

CRM 305.900: Serial Killers – An Exploration of a Few Notorious Offenders

2nd Block: Spring 2018

Instructor: Ms. I. Yarckow-Brown, MS
Office: Strong Hall, 220
Office Hours: M/W 8:30 – 10:00 a.m., 12:15 – 1:15 p.m.

Class Dates: March 21 – May 14, 2018
Telephone: (417) 836 - 5502
Email: Yarckow-Brown@missouristate.edu

I. Introduction

This intersession has been designed to educate and enlighten the student about serial killers in general, with highlights on a few of the most notorious serial killers of the United States. Within the intersession meetings and through the assigned article reading, each student will thoroughly learn the definition of serial killing and examine typologies of serial killers. Students will also become familiar with root causes of serial killing along with the patterns of these killers. Upon conclusion of the intersession, it is expected that the student will be able to define the terminology, comprehend and discuss serial killing, and apply the concepts through an exam.

II. Course Objectives

The student will be:

- A. Equipped with the ability to define, describe and discuss serial killing.
- B. Enlightened about those committing serial killings, with inclusion of the type of offenders and comprehension of their killing patterns.
- C. Understanding towards the creation of a serial killer and warning signs of such a development.
- D. Acquainted with the realities of serial killing in the United States, along with contemporary views of criminologists.
- E. Able to demonstrate comprehension and knowledge about the typologies and patterns of serial killing through case scenarios.

III. Specific Course Information

A. Course Format

This course will have an emphasis on provided lectures and lecture materials, textbook reading, discussion board assignments, weekly quizzes, a case study project, and unit exams. Students will be responsible for reading assigned textbook chapters and articles, completing outside investigation on particular topics and contributing to classroom discussions, and taking weekly quizzes and unit examinations. All material presented is intended to engage and inform the student, not to entertain.

B. Course Conduct

Due to the fact that material covered in this course may become very sensitive in nature, it is necessary to have course requirements set forth as a means of constructing a safe learning atmosphere. Every student enrolled in this course is expected to follow the guidelines as described as a means of ensuring the education of and respect for fellow classmates.

- No act of racism, sexism, ageism, any similar “ism,” or harassment will be tolerated. Students who choose to engage in such a negative activity may be dropped from the course by the Instructor.
- Online discussions are designed for educational purposes and therefore should not be used to express harmful or disrespectful remarks about fellow classmates or the topics at hand. Conversations

within the online discussion boards are intended to allow for academic inquiry. Any student who desires to engage in these outlined negative behaviors will be required to have a conversation with the Instructor about appropriate online classroom behavior.

- When a student is involved in a single, severe incident of disrespect or in a manner that seriously violates the above modes of required conduct, or if a student is repeatedly engaged in negative behavior patterns that include, but are not limited to those mentioned, the Instructor does reserve the right to use the Class Disruption policies that are integral to the university. The Instructor will use the Class Disruption policy to determine an appropriate action and consequence to follow.

C. Required Materials

Reading Materials

There is no required textbook for the course.

All reading materials will be posted to the Blackboard site for the course as .pdf documents.

Additional Materials

Lecture Notes

There are several lectures posted to Blackboard for this course. These lectures are posted to Blackboard under the “Course Units” tabs. The lecture notes will complement the majority of the chapters / topics to be covered in the course. Students choosing to not become familiar with these lectures will be at a significant disadvantage when completing any component within the course, including, but not limited to assignments, quizzes and exams.

Articles / Videos

Additional articles for reading and video clips for viewing are posted to Blackboard. These materials are under the “Course Units” tabs. Each student will be required to read through the articles and view the videos during the week indicated in the “Course Calendar” at the end of this Syllabus. Articles and videos will complement the chapters / topics to be covered in the course.

V. Requirements of the Student

A. Student Participation

Each student should feel free to raise questions in class and contribute to the posed questions. There will be lecture material, textbook readings, and articles, or even the course format and expectations, that students may have questions about and such questions should be asked in the classroom or in the “Ask the Instructor” Discussion Board on Blackboard. If a student has a question that is NOT personal in nature, it should be addressed through either of those means and not through e-mail. Remember, every student will benefit from the educational curiosities presented by other classmates.

B. Blackboard

As this course is being presented in the online format, students have been enrolled in the Blackboard site for this course. If a student is not familiar with Blackboard, he / she should seek assistance with learning how Blackboard works *immediately*. Blackboard will be used extensively for this course.

