

## CURRICULUM GUIDELINES

**A: Division: INSTRUCTIONAL**

**Date: SEPTEMBER 1999**

**B: Department/  
Program Area: CRIMINOLOGY**

**New Course**

**Revision**

**If Revision, Section(s) Revised: F, M, N, O, P, Q**

**Date Last Revised: JANUARY 1987**

**C: CRIM 251**

**D: PSYCHOLOGICAL EXPLANATIONS OF  
CRIMINAL BEHAVIOUR**

**E: 3**

Subject & Course No.	Descriptive Title	Semester Credits
<p><b>F:</b> Calendar Description: This course will involve a detailed study of psychological approaches to explaining recidivist criminal behaviour. Some of the specific theories subject to critical examination will include: psychoanalytic, behaviourism, social cognitive, developmental, and Eysenck's Theory of Personality and Crime. Theoretical and empirical approaches will be utilized to explain the behaviour of offenders involved in property crimes and /or violent crimes.</p>		
<p><b>G:</b> Allocation of Contact Hours to Types of Instruction/Learning Settings</p> <p>Primary Methods of Instructional Delivery and/or Learning Settings</p> <p>Lecture</p> <p>Number of Contact Hours: (<i>per week/ per semester</i> for each descriptor)</p> <p>Lecture:           4 Hrs.</p> <p>Number of Weeks per Semester:   14 Weeks</p>	<p><b>H:</b> Course Prerequisites:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">PSYC 100</p>	
	<p><b>I:</b> Course Corequisites:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">NONE</p>	
	<p><b>J:</b> Course for which this Course is a Prerequisite:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">NONE</p>	
	<p><b>K:</b> Maximum Class Size:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">35</p>	
<p><b>L: PLEASE INDICATE:</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Non-Credit</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> College Credit Non-Transfer</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> College Credit Transfer:           Requested <input type="checkbox"/>           Granted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>SEE BC TRANSFER GUIDE FOR TRANSFER DETAILS (<a href="http://www.bccat.bc.ca">www.bccat.bc.ca</a>)</p>		

Subject and Course No.

**M: Course Objectives/Learning Outcomes:**

The primary objective of this course is to familiarize students with psychologically-based theoretical explanations of criminal behaviour. Students will learn to critically evaluate and assess psychological theories of crime. Students will be able to explain from different psychological theoretical approaches how criminal behaviour is acquired and maintained. Finally, students will learn how to critically evaluate and assess empirical research of criminal behaviour.

**N. Course Content:**

1. Introduction and Overview
  - ▶ Definitions
  - ▶ Free Will vs. Determination
  - ▶ Self-Report Studies
  - ▶ Limitations
2. Theory
  - ▶ Psychoanalytic/Psychodynamic Theory
  - ▶ Behaviourism
  - ▶ Kohlberg/Erikson
  - ▶ Social Cognitive Theory
  - ▶ Eysenck's Theory of Personality and Crime
3. Biological Factors
  - ▶ Anthropometry
  - ▶ Quantitative Genetics
4. Psychopathy
  - ▶ Why Include a Personality Disorder?
  - ▶ Current Explanations of Psychopathy and Criminal Behaviour
  - ▶ Etiology of Psychopathy
  - ▶ Role of the Family
  - ▶ Neuro-Physiological Concepts
5. Mentally Disordered Offender
  - ▶ Criminal Responsibility
  - ▶ Specific Disorders and Their Relationship to Criminal Offending
6. Violence/Homicide
  - ▶ Defining Violence
  - ▶ Theoretical Perspectives
  - ▶ Physiology
  - ▶ Environmental Factors
  - ▶ Family Violence
  - ▶ Personality
  - ▶ Correlate
  - ▶ Multicide (Mass, Spree, and Serial)

Continued...

Subject and Course No.

**N. Course Content Cont'd.**

- 7. Sexual Offences
  - ▶ Fetishism and Relationship to Crime
  - ▶ Exhibitionism and Voyeurism
  - ▶ Pedophilia
  - ▶ Sexual Assault
- 8. Dangerousness
  - ▶ Prediction
- 9. Youth Crime
- 10. Property Crime
- 11. Special Topics

**O: Methods of Instruction:**

This course will employ a number of instructional methods to accomplish its objectives and will include some of the following:

- ▶ lectures
- ▶ audio visual materials including video
- ▶ small group discussions
- ▶ research papers

**P: Textbooks and Materials to be Purchased by Students:**

Bartol, C. (1999). Criminal Behaviour: A Psychosocial Approach, (5<sup>th</sup> ed.). New Jersey: Prentice-Hall.

*Additional texts may include:*

Blackburn, R. (1993). The Psychology of Criminal Conduct: Theory, Research and Practice. England: Wiley and Sons.

Andrews, D.A. & Bonta, J. (1998). The Psychology of Criminal Conduct, (2<sup>nd</sup> ed.). Ohio: Anderson Publishing Co.

**Q: Means of Assessment:**

Evaluation will be carried out in accordance with Douglas College policy. The instructor will provide a written course outline with specific evaluation criteria at the beginning of the semester. Evaluation will be based on some of the following:

1. Short Answer Tests
2. Exams
3. Term Papers

An example of one possible evaluation scheme would be:

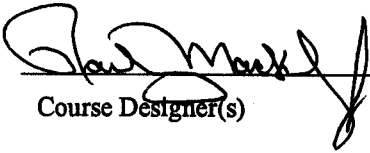
Two Mid-Semester Exams	25% each
Final Exam	25%
Research Paper	25%

**CRIM 251 - PSYCHOLOGICAL EXPLANATIONS  
OF CRIMINAL BEHAVIOUR**

Subject and Course No.

**R: Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition: specify whether course is open for PLAR**

Under review.



Course Designer(s)

Education Council/Curriculum Committee  
Representative

Dean/Director

Registrar