

**University of Maryland, College Park
Universities at Shady Grove
CCJS 461 ESG1 – Psychology of Criminal Behavior
Fall 2023**

Fall Semester Begins: Aug. 28th	Class Ends: December 11th	Final Exams: 12/13-19/23
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Instructor Information

Instructor: Robin Shusko, M.A., M.A., M.S., Ed.D. Doctoral Candidate	Office: N/A
E-mail: rshusko@frederick.edu ; rshusko@umd.edu ;	Phone Number: 301-401-2728
Office Hours: virtually, by appointment	TA: none

Course Information

Course: CCJS 461; section ESG1	Credits: 3
Meeting Day: Monday	Meeting Time(s): 5 pm – 6:15 pm ONLINE

****This course is entirely online but has scheduled (virtual) meeting times; the remaining instruction will occur asynchronously. Specific class times will be used for real-time virtual sessions.**

Department of Criminology & Criminal Justice Univ. of MD, College Park @ Shady Grove

Director: Wendy Stickle, Ph.D.	Phone number: 301-738-6307
wstickle@umd.edu	Building III; rm 5105

Course Description

This course approaches the understanding of antisocial 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. Students will learn about the factors associated with the onset and maintenance of antisocial and criminal behavior.

Core Learning Course Outcomes

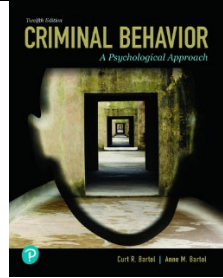
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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Explain and analyze various psychological and developmental factors that contribute to criminal behavior 2. Recognize the various types of crime and typologies 3. Apply research and theory to understanding concepts 4. Critically analyze the relationship between criminal behavior and mental health 5. Understand sources of information and measurements of crime, including their limitations <p>CCJS Learning Outcomes -</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Students will demonstrate an understanding of the three pillars of our criminal justice system - courts, policing, and corrections. 2. Students will demonstrate an understanding of the major theories that are used to explain criminal behavior. 3. Students will demonstrate an understanding of how crime and criminal justice are products of political, economic, and social structures and examine how they intersect with systems of oppression. |
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4. Students will demonstrate competency in the ability to read, interpret, and synthesize (in writing) important research related to criminological theory and the criminal justice system.
5. Students will demonstrate an understanding of the research methods used in the study of criminology and criminal justice.
6. Students will demonstrate competency in applying quantitative skills to criminological concepts.

Instructional Methods

Class discussion, group activities, videos, homework/class assignments, exams, lectures, and a research project.

Text (recommended) (the 11th edition is also acceptable)



Criminal Behavior, A Psychological Approach Bartol, Curt R. & Anne M. Bartol
12th Ed. (2020) ISBN-13: 978-0135618721 Pearson Publishing

**Additional: OER Resources and other readings as assigned

Progress Report

Students may review their progress at any time by entering the “grades” feature in Canvas. By the end of the 8th week of the semester, you will have an opportunity to evaluate your progress in this course and decide if you need to make any adjustments (additional study, tutoring, conference with instructor) to assure your success in this course.

Assessment Method

Exams / Paper / Assignments	Point Value	Final Grade Scale
EXAM 1	/ 50 pts.	A = 448+ pts.
EXAM 2	/ 50 pts.	B = 398+ pts.
EXAM 3	/ 50 pts.	C = 348+ pts.
Project	/ 100 pts.	D = 298+ pts.
Discussion Board (10 @ 20 pts. each week)	/ 200 pts.	F = 297 and below
Homework	/ 50 pts.	
Extra credit	Additional points	
TOTAL	500 pts.	

Submission of assignments – All assignments are to be submitted as .doc/.docx or .pdf files to Canvas (unless otherwise noted) by 11:59 p.m. on Sundays.

Course schedule – Each week’s content is available by 12:01 a.m. on Sunday morning and runs through the next Sunday at 11:59 p.m.

Grade Distribution

A+:	97% and above	B-:	82% to 80%	D:	66% to 63%
A:	96% to 93%	C+:	79% to 77%	D-:	62% to 60%
A-:	92% to 90%	C:	76% to 73%	F:	Less than 60%
B+:	89% to 87%	C-:	72% to 70%		
B:	86% to 83%	D+:	69% to 67%		

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 the following disciplinary actions:

- (1) “XF” (a cheating F) will be the grade earned for the course, and (2) possible expulsion from the UMCP’s B.A. Program in Criminology & Criminal Justice at the Shady Grove Center, effective the following semester. All cases of academic misconduct will be referred to the Student Honor Council at UMCP.
- (2) Examples of conduct meriting such disciplinary actions include but are not limited to, the following:
 - (1) cheating on an exam, either with or without the 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 take-home exams for which you were instructed to work alone.

The University of Maryland, College Park has a nationally recognized *Code of Academic Integrity*. This Code sets standards for academic integrity at Maryland for all undergraduate and graduate students. As a student, you are responsible for upholding these standards for this course. It is very important for you to be aware of the consequences of cheating, fabrication, facilitation, and plagiarism. For more information on the *Code of Academic Integrity* or the Student Honor Council, please visit

<https://academiccatalog.umd.edu/undergraduate/registration-academic-requirements-regulations/academic-integrity-student-conduct-codes/>

Papers and assignments are subject to an originality check via turnitin.com. I submit all papers to this site to verify the original work.