1. “Announcements”

This is typically the page to which the course will open to that includes any recent announcements the Instructor would like to make to the students. Examples include reminders about due dates for assignments and notices that Unit Exams have been posted and / or are opened for the student to complete. It is absolutely imperative that students read all “Announcements” posted in Blackboard, which means that students should be accessing the Blackboard site on a regular basis.

2. “Home Page”

Here, students can see a summary of posted “Announcements,” a calendar of due assignments and exams, etc.

3. “Course Information”

On Blackboard, a student will find important Course Documents, including this Syllabus, assignment directions, etc.

4. “Faculty Information”

This component provides contact information for the Instructor. Students can use the direct link to e-mail the Instructor, discover a phone number for the Instructor, and find the office hours for the Instructor.

5. “Course Components”

The bulk of the material for the curriculum units will be located in “Course Units” and will become available one unit at a time. In “Course Units,” the student will find the lecture note(s), any required article reading for that unit, video clips, Internet links, worksheets, and the Unit Exam. Students should complete what is posted within that unit in the order that it is posted, such as the top or first item first, the second item second, and so on. The Unit Exam is the last component to be completed during that unit and will be at the end of the list in a particular Course Unit.

5. “Discussion Board”

The “Discussion Board” will enable the student to communicate with the other students in the course and the Instructor about questions that he/she has about the course or the material. The “Ask the Instructor” Discussion Board should be the primary means of communication with the Instructor *unless* the student has something of the personal nature to discuss with the Instructor. In the case of a personal message (i.e. emergency situations, exam re-set requests), the student is asked to use the Instructor’s e-mail address (Yarckow-Brown@MissouriState.edu). Note that grades will NOT be discussed through e-mail in order to comply with FERPA. If a student would like to discuss grades with the Instructor, he or she must visit with the Instructor during Office Hours in her office or via telephone during those Office Hours. If the posted Office Hours do not work for the student’s schedule, he / she will need to e-mail the Instructor to set up an appointment for such a discussion.

7. “My Grades” on Blackboard

“My Grades” is an online grade-book that the student may consult in keeping track of his / her progress in the course. Note, however, that the “Total Points” column should not be consulted as a

steadfast true and accurate summation, and instead the student should add his / her points him or herself in order to determine his or her true number of points that have been earned. Additionally, Blackboard's "My Grades" is a means of providing grades to the student and it is not the sole record of grades for the student. *To help the student keep track of his / her grade in the course, there is a grade recording chart near the end of this Syllabus and prior to the "Course Calendar."*

C. Missouri State University Student Email

Students are required to maintain and access their Missouri State Student E-mail account daily during the week (Monday – Friday). This is the email address that should be associated with his / her Blackboard account. In meeting this requirement, students will be most likely to receive news, announcements, updates, important information pertaining to the course, etc. This is a blended course, and email is an essential way for the Instructor to communicate with the students. Students should not block e-mails from the Instructor as it will put him / her at a significant disadvantage in that there will be no receipt of important information, updates, etc.

VI. Missouri State University's Course Policies and Accommodations

A. Student Academic Integrity Policies and Procedures

Missouri State University is a community of scholars committed to developing educated persons who accept the responsibility to practice personal and academic integrity. The students are responsible for knowing and following Missouri State University's student honor code, *Student Academic Integrity Policies and Procedures*, available online and at the Reserves Desk in Meyer Library or through the following website: <http://www.missouristate.edu/provost/academicintegrity.htm>. Any student participating in any form of academic dishonesty will be subject to sanctions as described in this policy.

Copying someone else's work, including, but not limited to the work of other students, authors, researchers and or professors, and/or allowing someone to copy a student's original work are both considered to be violations of the Student Academic Integrity Policy. Credit must be given and afforded to all sources utilized, such as the original authors, in compiling the student's work, in any and all assignments, by way of citations and reference pages. The use of textbooks, cellular telephones, jump sticks, flash drives, notes, study guides, or any other supplemental materials during exams or quizzes is prohibited. Collaborative work between students is not permitted unless expressly directed by the professor.*

**Note that when the Instructor of this course is allowing collaborative work between students, such directions will be expressed in writing. If collaborative work between students occurs when no such directive has been made by the Instructor, in writing, the Instructor will pursue all measures and sanctions afforded to faculty through the Student Academic Integrity Policies and Procedures. Additionally, using or copying one's own work that was produced for a previous assignment in this or any other class is also considered plagiarism and the Academic Integrity Policies will be employed in such a circumstance.*

B. 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 the student's right to address inquiries or concerns about possible discrimination to Jana Estergard, the Equal Opportunity Officer, Siceluff Hall 296, (417) 836-4252. Other types of concerns

