



CRIJ 4389-110, 80605, Special Topics: Exploring the Criminal Mind

Fall 2023

Texas A&M University-Central Texas

COURSE DATES, MODALITY, AND LOCATION

Course Dates: 8/28/23-12/15/23

This course is 100% online and asynchronous and uses the A&M-Central Texas Canvas Learning Management System [<https://tamuct.instructure.com/>].

INSTRUCTOR AND CONTACT INFORMATION

Instructor: Dr. Nicholas Armenti

Office: Online

Phone: (908) 472-9800

Email: narmenti@tamuct.edu (preferred method of contact)

Office Hours

I will hold virtual office hours on a weekly basis (Fridays from 7:00pm-8:00pm). Please email me at narmenti@tamuct.edu to schedule an appointment at least 24 hours in advance.

Student-instructor Interaction

I will be checking and replying to student emails every day. I will reply to all emails within 24 hours.

Emergency Warning System for Texas A&M University-Central Texas

SAFEZONE. SafeZone provides a public safety application that gives you the ability to call for help with the push of a button. It also provides Texas A&M University-Central Texas the ability to communicate emergency information quickly via push notifications, email, and text messages. All students automatically receive email and text messages via their myCT accounts.

Downloading SafeZone allows access to push notifications and enables you to connect directly for help through the app.

You can download SafeZone from the app store and use your myCT credentials to log in. If you would like more information, you can visit the [SafeZone](http://www.safezoneapp.com) website [www.safezoneapp.com].

To register SafeZone on your phone, please follow these 3 easy steps:

1. Download the SafeZone App from your phone store using the link below:

- [iPhone/iPad](https://apps.apple.com/app/safezone/id533054756): [https://apps.apple.com/app/safezone/id533054756]
 - [Android Phone / Tablet](https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.criticalarc.safezoneapp)
[https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.criticalarc.safezoneapp]
2. Launch the app and enter your myCT email address (e.g. {name}@tamuct.edu)
 3. Complete your profile and accept the terms of service.

For updates on COVID information, please monitor the University [website](https://www.tamuct.edu/covid19/) [https://www.tamuct.edu/covid19/]

COURSE INFORMATION

Course Overview and Description

This course explores the theoretical underpinnings that attempt to explain and predict criminal behavior and human aggression, including investigation of biological, cognitive, social, and other explanations. Additionally, the course investigates juvenile delinquency, psychopathy, mental illness, mass murder, sexual offending, terrorism, white collar crime, and the unique features and profiles of each of these domains.

Course Objective

The objective for this course is for students to gain a broad and scientifically informed understanding of the underlying mechanisms associated with criminal cognitions and behavior.

Student Learning Outcomes

1. Students will be able to recognize and discuss the disciplines related to criminal behavior.
2. Students will be able to critique and discuss the challenges brought forth through the literature regarding the criminal and psychological perceptions of criminal behavior.
3. Students will be able to describe human behavior through a diversity of paradigms.

Required Reading and Textbook(s)

Curt R. Bartol and Anne M. Bartol, Criminal Behavior: A Psychological Approach, 12th Edition (Pearson Education, Inc., 2020).

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Quizzes: 35% - 200 points

Students will complete one quiz per module, which will include material from the text, lectures, videos, case studies and other assignments from the course content on Canvas. Quizzes will be multiple choice, true/false and/or matching and have a 45-minute time limit. You may take the quiz at any point after you complete the required contents of the modules. They are due on Sunday 11:59 p.m. **STUDENTS ARE NOT TO WORK TOGETHER ON QUIZZES!!** See notes on academic integrity below.

Discussion Posts: 30% - 165 points

There will be at least one discussion board topic in each module. **You are required to prepare a 350–500-word post that includes APA style citations. Additionally, you must respond to at least two classmates' posts.**

Please try and include other peer reviewed sources, in addition to the text, in your responses. Quick searches online should aid you in this. More details and the discussion rubric are available in Canvas.

