Course Description:
Given the general confusion about the different forms of multicide, this course will critically analyze the phenomenon of mass murder as a unique form of multicide. The goal of the course is to examine the causes, characteristics and consequences of mass murder which is relatively rare, but also extremely consequential. An historical and contemporary analysis of mass murder will be undertaken, along with an assessment of the impact of the media on public perceptions of mass murders, in order to extend our understanding of the structural causes of this form of multicide, in contemporary society.

Prerequisite(s): Enrolment in fourth year of one of the Honours Specializations or Honours Double Majors in Sociology or Criminology
Unless you have either 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 mass murder, to understand mass murder from a sociological framework, to critically analyze media views of mass murder, to evaluate mass killing within a criminological framework, and to contextualize mass murder as a reaction to broader societal fears and concerns.

- Describe and discuss the various components of massacres, mass murderers and their relationship to each other
- Discuss theory of mass murder
- Appreciate the psycho-social, cultural, and individual diversity relevant to mass murderers.

Learning Outcomes:

The successful student will be able to:

- Identify the similarities and differences in the three forms of multicide.
- Identify, explain and assess the controversies surrounding mass murder.
- Explain the psycho-social, cultural and individual diversity relevant to mass murder.
- Analyze in writing, the typologies, motivations and factors contributing to mass murder 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 moral panics.
- Synthesize select readings presenting key arguments and analyze the strengths and weaknesses of given perspectives.

Required text:  (available at the UWO bookstore)


Required readings: (access Readings on OWL homepage)
Method of Evaluation

Three Forum Questions 15%
Synopses (7/9) 35%
Case Analyses (7/9) 50%

COURSE PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS:
Students must have access to a stable internet connection and a laptop or computer. All class work is asynchronous. Please post an introductory comment about yourself in the 'Introductory' Forum between September 9th and 22nd. Not graded, not part of participation requirements set out below.

Weekly Forum Questions (Asynchronous) (15%)
Weekly questions under the Forum tab start on Wednesdays at 9am and close at 11:00pm on the following Sunday. Students must answer a minimum of three (3) weekly questions over the course of the term.

Synopsis of Weekly Readings (35%)
Students will submit seven out of nine (7/9), one page synopses of the weekly articles and chapters, covered in each week’s readings. The synopses (point form or paragraph) of the articles will be uploaded to the designated Assignment folder every week by 11pm on the Monday following the start of each week’s readings on the previous Wednesday. The synopses will address key points, perspectives or concepts taken by the readings and important to an understanding of mass killers. Examples of synopses (point-form, paragraph) are in ‘Material’ in the Course Content tab.

Weekly Case Analysis of an Example of a Type of Mass Murderer (50%)
Based on the synopses of the seven out of nine (7/9) weeks that students choose, students will also develop an analysis of a mass murderer specific to the type being covered.
The case analyses will examine the chosen killer in relation to:
1. Predisposers
2. Precipitants
3. Facilitators

Also….
4. Traits Graph (specific MM trait graphs listed in Course Content)
   - Motivation
   - Anticipated gain
   - Spatial mobility
   - Victim selectivity
   - Victim relationship
   - Victim traits
5. Cumulative Strain Theory (CST)  
   Apply the 5 stages of CST to the killer (for a given killer, not all stages may be known, but one can hypothesize)

6. Incorporation of relevant readings to the analysis

Weekly case analyses will be uploaded to the designated Assignment folder by 11pm on the Monday following the Wednesday opening of the weekly session.

How To Contact Me

Please email/message (OWL) me to discuss any questions you have regarding the course or if you need to speak with me, then we can set-up an appointment. 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 synopses 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.

Late Assignments

If you miss a 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 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 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

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

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.