

## PSYO 380B: Abnormal Criminals

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**Office Hours:** Tuesdays 2:00 – 3:00, or by appointment

**Office Location:** ASC 201

**Course Description:** This course examines abnormal criminals. Specifically, we examine a survey of non-traditional types of offenders such as women, children, psychopaths, mass shooters, serial killers, and corporate criminals. We look at types of crimes and criminals that are popularized by media but may not occur as frequently in reality. The course will begin with an overview of the criminal justice systems and forensic psychology. We will then look at typologies of offenders, case studies, sentencing, treatment, and rehabilitation.

**Text:** No required text, but the readings will be made available on Canvas. Please refer to the course schedule for the readings required for each class.

### Course Evaluation Overview Option 1:

- 1) **Midterm Exam (50% of grade).** The midterm exam will cover all material in Part I of the course. The exam will be all multiple choice.
- 2) **Final Exam (50% of grade).** The final exam will cover all material in Part II of the course. The final exam is **NOT** cumulative. The exam will be all multiple choice.

### Course Evaluation Overview Option 2:

- 3) **Midterm Exam (35% of grade).** The midterm exam will cover all material in Part I of the course. The exam will be all multiple choice.
- 4) **Case Study and Risk Assessment (30% of grade).** This assignment can be completed on your own, or in groups up to five students. You may choose your own real or fictitious offender. The project will involve a one-page summary of the offender and their background, and a two-page explanation of your risk assessment findings. If the project is completed in a group, all group members will receive the same mark unless contested by group members.
- 5) **Final Exam (35% of grade).** The final exam will cover all material in Part II of the course. The final exam is **NOT** cumulative. The exam will be all multiple choice.

**\*\*POTENTIAL TO EARN 2% BONUS IN THIS COURSE FOR PARTICIPATING IN SONA\*\***

The exams will consist of approximately 60-75 multiple-choice questions.

**Missed Exam Policy:** Students who miss an exam must provide written documentation (i.e., doctor's note) of the absence to the instructor and must arrange to make up the exam within 1 week of the scheduled write time. Students who do not write the exam within 1 week of the scheduled write time will receive a "0" for the exam.

## CASE STUDY AND RISK ASSESSMENT ASSIGNMENT INFORMATION

This assignment (from grade evaluation option 2) is worth 30% of your final grade in this course. The goal of this written assignment is to help integrate your knowledge of the theories discussed in class with a real-world example through hands on experience. More details will be provided in class, including an example and grading rubric.

For this assignment, you will be asked to research an offender. This assignment is meant to be fun! Choose someone real or fictitious, gather as much information as you can. Convey background information concisely. This information could include relevant demographic information, crime type, explanation of crime, details of the criminal investigation, etc. Then, conduct a mock LS/CMI risk assessment on your chosen offender. In your paper, provide the scoring and several notable categories or items. You should include examples from interviews or case information to justify your ratings in your risk assessment. Depending on the details available for your chosen offender, you may choose to include plan for release, treatment, or risk of future violence and implications of release.

The assignment is due August 8<sup>th</sup>, at 6:00 PM PST, submitted via email. I would recommend waiting until after the risk assessment class on July 24<sup>th</sup>, to start your assignment.

### Requirements for the assignment:

- Overall, **3 page minimum**
- 1 page minimum for background information, 2 pages minimum for risk assessment information (justification of tool, explanation of findings, implications of findings, etc.)
- **5 page maximum**

### GRADING RUBRIC

PERCENTAGE (%)	LETTER GRADE
90-100	A+
85-89	A
80-84	A-
76-79	B+
72-75	B
68-71	B-
64-67	C+
60-63	C
55-59	C-
50-54	D
0-49	F

## RESEARCH ACTIVITY

Students earn Sona credit from participating in research activity. This can be either through direct participation in research through the Sona online volunteer subject pool (Option 1), by completing summaries of primary research articles (Option 2), or by a combination of the two types of activities.