- Initial discussion posts are due Thursday by 11:59 p.m.
- Your two (preferably more) responses are due Sunday by 11:59 p.m.

Papers: 35% - 200 points

You will complete two papers during the term. Papers are to be a Microsoft Word document (.doc or .docx), follow APA formatting guidelines, and must be submitted on Canvas (do not email them to me unless there is a technical problem with Canvas). Directions and due dates for papers will be posted on Canvas. Please read the paper instructions very closely and follow what is required. You will be graded based on those instructions!

1. You will conduct an extensive analysis of a notorious criminal through the lens of a criminological theory of your choice (covered in class) and write a formal research paper. The paper will include in-depth research on both the criminal's life and the theory you choose. The primary intent of the paper is to determine if and how the theory does and/or does not account for the criminal lifestyle of your chosen individual. As this is a research paper, you will be required to use professional resources. More details and the rubric domains for this assignment will be posted in Canvas.

2. You will write two narrative stories about a fictional villain. Using what you learn about risk and protective factors, you will weave this knowledge into the life story of your villain by showing how those factors resulted in their behaviors. You will then rewrite the story in a manner that rearranges risk and protective factors to result in a different (better) outcome. More details and the rubric domains for each paper are in Canvas.

Grading Criteria Rubric and Conversion

Note: Percentages will be rounded to the nearest integer (e.g., 89.5 = 90).

Letter Grade	Percentage
A	90% – 100%
B	80% – 89%
C	70% – 79%
D	60% – 69%
F	0% – 59%

Posting of Grades

All grades will be posted and available for viewing in the Canvas Grade Book, where students can monitor their status. Grading and feedback will be provided on all assignments within 7 days of their due dates.

Grading Policies

Consistent adherence to deadlines is expected and required. There will be a structured flexibility policy for late assignments. There will be a 10% deduction for every day an assignment is late past the due date, and assignments will no longer be accepted after 7 days. Since discussion boards are dependent on participation during the time frame in which they are scheduled to occur, **late discussion board posts will not be accepted for a grade**. No assignments will be accepted after the last day of the course, which is **Friday, 12/15/23 at 11:59pm**.

COURSE OUTLINE AND CALENDAR

Complete Course Calendar for Full 16-Week Semester

Module/Weeks Start	Topic/Readings	Course Assignments and Due Dates
Module 1 Week 1 8/28-9/3	Introduction - Presentation of Syllabus Chapter 1: Introduction to Criminal Behavior Chapter 3: Origins of Criminal Behavior: Biological/Neurological Factors	Syllabus Review Discussion—Student Introductions due by 9/3/23 11:59pm Discussion—Theories of Crime due by 9/3/23 11:59pm Module 1 Quiz due by 9/3/23 11:59pm
Module 2 Weeks 2 and 3 9/4-9/17	Chapter 2: Origins of Criminal Behavior: Developmental Risk and Protective Factors Chapter 4: Origins of Criminal Behavior: Learning and Situational Factors	Discussion—Peer Rejection due by 9/10/23 11:59pm Module 2 Quiz due by 9/17/23 11:59pm
Module 3 Weeks 4 and 5 9/18-10/1	Chapter 5: Human Aggression and Violence Chapter 6: Juvenile Delinquency	Discussion—The Birth of the Criminal Mind due by 9/24/23 11:59pm Module 3 Quiz due by 10/1/23 11:59pm

