

**Missouri State University**  
**Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice**  
**CRM 397: The Criminal Mind**  
**August 2016 Intersession**

**Instructor:** Dr. Brett Garland  
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**Office Hours:** I will be in my office regularly throughout the week (especially in the afternoon) and should not be difficult to contact. If desired, you are welcome to set up an appointment to meet with me, or you may simply drop by at your convenience.

**Course Description:**

This course examines how criminals think and how their thinking is used to justify their illegal behavior. The emphasis in this course is examining how criminals cognitively and emotionally process information through a rational choice perspective.

**Course Objectives:**

Upon successfully completing this course, students will be able to:

- (1) Explain how academics view the relationship between human thinking processes and criminal behavior;
- (2) Critically explain strengths and weaknesses in theories which tie criminal behaviors to certain types of thinking and beliefs.

**Required Materials:**

Clarke and Cornish. *Modeling Offenders' Decisions: A Framework for Research and Policy*. Read only pages 161-174.

Walters. *Cognitive Patterns*. Read pages 128-151.

Bouffard et al. *Whither the Beast*. Read pages 159-175.

Copes, Hochstetler, & Forsyth. *Peaceful Warriors: Codes for Violence Among Adult Male Bar Fighters*. 761-784.

Jacobs and Wright. *Stick-up, Street Culture, and Offender Motivation*. Read pages 149-167.

Benson. *Denying the Guilty Mind*. Read 171-178.

## **Course Requirements and Evaluation:**

**Essay Exam:** One essay exam will be given during the one-week session. The essay question will be provided on **Wednesday, August 10th**. Your completed essay exam must be submitted to me by email ([BrettGarland@MissouriState.edu](mailto:BrettGarland@MissouriState.edu)) by **11p.m. on Sunday, August 14th**. The essay question will pertain to the material covered through class readings and it will need to be 4-5 double-spaced pages in length. An important feature of the essay question will be to explain how academic descriptions of criminal thinking support or go against how you believed a criminal might think prior to taking this intercession course. So you will want to ponder that angle as you read through the readings in preparation for the essay exam.

**Critical Reflection Questions [posted on Discussion Board (DB) forums]:** Each student will be required to answer a number of critical thinking questions relevant to class readings. Responses to these questions will need to be submitted through DB forums by **the announced due dates**. These questions will be made available throughout the week.

**Discussion Board Responses:** Students will need to provide 3 short responses to different classmates for each DB forum. The **deadlines** for these responses will be announced as critical reflection questions are posted.

## **Course Grade:**

Your final grade will be calculated as follows:

<u>Evaluation Component</u>	<u>Percentage of Total Grade</u>
Essay Exam	35%
Critical Thinking Responses	35%
Discussion Board Responses	30%

## **Grading Scale:**

A	90-100%
B	80-89
C	70-79
D	60-69
F	below 60

## **Class Jurisdiction:**

The course instructor has original jurisdiction over this class and may deny a student who is unduly disruptive the right to attend the class. A class disruption is defined here as anything that distracts the instructor or other students from the learning experience. Class disruptions can involve (but are not limited to) unnecessarily interrupting the discussion board process; making rude, insensitive, or threatening comments through postings; and using unprofessional language in posts. The course instructor may have a student

administratively withdrawn from a course upon showing of good cause and with the concurrence of the department head. The appeals process in case of such administrative withdrawal shall be as stated in the academic regulations under “Grade Re-evaluation Based on Performance.”

### **Attendance Policy:**

There is no specific attendance policy as this is an online course. However, students should be active in the course throughout its delivery to increase the probability of earning the highest possible grade.

### **Academic Dishonesty:**

Missouri State University is a community of scholars committed to developing educated persons who accept the responsibility to practice personal and academic integrity. You are responsible for knowing and following the university’s student honor code, [Student Academic Integrity Policies and Procedures](#) and also available at the Reserves Desk in Meyer Library. Any student participating in any form of academic dishonesty will be subject to sanctions as described in this policy.

### **Nondiscrimination Policy:**

Missouri State University is an equal opportunity/affirmative action institution, and maintains a grievance procedure available to any person who believes he or she has been discriminated against. At all times, it is your right to address inquiries or concerns about possible discrimination to the Office for Institutional Equity and Compliance, Park Central Office Building, 117 Park Central Square, Suite 111, 417-836-4252. Other types of concerns (i.e., concerns of an academic nature) should be discussed directly with your instructor and can also be brought to the attention of your instructor’s Department Head. Please visit the OED website at [www.missouristate.edu/equity/](http://www.missouristate.edu/equity/).

### **Disability Accommodation:**

To request academic accommodations for a disability, contact the Director of Disability Services, Plaster Student Union, Suite 405, (417) 836-4192 or (417) 836-6792 (TTY), <http://www.missouristate.edu/disability>. Students are required to provide documentation of disability to Disability Services prior to receiving accommodations. Disability Services refers some types of accommodation requests to the Learning Diagnostic Clinic, which also provides diagnostic testing for learning and psychological disabilities. For information about testing, contact the Director of the Learning Diagnostic Clinic, (417) 836-4787.

### **Cell Phone Policy (More applicable to a traditional classroom):**

As a member of the learning community, each student has a responsibility to other students who are members of the community. When cell phones or pagers ring and students respond in class or leave class to respond, it disrupts the class. Therefore, the

Office of the Provost prohibits the use by students of cell phones, pagers, PDAs, or similar communication devices during scheduled classes. All such devices must be turned off or put in a silent (vibrate) mode and ordinarily should not be taken out during class. Given the fact that these same communication devices are an integral part of the University's emergency notification system, an exception to this policy would occur when numerous devices activate simultaneously. When this occurs, students may consult their devices to determine if a university emergency exists. If that is not the case, the devices should be immediately returned to silent mode and put away. Other exceptions to this policy may be granted at the discretion of the instructor.

**Emergency Response Statement:**

Students with disabilities impacting mobility should discuss the approved accommodations for emergency situations and additional options when applicable with the instructor. For more information go to <http://www.missouristate.edu/safetran/51597.htm> and <http://www.missouristate.edu/safetran/erp.htm>.