COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will examine current theories and empirical research pertaining to crime and criminal behavior and its causes, methods of prevention, systems of punishment, and rehabilitation. The course will also allow the student to explore various factors in crime causation to include an examination of the serial murder phenomenon.

PREREQUISITES

None

COURSE OBJECTIVES and STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

Through the duration and upon conclusion of this course, the student should:

1. Gain an awareness of what defines the study of “Criminology”, various theories
2. Gain an awareness of crime causation and criminal behaviors
3. Gain an awareness of methods to address crime causation, criminal behavior and crime prevention
4. Gain an awareness of various categories of crimes as related to criminal behavior

TEXTBOOK OR COURSE MATERIAL INFORMATION


LAB REQUIREMENT: None

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Brazosport College is committed to providing equal education opportunities to every student. Brazosport College offers services for individuals with special needs and capabilities including counseling, tutoring, equipment, and software to assist students with special needs. Please contact the Special Populations Counselor, 979.230.3236, for further information.
ACADEMIC HONESTY

Brazosport College assumes that students eligible to perform on the college level are familiar with the ordinary rules governing proper conduct including academic honesty. The principle of academic honesty is that all work presented by you is yours alone. Academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, and collusion shall be treated appropriately. Please refer to the Brazosport College Student Guide for more information. This is available online at http://www.brazosport.edu. Click on the CATALOGS AND SCHEDULES link under STUDENTS.

Academic dishonesty violates both the policies of this course and the Student Code of Conduct. In this class, any occurrence of academic dishonesty will be referred to the Dean of Student Services for prompt adjudication, and will, at a minimum, result in grades of ZERO “0” on the affected assignments in this course. Sanctions may be imposed beyond your grade in this course by the Dean of Student Services.

ATTENDANCE AND WITHDRAWAL POLICIES

Accessing the course online:

1. Log on to Brazosport College website at www.brazosport.edu.
2. Click the link that says “Desire 2 Learn”
3. Enter your log-on credentials
   Select the appropriate course from the menu

Student Attendance and Class Participation

Typically, all students are expected to attend class regularly and participate in class discussions. This online environment is no different. You are expected to manage your time such that you are able to participate in the required course discussions with your instructor and classmates. Exams will have prescribed dates of when they will become available and when they will “close.” Arrangements must be made in advance if the student will be unable to complete any assignment for which there is a “window” for completion!

Therefore, the “online” week will run as follows:

Day 1 = Wednesday 12:00 am (This is actually midnight Tuesday Night!)
Day 2 = Thursday
Day 3 = Friday
Day 4 = Saturday
Day 5 = Sunday
Day 6 = Monday
Day 7 = Tuesday 11:59 pm

Tips for online success and for not getting behind in your online course:

1. Check in to your online course EVERY DAY
2. New discussion posts or announcements may be available
3. DO NOT plagiarize and do not “cut and paste” your discussion postings from any other source than yourself
4. Contact me immediately with any questions or concerns
5. Check your student email DAILY in case there are notifications from me

Plan ahead for assignments that have deadlines such as exams

IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE STUDENT TO WITHDRAW FROM CLASS IF THE STUDENT IS UNABLE TO FULFILL COURSE OBLIGATIONS OR REQUIREMENTS. INSTRUCTOR WILL NOT WITHDRAW STUDENTS! STUDENTS WHO ABANDON CLASS AND WHO DO NOT WITHDRAW WILL RECEIVE THE APPROPRIATE LETTER GRADE FOR THE COURSE BASED ON THE STUDENT’S PROGRESS TO DATE!

Last day to withdraw for Spring 2014 is March 27, 2014

Grades due by May 7, 2014 @ 3 pm

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING POLICY

Course grade will be determined by the student’s performance on the following objectives:

Exam 1 20%
Exam 2 20%
Exam 3 20%
Weekly Discussions 20%
Project Assignment 20%

A= 90-100%
B= 80-89%
C= 70-79%
D= 60-69%
F= 59% and Below

TESTING

The exams will cover the course material instructed up to that point and students will be notified in advance of the exact date and content of the exam.