Module 4 Weeks 6 and 7 10/2-10/15	Chapter 7: Psychopathy Chapter 8: Crime and Mental Disorders	Discussion—Misrepresentation in the Media due by 10/8/23 11:59pm Assignment: Mid-Term Paper: Analysis of an Infamous Criminal due by 10/15/23 11:59pm Module 4 Quiz 10/15/23 11:59pm
Module 5 Weeks 8 and 9 10/16-10/29	Chapter 9: Homicide, Assault, and Intimate Partner and Family Violence Chapter 10: Multiple Murder, School and Workplace Violence	Discussion—Mass Shootings in the US due by 10/22/23 11:59pm Module 5 Quiz due by 10/29/23 11:59pm
Module 6 Weeks 10 and 11 10/30-11/12	Chapter 15: Violent Economic Crime, Cybercrime, and Crimes of Intimidation	Discussion—The War on Drugs due by 11/5/23 11:59pm Module 6 Quiz due by 11/12/23 11:59pm
Module 7 Weeks 12, 13, and 14 Week 13 – Thanksgiving – no assignments 11/13-12/3	Chapter 12: Sexual Assault Chapter 13: Sexual Assault of Children and Youth	Discussion—Sexual Assault--Impact on Survivors due by 11/19/23 11:59pm Module 7 Quiz due by 12/3/23 11:59pm
Module 8 Weeks 15 and 16	Chapter 11: Psychology of Modern Terrorism Chapter 14: Burglary, Home Invasions, Thefts, and "White Collar" Offenses	Discussion—Luke Skywalker--Hero or Terrorist? due by 12/10/23 11:59pm Assignment: Final Paper: The Developmental Trajectory of Two Villains due by 12/15/23 11:59pm **last day of the semester** Module 8 Quiz due by 12/15/2023 11:59pm **last day of the semester**

Important University Dates

Please see the following link for a list of important university dates for this semester:

<https://www.tamuct.edu/registrar/academic-calendar.html>

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS AND SUPPORT

In order to be successful in the course, you are expected to:

- Have access to a computer with an internet connection. DSL or Cable connections are preferred.
- Have basic web search and browsing skills (know what browser you are using, understanding how to open and close new browser windows or tabs, and understanding how to override pop-up blockers.
- Have basic file management skills (create/locate/delete/move a file or folder on your computer.
- Understanding different file formats (.doc, .docx., .pages, .wps, etc.) and be able to follow instructions on the type of preferred file for the course.
- Search for and obtain articles from online databases, the university library, and/or inter-library loan.
- Check your TAMUCT email at least daily.
- Learn software appropriate to create documents or presentations, edit them, save them, convert them to other formats as needed, and print or email them as attachments or upload them in Canvas.
- Follow the instructor's guidance on the use of Canvas tools.

Technology Requirements

This course will use the A&M-Central Texas Instructure Canvas learning management system. We strongly recommend the latest versions of Chrome, Firefox, Edge, or Safari browsers. Canvas will run on Windows, Mac, Linus, iOS, android, or any other device with a modern web browser. **Canvas no longer supports any version of Internet Explorer.**

Logon to A&M-Central Texas Canvas [<https://tamuct.instructure.com/>] or access Canvas through the TAMUCT Online link in myCT [<https://tamuct.onecampus.com/>] by clicking on the "TAMUCT Online Canvas" tile. You will then log in through our Microsoft portal.

Username: Your MyCT email address. Password: Your MyCT password

Canvas Support

Use the Canvas Help tab, located at the bottom of the left-hand menu, for issues with Canvas. You can search the support articles or use the Email, Call, or Chat buttons at the bottom of the support pop-up to contact the Canvas Help Desk.

For issues related to course content and requirements, contact your instructor.

Online Proctored Testing

Texas A&M University-Central Texas uses Proctorio for online identity verification and proctored testing. This service is provided at no direct cost to students. If the course requires identity verification or proctored testing, the technology requirements are: Any computer meeting the minimum computing requirements, plus web camera, speaker, and microphone (or headset). Proctorio requires use of the Chrome web browser with their custom plug in installed.

Other Technology Support

For log-in problems, students should contact Help Desk Central, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Email: helpdesk@tamu.edu

Phone: (254) 519-5466

[Web Chat](http://hdc.tamu.edu): [<http://hdc.tamu.edu>]

Please let the support technician know you are an A&M-Central Texas student.

