

PSY552 Criminogenic Psychopathology

(3 credit hours)

Course Syllabus

Course Description

The course explores the link between psychopathology and criminal behavior. Students in the class will review research on the relationship between psychological disorders and criminal violence. The class explores the various historical trends of forensic views on the role of mental illness on interpersonal and criminal violence.

Course Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, you will be able to:

1. Identify and explain the major psychological theoretical perspectives on the origins of aggression and criminal behavior.
2. Distinguish between different types of offenders and criminal behavior.
3. Apply a variety of psychological explanations as to why and in what contexts criminal behavior occurs.
4. Explain mental disorders that are likely to occur with offender populations.
5. Analyze the situations and needs of offenders with mental disorders.

Prerequisites/Corequisites

PSY512

Required Textbook(s) and Resources

Bartol, C. & Bartol, A. (2021). *Criminal behavior: A psychological approach (12th edition)*. NY: PrenticeHall/Pearson.

Be sure to also review the weekly **Explore** sections for additional library or web resources. For access to databases, research help, and writing tips, visit the [Tiffin University Library](#).

Time Commitment

Effective time management is possibly the single most critical element to your academic success. To do well in this online class you should plan your time wisely to maximize your learning through the completion of readings, discussions, and assignments. Because of our accelerated, seven-week term, TU online courses are designed with the expectation that you dedicate a little over **six (6)** hours per credit hour to course activities and preparation **each week**. For example, for successful completion of a three-credit, seven-week online course you should reserve roughly **twenty (20) hours per week**.

To help plan your time and keep on track toward successful course completion, note the distinctive rhythm of assignment due dates:

1. All times assume Eastern Time (GMT-4).
2. Weeks begin at 12:00 a.m. ET on Monday and end at 11:55 p.m. ET on Sunday.
3. Unless otherwise noted, initial assignments or discussion posts are due by **11:55 p.m. ET on Wednesdays**.
4. Additional assignments or follow-up discussion posts are due by **11:55 p.m. ET on Saturdays, and**
5. Major assignments and reflections are typically due by **11:55 p.m. ET on Sundays**. **Please note week 7 the final paper assignment is due by Thursday.**

Learning Activities

1. **Discussions:** Each week we explore the course content through an engaging discussion. We share initial posts and responses based on the weekly readings, personal experiences, and core beliefs. These discussions offer us ample opportunity to engage with each other, share opinions and our research on course-specific topics.
2. **Assignments & Case Analysis Research:** Brief weekly papers set the stage for the comprehensive case analysis research project in week six. Each week we review and research topics presented in the text. These concepts are then supported through an exploration of current research and relevant supplemental videos. The case analysis research project allows us to dissect and apply various elements of criminogenic psychopathology to a specific individual and situation. Our findings are informed by current scientific research, existing legal statutes, and diagnostic standards.
3. **Final Synthesis Paper:** In this final assignment, we explore all course content and material and apply it for real world application, examining how the material relates to careers in the field.

Grading

The chart below identifies the individual contributions from each type of activity, per week.

Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5	Week 6	Week 7	Total
Discussions Activity 1.1 (n/a) Activity 1.2 (25)	Discussions Activity 2.1 (25)	Discussions Activity 3.1 (25)	Discussions Activity 4.1 (25)	Discussions Activity 5.1 (25)	Discussions Activity 6.1 (25)	Discussions Activity 7.1 (25)	175
Assignments Activity 1.3 (100)	Assignments Activity 2.2 (100)	Assignments Activity 3.2 (100)	Assignments Activity 4.2 (100)	Assignments Activity 5.2 (100)	Assignments Activity 6.2 (225)	Assignments Activity 7.2 (100)	825
125	125	125	125	125	250	125	1000

Grading Scale

A: 90-100% | B: 80-89% | C: 70-79% | F: <69%

Course Schedule and Weekly Checklist

Week 1 - Introduction to Criminal Behavior, Origins & Developmental Risk Factors

- MON - Activity 1.1: Discussion - Look at Me! - Initial Post
- WED - Activity 1.2: Discussion - Attachment Theory - Initial Post
- SAT - Activity 1.1: Discussion - Look at Me! - Secondary Responses
- SAT - Activity 1.2: Discussion - Attachment Theory - Secondary Responses
- SUN - Activity 1.3: Paper - Exploring Criminology

Week 2 - Origins of Criminal behavior, Biological, Learning & Situational Factors

- WED - Activity 2.1: Discussion - Moral Disengagement - Initial Post
- SAT - Activity 2.1: Discussion - Moral Disengagement - Secondary Responses
- SUN - Activity 2.2: Paper – Separating Nature from Nurture

Week 3 - Human Aggression, Violence & Juvenile Delinquency

- ❑ WED - Activity 3.1: Discussion - Gender & Aggression - Initial Post
- ❑ SAT - Activity 3.1: Discussion - Gender & Aggression - Secondary Responses
- ❑ SUN - Activity 3.2: Paper - Delinquency Prevention

Week 4 - Psychopathy & Mental Disorders

- ❑ WED - Activity 4.1: Discussion - Characteristics of the Criminal Psychopath - Initial Post
- ❑ SAT - Activity 4.1: Discussion - Characteristics of the Criminal Psychopath - Secondary Responses
- ❑ SUN - Activity 4.2: Paper - Mental Disorders & Violence

Week 5 - Types of Violence & Terrorism

- ❑ WED - Activity 5.1: Discussion - Psychological Investigation - Initial Post
- ❑ SAT - Activity 5.1: Discussion - Psychological Investigation - Secondary Responses
- ❑ SUN - Activity 5.2: Paper - Types of Violence

Week 6 - Sexual Assault & Sexual Abuse of Children

- ❑ WED - Activity 6.1: Discussion - Rape Myths - Initial Post
- ❑ SAT - Activity 6.1: Discussion - Rape Myths - Secondary Responses
- ❑ SUN - Activity 6.2: Paper - Case Study Analysis Research

Week 7 - Theft, White Collar Crime & Crimes of Intimidation

- ❑ WED - Activity 7.1: Discussion - Most Significant Category of Crime - Initial Post
- ❑ SAT - Activity 7.1: Discussion - Most Significant Category of Crime - Secondary Responses
- ❑ SUN - Activity 7.2: Paper - Final Synthesis Paper

Tips for Success

Online learning requires self-discipline and self-direction. As seekers of the truth, we should be willing to challenge one another's academic work in a spirit of respectful comradery. Your course is a place for you to grow as you benefit from the expertise,

experience, and diverse perspectives of your instructor and peers. Constructive feedback will challenge you to stretch your own thinking, thereby expanding your knowledge and understanding.

To get the most out of your learning experience, you should actively engage (participate) in **ALL** course activities. Course elements are arranged chronologically. To complete a week, simply work your way "down the page" through all of the course materials and activities.

For More Information:

Be sure to review the [Support, Policies, and Procedures](#) addendum.