

*Course Outline*  
*Psychology of Criminal Behavior FP6015*

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**Argosy University – SF Bay Area Campus**  
**Masters in Forensic Psychology Program**  
**Course Outline**

**Psychology of Criminal Behavior – FP6015 OLA**  
**On-Line Course – Fall II 2006**

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**Course Description:**

An introduction to the psychology of criminal behavior of several criminal types which have historically constituted the majority of criminal offenders that psychologists deal with in the criminal justice and mental health environments. Students will gain a more in-depth understanding of the behavior of gang members, drug addicts, women offenders, sexual predators and children and adolescents in the juvenile justice system. This course will also explore how issues of race and ethnicity play a role in criminal behavior

**Course Objectives:**

1. Understand and articulate the cause and effect factors that cause at-risk adolescents and adults to gravitate and assimilate into violent street and prison gangs, and women offenders.
2. Understand and articulate psychological and physiological causes of drug influence, addiction and the challenges of rehabilitation and sobriety.
3. Understand and become familiar with the familial, social and personal factors of crime and aggression.
4. To gain knowledge of the role race and ethnicity plays in criminal behavior.
5. Ability to prepare a criminal psychological profile sufficient to be able to identify a potential criminal behavior type.

**Course Requirements & Grading Policy:**

Students are encouraged to participate actively in the online process. Lack of participation will be reflected in your grade.

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**Course Requirements & Grading Policy, Continued:**

All students' grades are based upon the same criteria. Grades will be formulated

based upon total points from the three 10 page papers, online discussions, extra credit points and participation. This class is not graded on a "curve." Points/credits are listed below:

Class participation: 10% Grades by Percentage % \*  
First Paper ..... 30% 150 points  
Midterm ..... 30% 150 points  
Final ..... 30% 150p points  
100 – 90% ..... A  
89 – 80% ..... B  
79 - 70% ..... C

\* Class is not graded on a "curve." All grades according to total points accrued.

### **Evaluation Criteria**

Evaluations of papers will be based on demonstrated mastery of the readings, on critical reflection that shows originality and depth, on skill in integration of course objectives, and on clarity and brevity of presentation. We like to see specific quotations from the text, with page citations. Papers longer than the assigned length will be returned for editing.

Papers should be written in accordance with APA style. Two hard copies of each paper should be sent to your instructor. Or papers may be submitted by email. Be certain to include a title page with identifying information, including phone number(s) and E-mail address.

If you would like to initiate your own readings or papers, feel free to negotiate an assignment proposal with your instructor **via E-mail**. A short outline, listing your topics and readings, can serve as an alternative learning segment for any given segment of the course.

### **Required Texts and Readings:**

1. *Inside the Criminal Mind*, Stanton Samenow  
ISBN: #0812910826 New: \$17.00 Used: \$8.00
2. *Trapped between Innocence and Death: A Guide to Being Free from Gang Life*, John Saroyan, Ed.D., Paul Cosores  
ISBN #0974080004 New: \$14.95 Used: \$14.95
3. *An Urban Ethnography of Latino Street Gangs in Los Angeles and Ventura Counties* - <http://www.csun.edu/~hcchs006/3.html>
4. *Comparing the Behavior of Youth Gangs and At Risk Youth*  
<http://www.ncjrs.org/pdffiles/172852.pdf>
5. *Violence and Mental Disorder*, Monahan and Steadman  
ISBN #0-226-53405-7 New: \$17.00 Used: Not Listed
6. *Violent Offenders: Appraising and Managing Risk*, Quinsley, Harris, Rice, Cormier ISBN 1-55798-495-6
7. *The Social Psychology of Drug Abuse*, Sussman, Ames

**Non-Required Texts: Recommended Reading** (Background Information Only)

1. *Drugs and the Law: Detection, Recognition & Investigation*, Gary Miller

ISBN #0-87526-398-4 New: \$23.64 Used: \$9.88

3. *Walking Time Bombs*, Joel Norris

ISBN #0-553-28996-9 New: \$4.95 Used: Not Listed (Barnes & Noble Books)

4. *Alone with the Devil: Famous cases of A Courtroom Psychiatrist*, Ron Markman, MD

ISBN #0-553-28520-3 New: \$5.99 Used: Not Listed (Barnes & Noble Books)

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**Paper Guidelines:**

1. Length: not less than 10 pages
2. Style: All papers must be written according to American Psychological style and format. Papers should be submitted via email to the instructor. Paper must be received by the instructor (mail/email) by the due date.
3. Paper must include a table of contents (where necessary) and an annotated bibliography with at least five references: books, articles, video media, and interviews
4. Papers should have a separate cover sheet with title, course, instructor, author and course date.
5. Term Paper Subjects can be about anything directly related to the topics and areas of psychology covered in class. Please have your topic approved by the instructor prior to starting the paper.

**Instructor Contact**

**Office Phone:** (415) 515-4281 (There is voice mail for this line.)

**Internet: Email Address:** lesleighf@yahoo.com

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**Course Schedule**  
**Class Meetings Topics Assignments**  
**& Dates**

**Part One: The Criminal Mind and Gang Life**

In this segment we will explore through Samenow's work the development of the Criminal Mind along with At Risk Youth, Psychological, Socio-Criminal and Familial causes of Gang Involvement. Along with the required reading you will be expected to cite at least 5 outside references in your paper.

**Assignment One** - Using the readings from this section discuss the socio-criminal, psychological and familial issues involved in both the development of the criminal mind, at-risk youth and gang membership. Also discuss the rehabilitation potential and challenges of working with both the gang member and individual with the criminal mind.

**Midterm – the midterm will cover the first 4 readings**

**Part Two: Violence, Men and Women Who Offend, and the Role of Substances**

In this section we will explore the types of offenders, the psychodynamics of sexual assault, the role of violence in the world of offenders along with the dynamics of addiction and the role it plays in the life of an offender. We will also explore the similarities and differences between male and female offenders, along with the role race and class plays in the development of criminal behavior.

**Class Weekly Topics & Assignments**

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|-----------------------|---|
| <b>Week 1</b>         | Course Introduction<br>Reading: Inside the Criminal Mind  |
| <b>Week 2 &amp; 3</b> | Inside the Criminal Mind and Street Gangs<br>Reading: Trapped Between Innocence and Death<br>An Urban Ethnography<br>Topics: Socio-Criminal and Familial Causes, Street Gang Dynamics |
| <b>Week 4</b>         | Street Gangs<br>Reading: An Urban Ethnography<br>Comparing the Behavior of Youth Gangs  |
| <b>Week 5</b>         | Rehabilitation Potential & Challenges Quinsley, Ch. 2,3,4<br>Dynamics of Addiction  |

Reading: The Social Psychology of Drug Abuse

### **MIDTERM EXAMINATION**

**Week 6** Sexual Predators: Offender Types; Psychodynamics of Sexual Assault; Prediction for Violence, Relapse  
Reading: Groth, Ch.1 thru 4, Quinsley, Ch. 2,5,7,8

**Week 7** Clinical Evaluation of Offenders , Potential for Violence  
Reading: Groth,

### **FINAL EXAMINATION**