UNIVERSITY RESOURCES, PROCEDURES, AND GUIDELINES

Warrior Center for Student Success

The Warrior Center for Student Success is a comprehensive academic support department at A&M-Central Texas, dedicated to fostering an environment of excellence and empowerment among its student body. The center offers a wide range of programs and services to ensure every student reaches their full potential, and is a haven for students seeking guidance, resources, and a strong support network to excel in their educational journey.

ADA Access and Accommodations: Texas A&M University-Central Texas ensures that students with disabilities have equal access to educational opportunities by providing appropriate accommodations and support services. If you believe you have a physical, learning or socio-emotional disability requiring reasonable accommodations, please visit [Access and Inclusion](https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/access-inclusion.html) [<https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/access-inclusion.html>] for more details or contact the Office of Access and Inclusion, WH-212; (254) 501-5836. Any information you provide is private and confidential.

Success Coaching and Peer Mentoring: Our experienced Success Coaches work one-on-one with students to develop personalized action plans, set academic goals, and build effective study strategies, time management skills, and resilience. Our Peer Mentors provide a valuable support system, offering guidance, encouragement, and a relatable perspective to help students navigate their academic and personal challenges. For more details call 254-501-5836 or 254-501-5928 or visit [Academic Support](https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/academic-support.html) [<https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/academic-support.html>]. Click the link to schedule a session (virtual or in-person) with a success coach bit.ly/3q7uB50 or visit WH, 111.

Testing Services: We offer a secure and comfortable environment for students and members of the community to take courses and distance learning exams, as well as placement tests and professional certification exams. Our Testing Service also offers resources and support referrals for testing related challenges (test anxiety, learning disabilities, etc.) and supports all approved ADA accommodations. Call (254) 519-5830 or visit the [Testing Center](https://www.tamuct.edu/testing-center/) [<https://www.tamuct.edu/testing-center/>].

Tutoring and Supplemental Instruction Services: Our team of qualified Tutors and Supplemental Instructors assist students in various non-writing subjects, promoting academic comprehension and enhancing learning outcomes. Click the link to schedule a tutoring session with a TAMUCT tutor (virtual or in-person) or view tutor availability bit.ly/43Q6wNz. You may also chat live with a remote tutor 24/7 for a variety of subjects through our partnership with Tutor.com, an online tutoring platform that is free to all TAMUCT students. To learn

more please visit [Tutoring Services](https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/academic-support.html#tutoring) [https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/academic-support.html#tutoring] or call (254) 501-5836 or visit the Tutoring Hub in Warrior Hall, 111.

Academic Integrity

Texas A&M University-Central Texas values the integrity of the academic enterprise and strives for the highest standards of academic conduct. A&M-Central Texas expects its students, faculty, and staff to support the adherence to high standards of personal and scholarly conduct to preserve the honor and integrity of the creative community. Any deviation by students from this expectation may result in a failing grade for the assignment and potentially a failing grade for the course. All academic misconduct concerns will be referred to the Student Conduct Office. When in doubt on collaboration, citation, or any issue, please contact your instructor before taking a course of action.

For more information regarding the [student conduct process](https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/student-conduct.html), [https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/student-conduct.html].

If you know of potential honor violations by other students, you may [submit a referral](https://cm.maxient.com/reporting.php?TAMUCentralTexas), [https://cm.maxient.com/reporting.php?TAMUCentralTexas].

Drop Policy

If you discover that you need to drop this class, you must complete the [Drop Request](#) Dynamic Form through Warrior Web.

[https://federation.ngwebsolutions.com/sp/startSSO.ping?PartnerIdId=https://eis-prod.ec.tamuct.edu:443/samlSSO&SpSessionAuthnAdapterId=tamuctDF&TargetResource=https%3a%2f%2fdynamicforms.ngwebsolutions.com%2fSubmit%2fStart%2f53b8369e-0502-4f36-be43-f02a4202f612].