You must adhere to the rule that any idea that does not originate in your own thinking must be cited, whether it be an idea shared by your course instructor in a lecture, a peer in a class discussion, or an expert in a scholarly source. If you are using another person’s exact words, you must indicate so by using quotation marks around those words. If you have questions about citing, you are encouraged to ask your instructor prior to submitting the assignment.

Should a student need accommodation in the classroom or for assignments/exams due to a verified, documented learning or physical disability, please inform me of your situation immediately, so that proper UMCP documentation and accommodation procedures are followed. [Accessibility & Disability Service | Counseling Center \(umd.edu\)](#)

Participation, Attendance, and Makeup Policy

Students are expected to adhere to the class schedule, attend and participate in every class, come to class on time, and remain in class until it is completed. Class participation, including discussion, group and individual class work, and respectful interaction between the instructor and students are emphasized in this course.

If you are absent from class, you cannot participate; therefore, a class should only be missed for serious illness, emergency, religious holidays, or participation in official college functions. Opportunities to make up missed in-class work will only be given in cases of excused absences and **official documentation is required**. Exams and assignments are *Major Scheduled Graded Events* and therefore the University medical excuse policy which allows one student signed honor statement attesting to illness does not apply to them. Excused absences are: illness with a doctor's note, death in the immediate family, required school activities, and required court appearance. If a doctor does not write you a note, you will need to get a copy of your medical record from them to verify your illness. By law, you are entitled to get a copy of this and it is your responsibility to do so. I must be notified in person or by phone or email PRIOR to missing an in-class assignment for me to consider giving you a makeup. If you know you will not be in class for in-class work or a date an assignment is due for an excused reason it is your responsibility to turn in the work PRIOR to the due date.

What to do if you must seek to be excused from class: Contact me by email or phone at the contact number on this syllabus as soon as you know you will be unable to attend class. Excusal will be granted, at my discretion, and make-up work and late assignments accepted in these emergency cases as contracted and documented in email between the student and instructor. In case of excused absence, students are responsible for requesting missed material from another student or the instructor.

PER UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND POLICY FOR A STUDENT'S MEDICALLY NECESSITATED ABSENCE FROM CLASS, students shall now make a reasonable attempt to inform the instructor of his/her illness prior to the class; and, upon returning to class, present their instructor with a self-signed note attesting to the date of their illness. Each note must also contain an acknowledgment by the student that the information provided is true and correct. Providing false information to University officials is prohibited under Part 9 (h) of the *Code of Student Conduct (V-1.00(B) UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND CODE OF STUDENT CONDUCT)* and may result in disciplinary action.

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. Additional dates, as published in the academic schedule of classes and listed below, may be required as make-up days for inclement weather.

Week of:	Subject	Content/Module SYNCHRONOUS CLASS MEETINGS MONDAYS 5 pm – 6:15 pm ALL WORK IS DUE BY SUNDAY 11:59 PM
8/28	<i>Introductions and course expectations, Overview of course structure, Review of groups/activities</i>	
9/4	<i>Introduction to Criminal Behavior, Extent and Measurement of Criminal Behavior</i>	Intro & Origins of Criminal Behavior Theories of Crimes; Defining and Measuring Crime; UCR, Self-Report Studies
9/11	<i>Origins of Criminal Behavior, Developmental and Protective Factors</i>	Developmental, psychological and behavioral, and family risk (and protective) factors **DISCUSSION #1
9/18	<i>Biological Factors</i>	Genetics; Environmental and biological risk factors; Eysenck's Theory of Crime **DISCUSSION #2
9/25	<i>Learning & Situational Factors</i>	Behaviorism; Social Learning; Stanford Prison Study; Crowd Violence; Frustration and Crime **DISCUSSION #3
10/2	<i>Review for Exam #1</i>	Take exam 1 no later than Sunday 10/08/23 *use the class padlet, double-entry reading journal, and infographics to review for the exam
10/9	<i>Psychopathy</i>	Behavioral descriptors; psychological measures; biological factors; treatment **DISCUSSION #4
10/16	<i>Crime and Mental Disorders</i>	Competency and insanity standards; mental disorder and violence **DISCUSSION #5
10/23	<i>Human Aggression</i>	Aggression and Interpersonal Violence Violence; Social and Environmental Factors; Modeling; Aggressive Driving; Effects of Media **DISCUSSION #6 *project and homework introduction/details introduced during this session

10/30	<i>Homicide, Family Violence, Multiple Murder, and School/Workplace Violence</i> <i>Review for Exam #2</i>	Serial Murderers; Mass Murderers; School Violence; Workplace Violence **DISCUSSION #7 Take exam 2 no later than Sunday 11/5/23
11/6	<i>Sexual Assault and Sex Offenses</i>	Sexual Offenses Definitions; Impact on victims; Legislation; Offender characteristics; rape patterns; causes of rape; Sex Offenders; Pedophiles; treatment **DISCUSSION #8
11/13	<i>Juvenile Delinquency</i>	Juvenile Delinquency Developmental Theories; Characteristics of successful treatment programs; prevention and intervention programs **DISCUSSION #9
11/20	<i>Property Crimes</i>	Burglary; vandalism; prostitution; offender characteristics
11/22	*HOMEWORK and PROJECT DUE NO LATER THAN 11/22/23	Submit homework and your project by 11/22/23
11/27	<i>Cybercrime, Economic Crime, and Crimes of Intimidation</i>	Robbery; Stalking; Arson; Crimes of intimidation **DISCUSSION #10
12/4	<i>Wrap up and Review for final exam</i>	
12/11	<i>Final Exam</i>	

*Homework and project/presentation details and instructions will be disseminated in separate documents and on Canvas.