: [http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/](http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/). For additional sites on style format, you can also search under “APA style.” The library also has the APA Publication Manual (PSY 9 808/.06615), which presents very detailed descriptions of APA formatting. The paper will be graded according to content and organization and will comprise 25% of the student’s final grade. Papers must be handed in at the beginning of class or before the due date as discussed in class. Papers handed in late for whatever reason will be dropped one letter grade. Be prepared for the unexpected. Plan to print your paper out early as you may not be able to print out your paper as planned. For more specific guidelines and instructions please see separate handout. Remember that the dates of assignments and presentations can NOT be changed for any reason, so please organize yourself accordingly.

**6- EXAMS**

Students will be required to complete written mid-term (25% of the final grade) and final exam (35% of the final grade). Both exams will be comprised of different types of questions (e.g., definitions, short essays, short answers), and at least 50% of these exams will be essay questions that will require students to utilize critical thinking skills and to apply knowledge learned from class and from required readings.

Remember that the dates of the exams can NOT be changed for any reason, so please organize your personal schedule accordingly. Being absent (for whatever reason) on the day the exam is taken, means being graded a 0% for it.

**7- EVALUATION AND GRADING SYSTEM**

15 % Class Participation, Homework
25 % Mid-Term Exam
35 % Final Exam
25 % Research Paper and Presentation

The following grading system will be observed:

- 93-100 = A
- 90 - 92 = A-
- 87 - 89 = B+
- 83 - 86 = B
- 80 - 82 = B-
- 77 - 79 = C+
- 73 - 76 = C
- 70 - 72 = C-
- 60 - 69 = D
- 0 - 59 = F
There is no possibility of extra credit for this class.

8- ATTENDANCE and BEHAVIOR

Mandatory attendance is a primary requirement for a responsible learning experience at LdM. Please note that:

A. If the student misses THREE classes, the Final grade will be lowered by one full letter grade.
B. If more than THREE classes are missed, the final grade will be “F” and NO credits will be given for this course.

Punctuality is mandatory. Students must arrive in class on time:

a) any lateness, leaving class during the lesson without notice, not showing up on time after the break, or leaving earlier, will impact the participation grade and the Final Grade. In addition:
b) Three late arrivals or equivalent (10 to 20 minutes) result in one absence on the attendance count.
c) Missing more than 20 minutes will be considered as one full absence.

It is the responsibility of the student to catch up on any missed work and to keep track of his or her absences and cases of tardiness.

Missed in-class activities (including but not limited to quizzes, tests, etc.) can not be made up. Be informed in advance on how to submit assignments in case of absence.

Make-up classes are always mandatory since part of the course program.

Class conflicts: if on occasion a class creates a conflict with another class (due to a clashing make-up, class trip, etc), the student is required to inform both instructors IN ADVANCE, allowing the two instructors to share a written excuse for the class going to be missed. Even though an absence may be excused, students must be aware that there will be no possibility to make up any assessed in-class activities they have missed (including but not limited to quizzes, tests, etc.) and no refund can be given for pre-paid visit/fieldtrip fees. Keep this in mind in order to make a responsible decision about which class to attend.

Classes with visits are considered regular classes to all effects: absence or lateness rules will be applied as for lessons that meet in class, without excuses.

All students are requested to be 5 to 10 minutes early at the meeting point, so class can promptly enter at the specified entry time. If a student is late, the class cannot wait for him/her and the student will be responsible for paying for his/her entry.

Please be aware of any change of visit location/time/day; get to know the meeting point and any relevant details before the class.

Behavior / Academic Dishonesty:

Active and responsible participation is insisted on. Students are required to behave properly within the school premises and during class. Classrooms are to be left in order and clean. Students must take care of available equipment and materials and promptly report any damage and loss.

Drinking/eating during class is not allowed.

Electronic devices (cell phones, Blackberry, iPod, laptop computers, etc) must be switched off during class, unless otherwise instructed.

Proper behavior and dress code must be observed in class and during visits. For example, no food or drinking allowed in museums; shoulders and knees must be covered in religious places.

Instructors who find a student’s behavior is inappropriate will seek to talk with him/her promptly; if the issue continues, the instructor is required to contact the pertinent LdM authority.

Should issues of academic dishonesty arise, the faculty member will adhere to the relevant LdM policy and report suspected instances to the LdM Dean of Students for disciplinary review. According to the LdM Rules of Conduct, “Violations include cheating on tests, plagiarism, inadequate citation, recycled work, unauthorized assistance, or similar actions not explicitly mentioned”.

Assignments and projects are specific to individual courses; presenting the same work in two different courses (including previous courses) is considered recycling and is unacceptable.

Students with learning disabilities are required to contact their LdM Advisor or LdM Dean of Students.

9- READINGS and SOURCES

The required course readings are selected chapters, listed in the schedule (point 13A, below) from the following:

- Siegel, *Criminology: The Core*, 4th Edition

The required readings are made available via dropbox or handed out during class.