Faculty cannot drop students; this is always the responsibility of the student. The Records and Admissions Office will provide a deadline on the Academic Calendar for which the form must be completed. Once you submit the completed form to the Records and Admissions Office, you must go into Warrior Web and confirm that you are no longer enrolled. If you still show as enrolled, FOLLOW-UP with the Records and Admissions Office immediately. You are to attend class until the procedure is complete to avoid penalty for absence. Should you miss the drop deadline or fail to follow the procedure, you will receive an F in the course, which may affect your financial aid and/or VA educational benefits.

Pregnant and/or Parenting Students Rights and Accommodations

Texas A&M University-Central Texas supports students who are pregnant, experiencing pregnancy-related conditions, and/or parenting. In accordance with requirements of [Title IX and related guidance from US Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights](#), the Associate Dean in the Division of Student Affairs, (254) 501-5909, can assist students who are pregnant, experiencing pregnancy-related conditions, and/or parenting by provide flexible and individualized reasonable accommodations. Students should seek out assistance as early in the pregnancy as possible through the [Pregnancy & Parenting webpage](#) [https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/pregnant-and-parenting-students.html]. For more information, please visit [Student Affairs](#) [https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/pregnant-and-parenting-students.html].

If you would like to read more about these [requirements and guidelines](http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/pregnancy.pdf) online, please visit the website [http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/pregnancy.pdf].

[Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972](https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/pregnancy.html) specifically prohibits discrimination against a student based on pregnancy, childbirth, false pregnancy, termination of pregnancy, or recovery from any of these conditions [https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/pregnancy.html].

Students experiencing any form of discrimination due to any of these conditions are encouraged to reach out to the Title IX Coordinator, 254.519.5716, titleix@tamuct.edu, Founders Hall 317B, or the Associate Dean of Student Affairs, 254.501.5909, Warrior Hall 105.

Title IX Rights and Reporting Responsibilities

Texas A&M University-Central Texas is committed to creating a safe and open learning environment for all students. If you or another student has experienced any form of gender discrimination or sexual misconduct, including sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating/domestic violence, and/or sex-based stalking, help and support are available. Our university strongly encourages all members of our campus community to report incidents and seek support for gender discrimination and sexual misconduct through the Title IX Office. You may contact the Title IX Office at 254.519.5716, titleix@tamuct.edu, Founders Hall 317B, or learn more by visiting the [Title IX webpage](https://www.tamuct.edu/compliance/titleix.html) [https://www.tamuct.edu/compliance/titleix.html].

Please be aware that that under [Title IX](https://policies.tamus.edu/08-01-01.pdf), [Texas Senate Bill 212](https://policies.tamus.edu/08-01-01.pdf), and [System Regulation 08.01.01](https://policies.tamus.edu/08-01-01.pdf), [https://policies.tamus.edu/08-01-01.pdf] all university employees are mandated reporters and are required to disclose information about suspected or alleged violations as listed above and defined in System Regulation 08.01.01. If the Title IX Office receives information about an incident, they will reach out to offer information about resources, rights, and procedural options as a member of the campus community. Although I have an obligation to report, you will, in most cases, control how your case will be handled. When working with the Title IX Office you will have access to resources and accommodations but also have the opportunity to express if you wish to move forward with an investigation. Our goal is to make sure you are aware of the options available to you as a student. Community members are not required to respond to this outreach.

If you or another student wishes to speak to a confidential employee who does not have this reporting responsibility, you can contact the [Student Wellness & Counseling Center](https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/student-counseling.html), [https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/student-counseling.html], 254.501.5955, or swacc@tamuct.edu, located in Warrior Hall Room 207L or the Student Support Advocate, 254.501.5978 or ssa@tamuct.edu, located in founder Hall Room 317D.

University Library & Archives

The University Library & Archives provides many services in support of research across campus and at a distance. We offer over 350 electronic databases containing approximately 1,203,947 eBooks and 134,750 journals, in addition to the 96,879 items in our print collection, which can be mailed to students who live more than 50 miles from campus. Research guides for each subject taught at A&M-Central Texas are available through our website to help students navigate these resources. On campus, the library offers technology including cameras, laptops, microphones, webcams, and digital sound recorders.

