



Criminal & Behavioral Profiling- CJ 497.01W Fall 2025

COURSE SYLLABUS: **Fall 2025**

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Jana Miller
Office Location: Virtual
Office Hours: As Needed
Office Phone: 903-257-8765 Text (cell)
Office Fax: None
University Email Address: Jana.Miller@tamuc.edu or JMiller@navarrocounty.org
Preferred Form of Communication: Email or Text
Communication Response Time: Within 24 hours or less

COURSE INFORMATION

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings

Textbook(s) Required: **Required: Criminal & Behavioral Profiling, Curt R. Bartol, Anne M Bartol; Sage College Publishing**
ISBN: **978-1-4129-8308-2**
Software Required: None
Optional Texts and/or Materials; None

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

Course Description

This course is designed to explore criminal and behavioral profiling, its context, and especially its causes. First, a foundation will be provided concerning the basic concepts of crime, behavior and how it correlates. Next, theories of crime causation will be explored. The etiology or causes of crime are at the heart of this course, with the theories acting as pillars in the class structure. Next, crime typologies will be examined, or the different kinds of crimes most prevalent in our society. Lastly, we will gain an overview of the criminal justice system itself. The intent of this format is to present a balanced perspective on the field of criminology for new students to the discipline. Attention will also be directed to assure inclusion of issues concerning race, gender, and class, which are often overlooked.

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Student Learning Outcomes (Should be measurable; observable; use action verbs)

1. The student will demonstrate an understanding of criminal profiling and how behavior directly correlates
2. The student will demonstrate an understanding of criminal profiling
3. The student will demonstrate an understanding of future issues and trends related to criminal and behavioral profiling.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Minimal Technical Skills Needed

1. Attend class regularly (via Internet)
2. Read material **before** class
3. **Active** participation in discussions (not just “I agree/disagree”)

Instructional Methods

The method of instruction for this course will be a combination of power point presentations, discussions, and group activities. The specific activities used to engage students in mastering chapter material will be discussion board participation, exams and a research paper as assigned.

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Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course

Communication is the key to success! Please sign into your course as often throughout the week, as possible. Complete your discussion boards as requested. Understand, that I can only grade what I have and the more I have the better the grade. If you ever have any questions, please just ask.

GRADING

Final grades in this course will be based on the following scale:

A = 90%-100%

B = 80%-89%

C = 70%-79%

D = 60%-69%

F = 59% or Below

Assessments

Exams: You will have 9 exams during the course (each exam is worth 100 points). The exams, in general, will not be cumulative, however some of the material presented later in the course builds on topics previously discussed. Exams are to be taken during the week listed on the syllabus. Each examination will consist of short essay questions. You may prepare for these exams by reviewing reading assignments, class notes and discussion questions. Please know that a short essay is not 1-3 sentences. It is a well thought out answer in 2-3 good paragraphs. You should also cite any sources used to answer these questions. Each question is worth 25 points so make sure your answer is worth 25 points.

Online Discussions: We are going to integrate most of our learning into online discussion. Please, make sure you are familiar with all aspects of D2L. There is an online tutorial if there is something you do not understand. Not understanding D2L is not an acceptable excuse for late assignments. Start now getting familiar with it. For full credit of 20 points, you will need to post an original post that is cited correctly (APA) and answer TWO of your classmates with a reply which consists of more than "I agree or I disagree". There should be a total of THREE replies to each discussion board for full credit. There are 11 Online Discussions to complete for full credit in the course.

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Research Project: The research project will be in the format of a PowerPoint due at the end of the semester. I would like you to create this PowerPoint based on one of the topics we discuss in this course. The idea is the topic you choose should be able to explain parts of criminological behavior and profiling. So, once you have chosen your topic, I want you to completely define the topic and explain how this topic fits into identifying behaviors and /or profiling. This PowerPoint must be at least 30 slides long not including your title slide and works cited slide(s). Please, use APA format writing style and for your works cited slides. You must use at LEAST 5 sources or works cited. Your work will be graded for grammar, spelling and content. You will have all semester to work on this project and if you have any questions, please ask. I am here to help you learn and have a positive learning experience. I want you to be creative using color and pictures. Please use examples to back up your topic. You can use anything to make this attention grabbing- have fun with this project, and just understand it is your final. You will have deadlines to meet throughout the course with reference to this project, so please be on the lookout for prompts on your syllabus. This will be your final exam as well and is worth 200 points of your final grade.

