

PSY 205, Criminology and Psychopathology
Department of Communication and Media Studies, Fall 2018]

I. COURSE INFORMATION

Instructor: Guido Travaini

Instructor's e-mail: gtravaini@fus.edu, travaini.guido@gmail.com

Office hours: to be defined

Class location: Lowerre Academic Center/3

Class meeting times: Wed 10.00 – 12-45

Please contact me for any course related matters. I encourage the students to speak to me directly after a lecture to set up an appointment.

II. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Criminology is a discipline which deals with crimes and their authors in a multi-disciplinary perspective through psychology, medicine, law and sociology.

It is in the union of these competences that criminology finds its uniqueness.

Forensic psychopathology studies mental illness and its manifestations which can turn out in crimes and violent behaviour.

After introducing the theoretical framework of criminology and forensic psychopathology the course will focus on the analysis of single types of crimes, in particular on homicide, sexual crimes and abuse within the family.

The course will include lectures as well as the analysis of criminal cases.

III. RATIONALE

This course aims to allow students to become familiar with the basic concepts of clinical criminology and forensic psychopathology and which will be useful in their future professional activities.

IV. CLASS CONDUCT

The topics that will be dealt with will favor students' discussion. Alongside the criminological and psychopathological aspects, ethical issues will also be discussed.

Students are expected to listen to and interact with an open minded approach regarding one another's differences. A correct discussion and a polite debate will be very much appreciated.

V. SPECIFIC LEARNING OUTCOMES

The goals of this course are the following:

1. Identify and understand the major theories, principles, and research findings in the field of criminology and forensic psychopathology

2. Critically evaluate criminological theories and research.
3. Apply social criminological theories and principles to real cases
4. Write clearly and logically, being able to explain one's position on a variety of criminological issues in discussion forums. Respond to peers' written comments appropriately.

VI. SPECIFIC

Upon successful completion of this course, students should be able to:

1. Method: Demonstrate an understanding of the basic scientific method underlying criminological and psychopathology theories
2. Research: Demonstrate a general knowledge of the main theories and current findings within each of the research topics covered during the course.
3. Application: Recognize and appreciate how fundamental theories and experimental results apply to everyday situations.

VII. REQUIRED TEXTS AND MATERIALS

- Textbook:
- Power Point Presentations
- Specific literature about different topics will be handed out in class

VIII. ASSESSMENT DETAILS

Regular reading and review of information provided are essential for learning; therefore, two exams are planned for this course. Each exam will be based on multiple choice questions / open questions and will be worth 50 points. The key to succeed in these exams is to keep up with the reading, take notes and study. To help keep you stay on track and provide interim feedback on your understanding of specific topics, there will be one quiz worth 10 points.

Midterm Exam 25%

Final Exam 25%

Quiz 10%

Attendance and class participation 40%

XIX. GRADING POLICIES AND EXPECTATIONS

A through F scale (plus/minus when applicable)

X. HOW TO DO WELL IN THIS COURSE (POLICIES / REQUIREMENTS)

Attendance will be taken at the beginning of every class.

The course attendance must be of minimum 80% of the overall lessons.

XI. ACADEMIC INTEGRITY: STATEMENT ON CHEATING AND PLAGIARISM

It is your responsibility to become familiar with Franklin's Statement on Cheating and Plagiarism in the Academic Catalog (p. 199) [but to summarize here:](#)

- You are to do your own work. Behaviors such as copying the work of others, using third-party services, or any other circumvention of doing your own work are dishonest, reflect negatively on yourself, and are not acceptable in this class or at this institution.

- For papers and presentations, this includes proper use of references and citations. Copying text without the use of quotations or paraphrasing the ideas of others without proper citations are both examples of plagiarism and thus unacceptable.
- For testing situations, this includes the use of notes, cell phones, talking to others, or copying off of the exam of others.

The first case of academic dishonesty will result in an automatic failing grade in the course and a report to the Dean. The second case will result in expulsion from the university.

XII. RESOURCES AVAILABLE

WLC, Learning Disabilities, Information Technology, Library, USI, etc.

XIII. COURSE SCHEDULE

Indicative Course Schedule

Class of:	Topic Instructor
August 27	Course presentation Guido Travaini
September 5	Criminology and Psychopathology Guido Travaini
September 12	Criminological theories Guido Travaini
September 18	Criminological theories Guido Travaini – Carolina Viggiani
September 26	Mental illness and crime Cristina Colombo
October 3	Mental illness and crime Cristina Colombo
October 10	Case Study Guido Travaini - Carolina Viggiani
October 17	Mid- term exam Guido Travaini
October 24	Violent crimes and homicides Guido Travaini
October 31	Crimes against women Guido Travaini

November 7	Addictions and Mental Illness Cristina Colombo
November 14	Forensic Science Michelangelo Casali
November 21	Quiz
November 28	Mass murder and Serial Killer Guido Travaini
December 5	Case study Guido Travaini
December 12	Final exam in class

XIV. BIBLIOGRAPHY

To be defined