

COURSE SYLLABUS
Serial Killers
ANSO/PSYC2000.03 Summer/Interim - 2008

Instructor: Professor Tierney
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Class Time: TWR 9:00am-1:00pm (3 weeks)
Class Location: WEBH 323
Office Hours: by appointment
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Required Reading:

Egger, Steven A.

2002 Killers Among Us: An Examination of Serial Murder and Its Investigation. (2nd Edition).
Upper Saddle River, New Jersey: Prentice Hall. ISBN 0-13-017915-9

Fox, James Alan and Jack Levin

2005 Extreme Killing: Understanding Serial and Mass Murder. Thousand Oaks: Sage
Publications. ISBN 0-7619-8857-2

*It is your responsibility to purchase these books in time to be prepared for the second day of class. If you are not able to acquire the books on the first day of class, you will not be prepared to present on the second day...you might consider dropping this class for another summer class. In a three week class, there is no time for anything but meeting the requirements. I understand that sometimes there are issues which prevent students from meeting class requirements; however, in a class of such short duration, there is no time to make special considerations for students not able to keep up. If for any reason, you look at this syllabus and see that you will not be able to meet assignments as posted, you should drop the class. There are several other courses being offered this summer, which might be more appropriate for you.

***There is a considerable amount of reading in a very short period of time (approximately 250 pages a week) in this Interim class. If you are not able to set aside time to read the required material, prepare for assignments and study for exams, you might consider taking another class this summer. The first reading assignment is DUE on the second day of class. If you are not able to purchase the books on the first day of class, you will not be prepared to present reading material...you might want to consider taking another class. There are no exceptions to being prepared for the assignments.**

Student Learning Objectives:

Students should have an understanding of:

1. Fact & fiction revolving around the issue of serial killing.
2. Murder classifications and victim typologies.
3. Common characteristics of Serial Killers and their victims.
4. Problems inherent in the investigation of this phenomenon.
5. International scope of this phenomenon.
6. Theoretical perspectives and research utilized in explaining Serial killings.

Class Goals:

(Student is expected to display competence in the following areas.)

- 1) Writing Skills: critique/ essay.
- 2) Critical Thinking: analysis/interpretation utilizing theory.

- 3) Integration of material: MLA citation style.
- 4) Primary& Secondary research skills: research an issue/problem using different methods.
- 5) Communication skills: ability to present assigned materials and lead class discussions.

Class Requirements:

1. Position paper (3-5 pages)

This paper has several purposes; the first is to take a position on some issue related to course materials. The second is to supply strong evidence to support your position (You must have a thesis statement in the introduction (a strong position/argument) with evidence to support your thesis in the body of the paper. The third is to verify all your evidence with references/citations (at least 2 different citations per page, which means that you would have 10 different references on the References Cited page (for a five page paper) using MLA style ... citations make overt connections to textual materials and outside sources). Please include a distinct conclusion, which restates your position and defines why and how you have proved your thesis. The fourth is to tell us something that we do not know from reading the texts. The fifth is to illustrate that you have mastered some information regarding some aspect of the course materials. Last but not least, you should illustrate that you know how to write an essay according to established writing norms (if you don't know how to do this, please go to the writing center for instructions, or to pick up some handouts on proper form, you will be graded on this aspect of the assignment as well as content). –Staple the paper (no paper clips please). No plastic folders. If you turn in a late paper, you will lose at least one grade.

2. Power Point Presentation You may choose to present a case study, or some issue related to material in the texts. Subject matter should be cleared by me prior to the presentation, unless you want to run the risk of having an inappropriate topic/issue. Presentations are evaluated on both content and communication style (visual as well as verbal). There must be a title and thesis statement in a prominent position. The written and visual material should support the thesis. Topic of the presentation must be different from the position paper.

3. One exam. If you do not show up for class and miss the final exam, you will be given an F. Under no circumstances will anyone be allowed to receive an incomplete grade except under the direst of circumstances (e.g. you are in the hospital), and with a prior (**before** the last class) exception from me.

Position Paper = 50 points

Power point = 50 points

*The position paper & power point presentation will be on different topics.

Final Exam = 100 points

4. Attendance/Preparation/Participation = 50 points

(If you are present for all classes but you never participate in class discussions, or you never make an attempt to answer questions correctly, you might receive few points from this category.)