(i.e., concerns of an academic nature) should be discussed directly with the Instructor and can also be brought to the attention of the Instructor's Department Head.*

**Note for this course, the Department Head is Dr. Brett Garland, whose office is in the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice, Strong Hall 224, (417) 836-6954.*

C. Disability Accommodations*

If you are a student with a disability and anticipate barriers related to this course, it is important to request accommodations and establish an accommodation plan with the University. Please contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC) (<https://www.missouristate.edu/disability/>), Meyer Library, Suite 111, 417-836-4192, to initiate the process to establish your accommodation plan. The DRC will work with you to establish your accommodation plan, or it may refer you to other appropriate resources based on the nature of your disability. In order to prepare an accommodation plan, the University usually requires that students provide documentation relating to their disability. Please be prepared to provide such documentation if requested. Once a University accommodation plan is established, you may notify the class instructor of approved accommodations. If you wish to utilize your accommodation plan, it is suggested that you do so in a timely manner, preferably within the first two weeks of class. Early notification to the instructor allows for full benefit of the accommodations identified in the plan. Instructors will not receive the accommodation plan until you provide that plan, and are not required to apply accommodations retroactively.

**Students in this course are asked to please inform the Instructor as soon as possible about any accommodations that are being requested and feasible efforts will be made to make sure all reasonable accommodations are made for the student.*

D. The Use of Cellular Telephones in Class

As a member of the learning community, each student has a responsibility to other students who are also 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 Academic Affairs prohibits the use by students of cell phones, pagers, or similar communications during scheduled classes. All such devices must be turned off or put in a silent mode and cannot be taken out during class. At the discretion of the Instructor exceptions to this policy are possible in special circumstances. Sanctions for violations of this policy are determined by the Instructor and may include dismissal from class – see Class Disruption in the Missouri State University Student Honor Code. In testing situations, use of cell phones or similar communication devices may also lead to a charge of academic dishonesty and additional sanctions provided through the Student Academic Integrity Policies and Procedures (see section V., A. in this syllabus).

There are two appeal processes available to students. A sanction for class disruption may be appealed using the appeal process stated in the Class Disruption policy. However, a violation that involves a charge of academic dishonesty must be appealed using the process described in the Student Academic Integrity Policies and Procedures. Students have the right to continue attending class while an appeal is in progress.

E. Dropping and Adding Courses

It is the student's responsibility to understand the University's procedure for dropping and adding classes. (The student may access the university's academic calendar through www.missouristate.edu for all university deadlines.) If a student stops attending this class, but does not follow proper procedures for dropping the class, the student will receive a failing grade* and will also be financially obligated. To drop a class any time after the first week, the student must complete and turn in a drop slip at an authorized registration center. Students do not need to obtain an Instructor's signature on the drop slip to drop the class.

If the student wants to drop this class after the date specified in the University's academic calendar, the student will not automatically receive an "N" grade. "N's" at this point will only be given if the student can provide documented proof of extenuating circumstances. Dropping this late in the semester because you aren't doing well in a course is not an excuse. If the student wishes to withdraw from the University (i.e., drop all of your classes), he / she must contact the Registration Center, Carrington Hall, Room 320, (417) 836-5522.

** To clarify, the Instructor will be left with no choice per University policy to record an "F" grade for this course should the student not properly follow the procedures outlined above with regards to desisting from attending the course without dropping it through the Registration Center in Carrington Hall.*

F. Emergency Response Plan

Students who require assistance during an emergency evacuation must discuss their needs with their Instructor and Disability Services. If the student has emergency medical information to share with the Instructor, or if he / she needs special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, he / she must make an appointment with the Instructor as soon as possible for a discussion about these issues.

For additional information students should contact the Office of Disability Services, 836-4192 (PSU 405), or the Assistant Director of Public Safety and Transportation at 836-6576.

Also, students may find further information on Missouri State University's Emergency Response Plan, at the following web site: <http://www.missouristate.edu/safetran/erp.htm>.

VII. Assignments and Assessments

A. Assignments

1. Reading Assignments

Students are required to read assigned articles and any lecture material and/or articles as posted to Blackboard in the "Course Units" for each topic. The dates for these reading assignments are included in the course calendar at the end of this syllabus. Becoming familiar with the information in the assigned readings best prepares the student for taking and succeeding in the Discussion Board assignments and the Unit Exams.

2. Video Viewing Assignments

Students are required to view videos that are included within the posted links within the “Course Units.” Becoming familiar with the material in these videos best prepares the student for taking and succeeding in the Discussion Board assignments and Unit Exams.