You are encouraged to monitor your grades throughout the semester via the grade book in D2L. If you turn in an assignment and do not receive a grade or have a question about the grading, I need to know immediately. I will not entertain any disputes later than one week after the grades are posted.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

LMS

All course sections offered by Texas A&M University-Commerce have a corresponding course shell in the myLeo Online Learning Management System (LMS). Below are technical requirements

LMS Requirements:

<https://community.brightspace.com/s/article/Brightspace-Platform-Requirements>

LMS Browser Support:

https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser_support.htm

YouSeeU Virtual Classroom Requirements:

<https://support.youseeu.com/hc/en-us/articles/115007031107-Basic-System-Requirements>

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ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or helpdesk@tamuc.edu.

Note: Personal computer and internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, office service companies, Starbucks, a TAMUC campus open computer lab, etc.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your Instructor.

Technical Support

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778. Other support options can be found here:

<https://community.brightspace.com/support/s/contactsupport>

Interaction with Instructor Statement

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures/Policies

Syllabus Change Policy

The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance.

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University Specific Procedures

Student Conduct

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. The Code of Student Conduct is described in detail in the [Student Guidebook](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/Admissions/oneStopShop/undergraduateAdmissions/studentGuidebook.aspx>

Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum:

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/netiquette>

TAMUC Attendance

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the [Attendance](#) webpage and [Procedure 13.99.99.R0.01](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx>

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/academic/13.99.99.R0.01.pdf>

Academic Integrity

Students at Texas A&M University-Commerce are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all of their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures:

[Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03](#)

[Undergraduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/documents/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyForm.pdf>

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/academics/graduateschool/faculty/GraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyFormold.pdf>

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/undergraduates/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

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Students with Disabilities-- ADA Statement

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services

Texas A&M University-Commerce

Velma K. Waters Library Rm 162

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu

Website: [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/>

Nondiscrimination Notice

Texas A&M University-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

Campus Concealed Carry Statement

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M-Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations.

For a list of locations, please refer to the [Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus](#) document and/or consult your event organizer.

Web url:

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

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A&M-Commerce Supports Students' Mental Health

The Counseling Center at A&M-Commerce, located in the Halladay Building, Room 203, offers counseling services, educational programming, and connection to community resources for students. Students have 24/7 access to the Counseling Center's crisis assessment services by calling 903-886-5145. For more information regarding Counseling Center events and confidential services, please visit www.tamuc.edu/counsel

Department or Accrediting Agency Required Content

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

Course Outline by Topic and Chapter

Week One~ 08.25.2025-08.31.2025

Chapter 1 **Please read** Chapter 1-Introduction
Complete Discussion Board
Please include a little about yourself in
the discussion board after you answer the question and
answer TWO of your classmates,
Take Chapter Test

Week Two~ 09.01.2025-09.07.2025

Chapter 2 **Please read** Chapter 2-Crime Scene Profiling
Complete Discussion Board
Please make an original post answering the question
and then answer TWO of your classmates,
Take Chapter Test

Week Three~ 09.08.2025-09.14.2025

Chapter 3 **Please read** Chapter 3- Scientific Approaches to Crime Scene Profiling
Complete Discussion Board
Please make an original post answering the question
and then answer TWO of your classmates,
Take Chapter Test

Week Four~ 09.15.2025-09.21.2025

Chapter 4 **Please read** Chapter 4- Geographic Profiling and Mapping
Complete Discussion Board
Please make an original post answering the question

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and then answer TWO of your classmates,
Take Chapter Test

Week Five~ 09.22.2025-09.28.2025

Chapter 5 **Please read** Chapter 5-Profiling Applied to Specific Crimes
Complete Discussion Board
Please make an original post answering the question
and then answer TWO of your classmates,
Take Chapter Test