Total Possible Points: 250 points

Attendance Policy: Because this class is offered in an intensive format, there is an intensive coursework load. As stated in the Webster Catalog and the current course description materials, class attendance is mandatory. Students are expected to arrive at class on time and stay until the class is dismissed. A student missing two classes will receive an F grade. If you miss one class you will have substantial points deducted (at least one grade). If you know that you must miss a class period during this course, you might consider taking another summer class since this

class requires perfect attendance for a good grade. Substantial points are deducted for those who illustrate a pattern of tardiness.

Participation/Preparation: A major requirement for this class is participation. You are expected to read appropriate chapters before the class so you will be able to present and discuss required materials. Each student is responsible for presenting material from the texts and directing class discussion (no excuses for neglecting this component in any fashion). For those students who appear to be habitually unable to discuss class materials, points will be deducted. If you miss class on the day of your scheduled presentations, you will lose presentation points (there are no make-up presentations).

*If you are a student with a documented disability and feel you require some accommodation in this class, please see me during a class break or call me in my office. If you do not have a documented condition which you feel requires accommodation, please contact the director of the Academic Resource Center, Barbara Stewart 968-7495.

***All cell phones must be turned off and put away for the duration of this class** - failure to do so will result in a deduction of participation points (if you're reading a text message, you are obviously not paying attention to what's going on in the class). Since a ringing phone causes a distraction for everyone in the room, a ringing phone means a deduction of points as well.

Class Schedule: (Subject to change.)

Week One Readings for this week include: Fox & Levin (F & L) Chapters 1-7 (pp 1-89) and Egger 1-5 (pp 1-110).

Introduction to the class. Sign up for case study and readings.

This week we will discuss a variety of theoretical approaches to the study of Serial Killers. Discussion of how we can **explain** (not describe) this phenomenon. Students will choose one case study and chapter readings for presentation this week. Group discussions regarding the presentations. *Each day there will be power point presentations.

Tuesday: First Power Point presentations

Wednesday: Discussion of material-each student will present some topic/issue from the readings for discussion.

Thursday: **Case Study Presentations** and discussions.

Week Two Readings for this week: Fox & Levin Chapters 8-12 (pp 90-150) and Egger, Chapters 6-13 (pp 115-236)

Wednesday: **Position Paper Topic DUE**

Thursday: Discussion

Week Three Readings: Fox & Levin, Chapters 13-20 (pp 153-264) and Egger, Chapters 14-16 (pp 237-306)

Tuesday: **Position Paper** DUE/Discussion of Position Paper

Wednesday: Discussion

Thursday: **Final Exam**

Expectations

Students will:

Repudiate all forms of academic and intellectual dishonesty. Plagiarism will not be tolerated, that means that you must always cite the source of all your information. In this age of cut and paste, some students feel as though it is okay to take a sentence or two directly from a source without citing the place from which they took the material. Please be careful to always provide a citation whenever you take material from any source. Put the references at the conclusion of your work and I will be impressed that you took the time to investigate several different sources of information. Treat others with respect and dignity. There is zero tolerance for any student behaving in an inappropriate fashion.

Misconduct

Webster University students assume the obligation of conducting themselves in a manner compatible with the University's function as an educational institution. Student misconduct may be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal from the University.

Courtesy

Please do not cough or sneeze without covering your mouth with a tissue (or at least your upper sleeve). Spraying your infectious microorganisms all over everyone in the class is dangerous behavior and is definitely not appreciated.

Scoring Guide:

A= Outstanding understanding of the material, ability to explain, creatively integrate, compare/contrast/ critique/ interpret and analyze the material. Excellence in presenting class material in verbal and written form. Excellence in attendance/preparation and participation. Excellent writing skills. Superior work in every aspect of the course. No absences in an 8 week or Interim class (3 weeks).

B= Good understanding of the material; some ability to explain, integrate, critique, interpret, analyze and present the material in an organized fashion with an ability to present the material in a verbal and written form which is without many flaws. Good attendance (one or two absences allowed in a 16 week class, one absence in an 8 or 3 week class, with grade deduction)/preparation and participation. Good writing with few errors. Good work in all aspects of the course.

C= Some amount of knowledge of the material, but little ability to organize, explain, integrate, interpret, critique or analyze the material. Ability to present the material in both oral and written forms in an organized and coherent fashion. Illustrates some inability to write according to recognized standards. Satisfactory attendance/participation/presentation.

D= Inadequate knowledge of the material, inadequate ability to explain, integrate or analyze. Poor attendance, preparation and participation. Poor writing. Unsatisfactory performance on many of the assignments.

F= No demonstration of knowledge of material, ability to explain, integrate or analyze. Two absences (for an eight week class), indication that there is little or no preparation and little or no participation. No ability to write according to recognized norms.