A. Quizzes and Exams

1. Quizzes

There will be four (4) quizzes. Each of these quizzes will be completed online and based on the material covered in lecture notes, as a means of demonstrating understanding of the delivered information, and will be worth up to twenty-five (25) points. Therefore, there are one hundred (100) points available from in-class exercises. No late quizzes will be accepted. All quizzes are due by 5:00 p.m. (central time) on the date in the Course Calendar.

2. Examinations

There will be two components in this exam: Part I will be an essay style observation reflection based on a video to be viewed and is worth up to 50 (fifty) points. Part II will be composed of multiple choice, true / false, matching and fill-in-the-blank questions and is worth up to 150 (one hundred fifty) points. In total, the exams will be worth two hundred (200) points and be based upon material covered in the class, inclusive of class lectures, assignments, reading material, etc.

Each portion of the exam will be timed for 90 (ninety) minutes. This exam must be completed by 5:00 p.m. (central time) on Monday, 05/14/2018.

No late exams will be accepted.

For the video viewing, students will be advised of the video (fictional) that the Part I exam will cover on Wednesday, May 2, 2018 in class. Students may find a way to watch the video on his or her own, or the student may view the video at a time and location to be determined.

C. Grading

A total of three hundred (300) points may be earned throughout the intersession. Points that are earned by the particular student will be divided by three hundred (300) as a means of calculating a percentage in determining the student’s grade. When a percentage is within 1% of the next higher grade, the student’s attendance will be considered. A student has been present for ALL five class sessions, without being tardy or leaving early will receive the next higher grade. The percentage-grade scale will be as follows:

Grade	Lowest Percentage Possible	Minimum Number of Points to Earn
A	90%	270
B	80%	240
C	70%	210
D	60%	180

**For example, if a student earns 280 points out of 300, the student will have earned 93%, which is an “A.” Furthermore, notice that the percentage has been rounded by using Microsoft Excel.*

VII. Course Calendar*

Weekday	Date	Topic	Reading(s)	Video(s)	Assignment
W	3/21/18	Introductions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Introduction to the Class ▪ Introduction to Classmates 	Syllabus, Serial Murder		<i>Extra Credit – Discussion Board</i>
F	3/23/18	A Introduction to Profiling and the Role of the FBI with Serial Killing		Profiling the Criminal Mind (62 min)	<i>Extra Credit – Discussion Board</i>
W	3/28/18	Lecture: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Motives for Murder ▪ Reliability, Validity and Utility of Extant Serial Murder Classifications ▪ Introduction to a Few Serial Killers 			
F	3/30/18	Theodore Bundy, The Lady Killer		3 Ted Bundy Videos (66 min total)	
W	4/02/18	Lecture, Continued: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Motives for Murder ▪ Reliability, Validity and Utility of Extant Serial Murder Classifications ▪ Introduction to a Few Serial Killers 			
F	4/06/18	Insight From the Serial Killers, Themselves	Letters from Serial Killers		Quiz #1 (online)
W	4/11/18	Lecture: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Thematic Facet Model of Serial Killing ▪ Research of Serial Killers 			
F	4/13/18	Richard Ramirez, The Night Stalker	Richard Ramirez	2 Richard Ramirez Videos (49 min total)	
W	4/18/18	Jeffrey Dahmer, The Milwaukee Cannibal		Jeffrey Dahmer – Documentary (42 min)	
F	4/20/18	Jeffrey Dahmer, The Milwaukee Cannibal, Continued		“CNN: Jeffrey Dahmer’s Parents live on Larry King” (42 min)	
W	4/25/18	Lecture, Continued: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Thematic Facet Model of Serial Killing ▪ Research of Serial Killers 			

F	4/27/18	Serial Killers and Victims	Serial Killers and Their Victims		Quiz #2 (online)
W	5/02/18	Lecture: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Descriptive Statistics of Serial Murder ▪ Consistencies in Serial Murder Crime Scenes 			
F	5/04/18	John Wayne Gacy, The Killer Clown	Gacy Death Toll	2 John Wayne Gacy videos (46 min total)	Quiz #3 (online)
W	5/09/18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Group Work (In Class) ▪ Course Review 			Quiz #4 (in class)
F	5/11/18	<i>No Class – Study Day</i>			
M	5/14/18	Course Conclusion			Exams I & II (online)

*Class **only** meets in Strong 003 on the days that are shaded in gray above. In total, there are 6 class sessions.

This syllabus is tentative and may change at the instructor's discretion as needed throughout the intersession. If a change is to be made, the students will be advised of said changes via verbal communication in the classroom setting and through the communications component of Blackboard.