**Recommended readings**
A wide range of other works are available for research at the LdM Institute Library in Via dell’Alloro, 13. See call numbers:

- Reich, J. R. (1997) *Close up on psychology: supplemental readings from the APA monitor*. American Psychological Association > PSY 16

**10- ADDITIONAL COSTS**
None

**11- VISITS and TRIPS**
A visit is scheduled to deepen specific topics. It may be a criminal museum, a department at the police station, or similar. It will take place during regular class time. Topic and exact location TBA in advance. Students may be involved in outside the class research projects and will need to dress based on the weather for those days. Students will be advised in advance of these class outings.

**12- MATERIALS**
Not applicable.

**13A- CLASS SCHEDULE**

Please note: all readings are to be done BEFORE class, homework is listed for every lecture. Please consider that the contents of individual classes may be changed throughout the course according to progress of the class, and that additional visits/field research -whenever available and pertinent- may be included within regular class time.

**WEEK 1:**

1) June 01: *Introduction to the course: Psychology of Crime*
   1. Introduction to professor/students
   2. Review of syllabus (How to write the research article)
   3. Clarification of students’ expectations and objectives for the course.
   4. Introduction to the study of criminal behavior
   5. Homework: Read the handouts for next class.

   References for today’s lecture:
   Siegel, *Criminology*, pp. 1-24

June 02: no class- NATIONAL HOLIDAY- no make-up required

2) June 03: *Concepts of crime, law and criminology.*
   **Reading due today:** Handout
   1. PowerPoint lecture.
   2. Class discussion of readings
   3. Case analysis

3) June 04: *Theories of crime causation*
   **Reading due today:** Siegel, *Criminology*, pp. 83-105 (Choice theory).
1. Research article is due at the beginning of class.
2. Class discussion of cases that went through the news you that caught your interest
3. PowerPoint lecture.
4. Class discussion of readings.
5. Finalize your case proposal for presentations.

WEEK 2:

4) June 08: Origins of criminal behavior: biological factors.
   **Reading due today:** Siegel, *Criminology*, pp. 107-133 (Trait theory).
   1. PowerPoint lecture.
   2. Discussion of readings.
   3. Case analysis.
   4. Hand in your case proposal for your presentations.

   **Reading due today:** Siegel, *Criminology*, pp. 135-197 (Social structure theory and Social process theories).
   1. Discussion of issues and topics raised by student group presentation.
   2. PowerPoint lecture.
   3. Class discussion on readings.
   4. Case analysis.
   **Homework:**
   All class members: Begin studying for Mid-term Exam. Have questions ready for Review. Start preparing your presentation and paper.

6) June 10: How a case needs to be presented to fit one of the theories we studied in detail
   1. How to use word program efficiently
   2. How does my presentation need to be structured
   3. How do I need to structure my paper: APA style.
   4. Examples of case descriptions.

7) June 11: Review for Mid-term / field experience
   1. Discussion of issues and topics raised by the field experience
   2. Review for Mid-term.
   **Homework for next class:**
   All class members: Study for the exam. Material from prior classes and readings will be included on the exam.

WEEK 3:

8) June 15: MID TERM EXAM

   **Reading due today:** Siegel, *Criminology*, pp. 197-251 (Critical criminology and Developmental theories).
   1. Oral presentation by the 4 students.
   2. PowerPoint lecture.
   3. Class discussion on readings.
   4. Case analysis or view.
   **Homework for next class:**
   Finalize our presentations and papers.
   Read the handouts for next class.

10) June 17: Crime typologies.
    **Reading due today:** Violent crimes: Homicide (handouts in class 9)
1. Return and review of mid-term exam.
2. Oral presentation by 4 students.
3. Lecture with PowerPoint slides.
4. Class discussion of readings.
5. Case analysis.

11) June 18: Violent Crimes
    Reading due today: Violent crimes: Stalking and Sexual Assault

    1. Oral presentation by 4 students.
    2. PowerPoint lecture.
    3. Class discussion of assigned homework.
    4. Case analysis.

12) June 19: FRIDAY MAKE- UP CLASS (replacing June 24 Local Holiday)
    Reading due today: Property crime: Robbery

    1. PowerPoint lecture.
    2. Class discussion.
    3. Field observation and discussion.
    4. Homework: prepare your presentations and papers.

WEEK 4:

13) June 22: Public order crime
    Reading due today: TBA

    1. Oral Presentation by 4 students.
    2. PowerPoint lecture.
    3. Class discussion.
    4. Case analysis.

    Homework for next class:
    Begin studying for Final exam. Have questions ready for Review.
    Read the handouts.

    Reading due today: The criminal justice system

    1. PowerPoint lecture.
    2. Class discussion of assigned readings.
    3. Review for Final exam.

    Homework for next class:
    Study for the exam. Note that the material from today’s class will be included on the exam.

--) JUNE 24: NO CLASS- LOCAL HOLIDAY; MAKE-UP FRIDAY JUNE 19 (SEE LESSON 12)

15) JUNE 25: FINAL EXAM

13B - ALTERNATIVE LESSON
If I am indisposed or otherwise unable to attend class, a substitute professor will conduct an alternative lesson at the regular class time. The alternative lesson will be the following: view of the DVD “1 hour photo”; complete question sheet and turn it in the following week.