Exam reviews may be available before the actual exam date. These dates will also be announced in advance and again, it is in the student’s best academic interest to participate in this online class regularly.

LATE ASSIGNMENTS AND MAKE-UP POLICY

Any makeup assignments, exams, homework, etc. shall require the student to consult with and receive approval from the instructor before any credit may be awarded.
It is imperative that we, as a class, stay on track according to the course schedule. To fall behind is ill advised and it complicates the entire online learning process. As a result, there will be no late assignment submissions allowed during this course.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

Students are expected to fully participate in this course. The following criteria are intended to assist you in being successful in this course:

a. understand the syllabus requirements
b. use appropriate time management skills
c. communicate with the instructor
d. complete course work on time, and
e. Utilize online components (such as Desire2Learn) as required.

In addition, students are expected to behave in a manner consistent with the adult environment that they are in. The online learning environment requires students to post messages and interact with each other. A polite, respectful tone in your postings and messages will be expected. In addition, messages posted and exchanged in the classroom shall be made in plain English without symbols or text-message type abbreviations. The following link may provide helpful information concerning “Netiquette.”

http://www.albion.com/netiquette/corerules.html

HOMEWORK:

Each week of course instruction, students will be required to participate in weekly discussions on topics provided by the instructor.

Weekly attendance and participation in discussion questions will be counted as 20% toward a student’s overall grade. The instructor will post various topics for class discussion in the discussion forum each week.

Each student will be required to respond to each topic with one initial post to the topic and two responses to other students’ postings. Therefore, each topic posted by the instructor will require a total of 3 responses from each student. I will typically post 1 to 3 topics per week.

It is not necessary for each student to reply to EVERY post that comes in as a discussion question answer from another student!

The intent is that if students engage each other during the discussion, the discussion will become more fruitful and longer lasting.
A student’s initial response to the discussion question shall be no less than **150 words** to receive full credit.

Participation responses to other students’ postings shall be such that something of substance is added to the discussion. A reply consisting of “I agree” or “Good point” **does not** add substance to the discussion! **Several sentences** or more worth of reply to another student’s posting will be considered acceptable.

Your initial post(s) to the discussion question(s) will be worth one half of your weekly discussion/participation points.

Your additional responses to student and instructor posts will account for the remaining one half of your weekly discussion/participation points.

**Discussions will open at 12:01 am on Day 1 of each week.**

**Discussions will close at 11:59 pm on Day 7 of each week so that the class may move on to another discussion topic.**

**Upon conclusion of the week’s discussion, I will “lock” the discussion topic.**

**There are no late submissions allowed for your discussion responses!**

In total, homework assessments will account for **20%** of the student’s overall course grade.

**PROJECTS, ASSIGNMENTS, PORTFOLIOS, SERVICE LEARNING, INTERNSHIPS, ETC.**

During this course, students will construct a presentation assignment to be submitted such that it may be shared with the rest of the online class. Exact details of the project assignment are posted in the online course content. This assignment shall be worth **20%** of the student’s overall grade.

**OTHER STUDENT SERVICES INFORMATION**

Information about the Library is available at [http://www.brazosport.edu/library](http://www.brazosport.edu/library) or by calling 979.230.3310.

For assistance with online courses, an open computer lab, online and make-up testing, audio/visual services, and study skills, visit Learning Services next to the Library, call 979.230.3253, or visit [http://www.brazosport.edu/learningservices](http://www.brazosport.edu/learningservices).

For drop-in math tutoring, the writing center, supplemental instruction and other tutoring including e-tutoring, visit the Student Success Center, call 979.230.3527, or visit [http://www.brazosport.edu/studentsuccesscenter](http://www.brazosport.edu/studentsuccesscenter).

The Student Services provides assistance in the following:
Counseling and Advising 979.230.3040  
Financial Aid 979.230.3294  
Student Life 979.230.3355

To reach the Information Technology Department for computer, email, or other technical assistance call the Helpdesk at 979.230.3266.

**Instructor Accessibility:**

I will check in to this course daily (M-F) to monitor your progress, answer emails, etc. Please allow me at least 24 hours to respond to emails and voicemails. Some of you are attending my other “face to face” classes, and I am certainly accessible to you there as well.