### **Research Participation (Option 1)**

As a participant in one of numerous Psychology Department Subject Pool experiments posted at <http://ubco.sona-systems.com/>, you will obtain 0.5% credit for each 0.5 hour of participation at UBCO. Hence, participation requiring a 1-hour time commitment provides a credit of 1%, 1.5 hours provides a credit of 1.5%, and 2 hours provides a credit of 2.0%, etc.

#### *Important Requirements*

You may participate in more than one experiment in order to accrue credits. A substantial number of both types of studies are typically hosted on Sona; therefore, you will have many different choices.

It is important to sign up for experiments early in the semester in order to increase the odds that a time slot is available. If you wait until late in the semester, all time slots may be taken.

#### *Logging On To The System*

Sona is only open for those students who are registered in a psychology course offering Sona credit. Please only use the request account option if you have never used the Sona system before. If you have used the Sona system before, please use the most recent login information you remember to log in.

#### *Missed Appointments & Penalties*

Missed appointments (i.e., failure to cancel the appointment at least 3 hours prior to the session) will be tracked. The consequence will be that you will not receive credit for participation in the experiment and will lose the credit value of the study from possible marks associated with participation in research.

Please email [psyc.ubco.research@ubc.ca](mailto:psyc.ubco.research@ubc.ca) with any questions or concerns that you may have regarding the Sona system, including unassigned bonus credits. Your professor does NOT have access to this information.

### **Research Summary Assignment (Option 2)**

As an alternative to participating in a Psychology Subject Pool experiment, you may obtain subject pool credit by completing library-writing projects to a satisfactory level. Each library-writing project is worth a total of two credits.

#### *Important Requirements*

1. This project consists of reading and summarizing (in written form) a recent, peer-reviewed, primary research article.
  - A “recent” article has been published within the past 12 months.
  - A “peer reviewed” article is one that has been reviewed by other scholars before it is accepted – for example, it *cannot* be a news item, an article from a popular magazine, a notice, or a letter to the editor.

- A “primary” research article describes an experiment or study where data are collected by the authors. In other words, the article you choose to review **cannot** be a book review, literature review, or summary article.

2. You must choose an article published by one of the following agencies:

- The American Psychological Society - *Psychological Science*, *Current Directions in Psychological Science*, *Psychological Science in the Public Interest*, or *Perspectives on Psychological Science*.
- The American Psychological Association - [www.apa.org/journals/by\\_title.html](http://www.apa.org/journals/by_title.html) has a full listing.
- The Canadian Psychological Association - *Canadian Psychology*, *Canadian Journal of Behavioural Science*, or *Canadian Journal of Experimental Psychology*.
- The Psychonomic Society - *Behavior Research Methods, Cognitive, Affective, & Behavioral Neuroscience*, *Learning & Behavior*, *Memory & Cognition*, *Perception & Psychophysics*, or *Psychonomic Bulletin & Review*.

3. Other Assignment Guidelines

The summary should be about 300-500 words in length. The source must be cited and referenced in accordance with the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association* (6<sup>th</sup> ed.). The review will be graded on a pass – fail basis (2% or 0%). At least **14 days before the end of classes** each term, submit the following to the course instructor:

- the article summary
- a copy of the article
- a cover page that specifies your name, student number, email address, and word count of the summary.
- the course title and number

Submitting the assignment 14 days in advance is necessary to ensure that you have an opportunity to make corrections, if required. If you do not check your email frequently, provide a phone number on the cover page.

### ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

The academic enterprise is founded on honesty, civility, and integrity. As members of this enterprise, all students are expected to know, understand, and follow the codes of conduct regarding academic integrity. At the most basic level, this means submitting only original work done by you and acknowledging all sources of information or ideas and attributing them to others as required. This also means you should not cheat, copy, or mislead others about what is your work. Violations of academic integrity (i.e., misconduct) lead to the breakdown of the academic enterprise, and therefore serious consequences arise and harsh sanctions are imposed. For example, incidences of plagiarism or cheating may result in a mark of zero on the assignment or exam and more serious consequences may apply if the matter is referred to the President’s Advisory Committee on Student Discipline. Careful records are kept in order to monitor and prevent recurrences.