Week Six~ 09.29.2025-10.05.2025

Chapter 6 **Please read** Chapter 6-Psychological Profiling: A Focus on Threat and
Risk Assessment
Complete Discussion Board
Please make an original post answering the question
and then answer TWO of your classmates,
Take Chapter Test

Week Seven~ 10.06.2025-10.12.2025

Chapter 7 **Please read** Chapter 7-Suspect Based Profiling
Complete Discussion Board
Please make an original post answering the question
and then answer TWO of your classmates,
Take Chapter Test

Week Eight~ 10.13.2025-10.19.2025

Chapter 8 **Please read** Chapter 8-Reconstructive Psychological Evaluation: The
Psychological Autopsy
Complete Discussion Board
Please make an original post answering the question
and then answer TWO of your classmates,
Take Chapter Test

Week Nine~ 10.20.2025-10.26.2025

Chapter 9 **Please read** Chapter 9-Profiling in Court
Complete Discussion Board
Please make an original post answering the question
and then answer TWO of your classmates,
Take Chapter Test

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Week Ten~ 10.27.2025-11.02.2025

PowerPoint Topic- Please send via EMAIL, the topic you would like to use for your PowerPoint. This must be approved before you begin. Turning this in this week is part of your final grade

Week Eleven~ 11.03.2025-11.09.2025

PowerPoint Literature-

Please research "Literature Review in APA format" to create your Literature Review for your PowerPoint. Your Literature Review needs to be turned in this week and must be in APA format. Turning this in this week is part of your final grade.

Week Twelve~ 11.10.2025-11.16.2025

Complete Discussion Board

Week Thirteen~ 11.17.2025-11.23.2025

Complete Discussion Board

Week Fourteen~11.24.2025-11.26.2025

Thanksgiving Holidays-11.27.2025-11.28.2025-

Please use this week to work on your Final Project PowerPoint.

Week Fifteen~12.01.2025-12.05.2025

Finals Week~ Complete FINAL copy of PowerPoint which is due via EMAIL, NO LATER THAN 05.04.2025 at 11:59PM.

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PowerPoint Final Presentation

- a. **First**, you will need to choose a topic from the text which you are interested in. You will need to send the topic to me via email for approval. **Second**, you will need to do research on your topic using resources **other than** your class text. You will need to send me a Literature Review citing at least 4 other sources other than your text. This should be in APA format. **Finally**, you'll make a PowerPoint presentation on your topic at **least 30 slides** in length on your approved topic. Assemble a presentation that is interesting, informative, and that generates a good understanding of your topic. Be creative using pictures, color and anything else that you believe will show me that you understand your topic completely. Your grammar and spelling is very important so please use grammar check and spell check. Also, write in APA format on the written portions of your PowerPoint. *Produce a quality PowerPoint on your topic that reads like a mini-term paper* with an Intro, Topic Sections, Discussion/Conclusion, and Literature Review. Use Bolded Headings for each of these sections of the presentation and for the subtopics you address in the presentation.
- b. The deadline to get your topic approved by me is 11.02.2025. Please send in your topic via email. Your Literature Review should be turned into me via email by 11.09.2025. You should try to be creative in your approach. For example, you may use current events or past news items, popular films, TV shows, the internet, e.g. U-tube or other film clips, other media or data sources, etc. to provide examples of the topic material you are covering.

Presentations are due at any point in the term however, no later than 12.05.2025.

This is so that you may benefit from questions, comments, and discussion on your topic, and so you can continue working on the topic throughout the semester. Please send in via email and I will respond with "Received" once I have received it.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask. You may email either email address or text the cell number I have provided.

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PowerPoint Final Presentation

Schedule Due Dates

November 2, 2025

Topics Due

You must email your topic to me and I must approve of your topic prior to you starting your presentation.

November 9, 2025

Literature Review Due

You must email your literature review to me with at least three (3) sources other than your text. Your sources must be in APA format.

December 05.2025

Presentation Due

Please email your presentation NO LATER than 12.05.2025 by 11:59pm. You may turn in at any time during the semester but it cannot be later than 12.05.2025 @11:59PM

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