

**CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, SACRAMENTO**  
**Criminal Justice Division**

CRJ 136 02

Professor Lowe

Spring 2009

**Analysis of Career Criminals**

M/W: 5:30-6:45

Office: ALP 219 Phone 278-7059

E-Mail: loweg@csus.edu

**Office Hours M/W 4:15PM-5:30PM**

**Syllabus**

**Course Description:**

Observation and analysis of criminal career patterns using the following approaches: anthropological, autobiographical, psychological, psychiatric, and sociological. The examination of career criminal behavior patterns will focus upon: the process of induction into criminal activity; the deviant orientation of the professional criminal; the organization, lifestyle, and activities of the specialized criminal; and the methodological problems associated with the measurement of recidivism. Scientific identification and prediction of career criminal offenders, law enforcement investigation techniques and clinical treatment effectiveness for this offender population will be explored.

**Required Text:**

Walters, Glenn D. The Criminal Lifestyle. Sage Publications, 1993.

DeLisi, Matt. Career Criminals in Society Sage Publications, 2005.

**Extra Readings, Assignments, Films and Speakers:**

Throughout the course, you will receive handouts to read in addition to your text material. During the semester, I will schedule films and/or guest speakers to augment class lectures. You are responsible for all material presented in class and all class assignments.

**Course Objectives:**

At the conclusion of the semester the student will be expected to be able to do the following:

1. Demonstrate an understanding and apply processes for identifying, diagnosing and classifying career criminals.
2. Identify prediction studies for assessing the risk for violence among career criminals.
3. Discuss the various investigation strategies used in the apprehension of career criminals.
4. Debate the pros and cons of treatment, management and release of career criminals.
5. Explain the concepts of nurture and nature as they relate to the development of a career criminal
6. Identify the criminal justice system's response to the career criminal

**Instructional Methods:**

Lecture, videotape case scenarios, videotapes, practicum exercises, guest speakers, and active class discussion.

**Attendance:**

Class attendance will occasionally be taken; however, you will be responsible for all class material. Students not attending class will find it difficult to participate and to take notes, and thus unlikely to do well on the exams.

**Exams:**

Two exams will be given. Each exam typically will consist of true/false, multiple choice short essay questions, and responses to case scenarios. Each exam is worth 25 points or 1/4 of your grade. **ONLY UNDER VERY UNUSUAL CIRCUMSTANCES WILL MAKE UP EXAMS WILL BE GIVEN. MISSING AN EXAM RESULTS IN 0 POINTS; AND WILL SERIOUSLY, ADVERSLEY AFFECT YOUR GRADE.**

**Assignments/Quizzes:**

Homework assignments will be given which commonly require analyzing current intervention strategies on the Federal, State and Local level regarding the career criminal. Quizzes will be given throughout the semester. Cumulative scores from homework assignments and quizzes will be worth 25 points or ¼ of your final grade.

**Research Paper Assignment:**

You will be responsible for the completion of a research paper on an approved topic (Research Report Assignment). *A topic proposal must be submitted to me prior to April 8 in the form of a one page, typed outline, listing the independent sources that will be utilized.* This report is worth 25 points, 1/4 of your final grade. **Due April 29.** Late papers will accepted only under unusual circumstances and will be down graded accordingly.

*Plagiarized work or other academic dishonesty will result in failure in class. I expect you to defend and explain your work. If I encounter a suspect essay, I will give you an opportunity to explain and defend it. If you cannot, the presumption will be that the work is not original. The University website at (<http://www.csus.edu/admbus/umannual.UMP14150.htm>) contains the university policy on plagiarism and definitions of plagiarism. Also consult the university library website (<http://library.csus.edu/content2.asp?pageID=175>)*

**Support with Writing Assignments**

The College of Health and Human Services Writing Center, located in Solano Hall 5000, is a program designed to assist students with all stages of writing from pre-writing through editing a text utilizing a peer-tutoring environment. The Center is staffed by graduate students from the English Department. Hours will be posted at the beginning of the semester. If you have questions about the Center, please call (916) 278-7255.

