

**The University of Western Ontario
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY
Sociology 4442 001f: Serial Killers**

Professor: Kim Ashby

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Class Times: Mondays - 2:30- 5:30pm

Class Room: 3010 SSC

Office Hours: Monday 1:30 - 2:30pm or by appointment.

Web Site: <https://owl.uwo.ca>.

TA:

TA E-mail:



Course Description:

This course will critically examine the social construction of serial murder as a phenomenon that has existed for centuries, but only recently has become a concern of the criminal justice system and the public in general. The goal of the course is to synthesize historical and contemporary analyses of serial murder, assess the impact of the media on public perceptions of serial killing, and to extend our understanding of the etiology of serial murder in contemporary society.

Prerequisite(s): Sociology 2253A/B and 2266A/B and enrollment in fourth year of one of the Honours Specializations or Honours Double Majors in Sociology. Unless you have the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

Objectives of the Course:

This course will undertake to familiarize students with the facts versus the myths of serial murder, to understand serial murder from a sociological framework, to critically analyze media views of serial murder, to evaluate serial killing within a criminological framework, and to contextualize serial murder as a reaction to broader societal fears and concerns.

- Describe and discuss the various components of serial crime, serial criminals and their relationship to each other.
- Discuss theory of serial crime and criminal issues
- Appreciate the psycho-social, cultural, and individual diversity relevant to serial crimes.

Learning Outcomes:

The successful student will be able to:

- Identify and describe the various components of serial crime.
- Identify, explain and assess the theories of serial crime.
- Explain the psycho-social, cultural and individual diversity relevant to serial crime.
- Analyze in writing, the 'Trauma Control' model, the 'Athens' model, and the Buller-McGinnis model as they apply to a given case study.
- Review the media coverage of a given case and assess the accuracy of the coverage and explain ways in which the media reports fuel or contest myths about serial crimes.
- Synthesize select readings presenting key arguments and analyze the strengths and weaknesses of given perspectives.

Required text: (available at the UWO bookstore)

Hickey, Eric W. (2016). Serial Murderers and Their Victims, 7th edition: Wadsworth Publishing Company.

Required readings: (access Readings on OWL homepage)

Method of Evaluation

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| Participation | 5% |
| Reading synopsis | 10% |
| Discussion Leaders | 20% |
| Test (mx choice) | 20% |
| Reaction paper | 15% |
| Research paper | 30% |

COURSE ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS:

With the exception of legitimate medical/personal excuses (documentation required to be submitted) students are expected to attend at least 80% of the class meetings for this course. A passing grade in the course cannot be obtained without meeting this attendance requirement. This class will be a community of learners, so everyone must be present to learn and to help others learn. Punctual and regular attendance at classes is expected.

How To Contact Me

Please feel free to come by during my office hours to discuss any questions you have regarding the course or simply to chat about some issue raised in class. If you e-mail me, I will reply to you within 24-48 hours if you use your UWO account. However, I do not read e-mails on the weekends.

Plagiarism

Students must write their papers and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea, or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site:

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf.

Plagiarism Checking

All research papers will be uploaded to the assignment page on the class web site before 2:30pm. on Monday, Dec. 11th 2017. These papers will be subject to submission for textual similarity review. All papers submitted will be included as source documents in

the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com

(<http://www.turnitin.com>).

Policy on Laptops in Class

The use of laptops is not permitted in class unless such use has been authorized by Professor Ashby.

Missed Exams and Late Assignments

Make-up exams will be granted with approved documentation only. If you have a conflict with one of the exam dates, it is your responsibility to discuss it with the Academic Counseling office at least one week before the regularly scheduled exam and provide documentation of the conflict. If approved, you will be allowed to schedule a make-up exam. If you miss an exam date or the due date for an assignment due to illness or for any other unforeseen reason, you must provide notification of and documentation for the reasons for your circumstances to your Academic Counselor within 48 hours. If your problem is medical in nature, you should be seen by your doctor on the date of the exam or on the date the assignment is due. If your Academic Counselor agrees that your reasons are legitimate and are supported by your medical doctor's documentation, you will be allowed to write a makeup exam or hand in your assignment at a later date.

Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness

Western's policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness can be found at

www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf.

Students must see the Academic Counsellor and submit all required documentation in order to be approved for certain accommodation:

http://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/medical_accommodation.html

Accessibility Options:

Please contact the course instructor if you require material in an alternate format or if you require any other arrangements to make this course more accessible to you. You may also wish to contact Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) at 519 661-2111 x 82147 for any specific question regarding an accommodation. Information regarding accommodation of exams is available on the Registrar's website:

www.registrar.uwo.ca/examinations/accommodated_exams.html

Scholastic Offences

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Mental Health

Students who are in **emotional/mental distress** should refer to Mental Health@Western (http://uwo.ca/health/mental_wellbeing/index.html) for a complete list of options how to obtain help.