Research assistance from a librarian is also available 24 hours a day through our online chat service, and at the reference desk when the library is open. Research sessions can be scheduled for more comprehensive assistance, and may take place virtually through WebEx, Microsoft Teams or in-person at the library. [Schedule an appointment here](#)

[<https://tamuct.libcal.com/appointments>]. Assistance may cover many topics, including how to find articles in peer-reviewed journals, how to cite resources, and how to piece together research for written assignments.

Our 27,000-square-foot facility on the A&M-Central Texas main campus includes student lounges, private study rooms, group workspaces, computer labs, family areas suitable for all ages, and many other features. Services such as interlibrary loan, TexShare, binding, and laminating are available. The library frequently offers workshops, tours, readings, and other events. For more information, please visit our [Library website](#)

[<https://tamuct.libguides.com/index>]

University Writing Center

Located in Warrior Hall 416 and online, the University Writing Center (UWC) at Texas A&M University–Central Texas (A&M–Central Texas) is a free service open to all A&M–Central Texas students. The face-to-face hours of operation are from 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Monday and Thursday in Warrior Hall 416. Online tutoring is available Monday thru Thursday from 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. and from 6:00-9:00 p.m. and on Saturdays from 12:00-3:00 p.m.

Tutors are prepared to help writers of all levels and abilities at any stage of the writing process. While tutors will not write, edit, or grade papers, they will assist students in developing more effective composing practices. By providing a practice audience for students' ideas and writing, our tutors highlight the ways in which they read and interpret students' texts, offering guidance and support throughout the various stages of the writing process. In addition, students may work independently in the UWC by checking out a laptop that runs the Microsoft Office suite and connects to WIFI, or by consulting our resources on writing, including all of the relevant style guides. Whether you need help brainstorming ideas, organizing an essay, proofreading, understanding proper citation practices, or just want a quiet place to work, the UWC is here to help!

Students may arrange a one-to-one session with a trained and experienced writing tutor by making an appointment via [WCOOnline](#) [<https://tamuct.mywconline.com/>]. In addition, you can email Dr. Bruce Bowles Jr. at bruce.bowles@tamuct.edu if you have any questions about the UWC, need any assistance with scheduling, or would like to schedule a recurring appointment with your favorite tutor.

OTHER POLICY STATEMENTS

A Note about Sexual Violence at A&M-Central Texas

Sexual violence is a serious safety, social justice, and public health issue. The university offers support for anyone struggling with these issues. University faculty are mandated reporters, so if someone discloses that they were sexually assaulted (or a victim of Domestic/Dating Violence or Stalking) while a student at TAMUCT, faculty members are required to inform the Title IX Office. If you want to discuss any of these issues confidentially, you can do so through Student Wellness and Counseling (254-501-5955) located on the second floor of Warrior Hall (207L).

Sexual violence can occur on our campus because predators often feel emboldened, and victims often feel silenced or shamed. It is incumbent on ALL of us to find ways to actively create environments that tell predators we don't agree with their behaviors and tell survivors we will support them. Your actions matter. Don't be a bystander; be an agent of change. For additional information on campus policy and resources visit the [Title IX webpage](https://www.tamuct.edu/compliance/titleix.html) [https://www.tamuct.edu/compliance/titleix.html].

Behavioral Intervention

Texas A&M University-Central Texas cares about the safety, health, and well-being of its students, faculty, staff, and community. If you are aware of individuals for whom you have a concern, please make a referral to the Behavioral Intervention Team. Referring your concern shows you care. You can complete the [referral](#) online

[https://cm.maxient.com/reporting.php?TAMUCentralTexas].

Anonymous referrals are accepted. Please see the [Behavioral Intervention Team](#) website for more information [https://www.tamuct.edu/bit]. If a person's behavior poses an imminent threat to you or another, contact 911 or A&M-Central Texas University Police at 254-501-5805.