**Accommodations for students with disabilities:**

*"If you have a disability and require accommodations, you need to provide disability documentation to SSWD, Lassen Hall 1008, (916) 278-6955. Please discuss your accommodation needs with me after class or during my office hours early in the semester."*

**Extra Credit:**

As an adjunct to classroom learning, I have developed a liaison with the A Step Closer program at Solano State Prison in Vacaville to offer students an opportunity to meet with a group of inmates as they discuss their life of crime. Students who have attended these meetings have found them to be extremely interesting and educational. Students will write a three page paper about their experience which will be worth 1-10 points on their lowest exam score.

Additional extra credit options will not be provided to individual students.

**Grades:**

Each exam, and the research report will be given a numerical score and a letter grade based on point equivalents. The homework assignments/quizzes will be totaled and given a numerical score. Points will be totaled for your final letter grade.

Reasonable class participation is a subjective judgment on the part of the instructor. If a student is considered not to be reasonably participating, the instructor will notify that student. Attendance and participation in class are taken into consideration if a student is between grades at semester's end. For example, a student who has a B+ and is only one (1) percentage point from an A- grade and who has had excellent attendance, and classroom participation would receive an A- grade in the course.

**Grading Scale:**

93-100	A	73-76	C
90-92	A-	70-72	C-
87-89	B+	67-69	D+
83-86	B	63-66	D
80-82	B-	60-62	D-
77-79	C+	<60	F

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, SACRAMENTO  
Criminal Justice Division

**CrJ 136: Analysis of the Career Criminal**

**Professor G. Lowe**

**COURSE OUTLINE\***

- I. The Life of Crime: A Working Hypothesis (The Criminal Lifestyle Chapter 1)  
(Career Criminals In Society Chapter 1)
- II. Criminologic Theory (The Criminal Lifestyle Chapter 2)  
(Career Criminals In Society Chapter 4)
- III. Crime as a Life Style (The Criminal Lifestyle Chapter 3)
- VI. Postulates and Key Terms (The Criminal Lifestyle Chapter 4)
- V. Developmental Issues (The Criminal Lifestyle Chapter 5)  
(Career Criminals In Society Chapter 3)

**Exam 1 (Approximate Date: Week of March 18)**

- VI. Cognitive Patterns (The Criminal Lifestyle Chapter 5)
- VII. Assessment and Change (The Criminal Lifestyle Chapter 7)
- VIII. Working Hypothesis Revisited (The Criminal Lifestyle Chapter 8)
- IX. The Politics of Career Criminals (Career Criminals In Society Chapter 5)
- X. The Criminal Justice System and Career Criminals (Career Criminals In Society Chapter 6)
- XI. Do We Have the Will to Stop Career Criminals? (Career Criminals In Society Chapter 7)

**Final Exam 2 Week of May 16**

\*Additional reading material and home work assignments will be distributed throughout the course. You are responsible for knowing the content of these materials and assignments as well as that from the course texts.

**CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, SACRAMENTO**  
**Criminal Justice Division**

CRJ 136 02

Professor Lowe

Spring 2009

Analysis of Career Criminals

Office: ALP 219

**RESEARCH REPORT ASSIGNMENT**

Due Date: April 29

Choose a career criminal case that is known to the public from the list below. (If you wish to research a topic not on the list, you must receive permission from the instructor prior to proceeding.)

- Serial Murderer/Serial Rapist
- Serial Child Molester
- Organized Crime Figure
- Drug Trafficker
- Corrupt Politicians and Other Public Officials
- Criminal Gang Member

The sources for the research paper can include newspapers, magazines, journals and periodicals, non-fiction books, internet\* and personal interviews which must include a transcript of the interview.

\* Internet sources maybe used only if official and/or published elsewhere. Reference the original publication information as your citation, not the internet.

The research paper shall include the following:

- Your definition of a career criminal and how your subject meets this definition.
- The subject's criminal personality makeup, identifying the criminal personality type that the subject most resembles.
- A theoretical analysis of the subject's commitment to a criminal career either as a rational choice or as an environmental inflicted experience or a combination of both, (nature vs. nurture).
- The impact of official intervention by criminal justice agencies on the subject.
- Your analysis of the system's approach to intervention with your subject.

The format of the research paper requires:

- 6-10 pages in length, type written and double-spaced
- The title and subtitles of each section of the paper
- Source of quotations either in the text or in the footnotes.
- Bibliography