A more detailed description of academic integrity, including the policies and procedures, may be found at: <http://okanagan.students.ubc.ca/calendar/index.cfm?tree=3,54,111,0>.

If you have any questions about how academic integrity applies to this course, please consult with your professor. A current version of the above integrity statement can be found as a pdf in the following link: <http://web.ubc.ca/okanagan/ikbarberschool/facultystaff/forms.html>.

### **DISABILITY SERVICES**

If you require disability-related accommodations to meet the course objectives, please contact the Coordinator of Disability Resources located in the Student Development and Advising area of the student services building. For more information about Disability Resources or academic accommodations, please visit the website at: <http://web.ubc.ca/okanagan/students/disres/welcome.html>

### **EQUITY, HUMAN RIGHTS, DISCRIMINATION AND HARASSMENT**

UBC Okanagan is a place where every student, staff and faculty member should be able to study and work in an environment that is free from human rights-based discrimination and harassment. UBC prohibits discrimination and harassment on the basis of the following grounds: age, ancestry, colour, family status, marital status, physical or mental disability, place of origin, political belief, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation or unrelated criminal conviction.

If you require assistance related to an issue of equity, discrimination or harassment, please contact the Equity Office, your administrative head of unit, and/or your unit's equity representative.

Unit 4 Equity Representative: [Paul Gabias, [paul.gabias@ubc.ca](mailto:paul.gabias@ubc.ca), 250-807-9383]

UBC Okanagan Equity Advisor: ph. 250-807-9291; email [equity.ubco@ubc.ca](mailto:equity.ubco@ubc.ca)

Web: [www.ubc.ca/okanagan/equity](http://www.ubc.ca/okanagan/equity)

Unit Equity Representative: <http://www.ubc.ca/okanagan/equity/programs/equityreps/unitcontacts.html>

<b>DATE</b>	<b>LECTURE TOPIC</b>	<b>ASSIGNED READING ON CONNECT</b>
<b>July 3<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>Course Overview</b>	N/A
July 4 <sup>th</sup>	Introduction to Forensic Psychology: Key Terms in Psychology, Criminal Justice System, Forensic Psychology, Theories of Crime	Fact Sheet: Criminal Profiling
July 6 <sup>th</sup>	Mass Shooters	The tenuous connections involving mass shootings, mental illness, and gun laws
July 10 <sup>th</sup>	NCRMD	Myths about the verdict of NCRMD
July 11 <sup>th</sup>	Female Offenders Part 1	<i>Orange is the New Black</i> : Chapter 4
July 13 <sup>th</sup>	Female Offenders Part 2	<i>Female Serial Killers</i> : Introduction pages 19-30
July 17 <sup>th</sup>	Psychopathy Part 1	Psychopathy and antisocial personality disorder
July 18 <sup>th</sup>	Psychopathy Part 2/ <b>Review</b>	
<b>July 20<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Midterm</b>	N/A
July 24 <sup>th</sup>	Risk Assessment/Rehabilitation	Risk-Need-Responsivity model for offender assessment and rehabilitation
July 25 <sup>th</sup>	Serial Killers Part 1	Serial killers: I. Subtypes, patterns, and motives
July 27 <sup>th</sup>	Serial Killers Part 2	Serial killers: II. Development, dynamics, and forensics
July 31 <sup>st</sup>	White Collar Crime	White-collar crime: A review of recent developments and promising directions for future research <b>AND</b> <i>Snakes in suits</i> , pages 176-199
August 1 <sup>st</sup>	Optional Paper Help	N/A
<b>August 3<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>Class Cancelled</b>	N/A
August 7 <sup>th</sup>	Young Offenders	Juvenile delinquency, welfare, justice and therapeutic interventions: A global perspective
August 8 <sup>th</sup>	Gangs	Criminal business organizations, street gangs, and 'wanna-be' groups: A Vancouver perspective
August 10 <sup>th</sup>	Cults/ <b>Review</b>	N/A

**\*\*FINAL EXAM TO BE HELD DURING FINAL EXAM PERIOD AUGUST 12 - 16\*\***