



Course Name: Psychology of Criminal Behavior

Course Number: PSY E217

Credits: 3

Catalog description: An exploration of the psychological factors in criminal and delinquent behaviors of individuals. Topics include biological factors, personality and crime, psychodynamic theories, frustration-aggression theory, psychopathic offenders, mental disorders, domestic violence, murder, serial offenders, terrorism and treatment concerns.

Prerequisite, Corequisite, or Parallel: PSY 111 or Permission of the Instructor

General Education Competencies Satisfied:

HCC General Education Requirement Designated Competency Attribute Code(s):

None

Additional CSCU General Education Requirements for CSCU Transfer Degree Programs:

None

Embedded Competency(ies):

None

Discipline-Specific Attribute Code(s):

BHEL Behavioral Science elective

Course objectives:

General Education Goals and Outcomes:

None

Course Specific Objectives:

1. Demonstrate knowledge of the field of criminal psychology as well as theories and practices associated with its implementation;



2. Demonstrate an understanding of the social, organization, political influences on criminal behavior;
3. Demonstrate how cultural differences impact criminal behavior;
4. Demonstrate an understanding of the numerous theories and research methods used to explain criminal behavior;
5. Understand the importance of ethical decision making in the application of theories of criminal behavior;
6. Demonstrate an understanding of how diversity across socio-economic groups and cultures impact the nature of criminal behavior;
7. Demonstrate how theories and methods of criminal psychology are applied to law enforcement, judicial systems, rehabilitation in the community and penal institutions.

Course Content:

1. Overview of the field of criminal psychology and its relationship to the field of general human psychology;
2. Theories of crime;
3. Defining and Measuring Crime; Research methods;
4. Origins of criminal behavior developmental risk factors
5. Origins of criminal behavior: biological factors;
6. Origins of criminal behavior: learning and situational risk factors
7. Human aggression and violence
8. Juvenile crime and delinquency;
9. Criminal psychopathy
10. Crime and mental disorders;
11. Homicide, assault and family violence;
12. Multiple murder, school violence, workplace violence
13. Psychology of terrorism;
14. Sexual assault of adults, children and youth;
15. Crimes of intimidation and economic violence;
16. Crimes associated with substance abuse.

Date of Last Revision: 03/2017