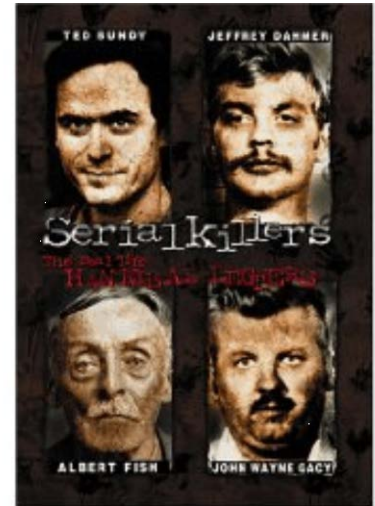


The University of Western Ontario
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY
Sociology 4442G-001: Serial Killers – Winter 2022

Professor: Kim Ashby
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Office: 5417 SSC
E-Mail: kluton@uwo.ca
Class Times: Mondays - 1:30- 4:30pm
Class Room: Synchronous/ In-class
Office Hours: By appointment.
Web Site: <https://owl.uwo.ca>.



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): Enrollment in 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.

https://bookstore.uwo.ca/textbook-search?campus=UWO&term=W2021A&courses%5B0%5D=200_UW/SOC4442F - ebook added to course

Required readings: (access Readings on OWL homepage)

No exam in course.

Method of Evaluation

Participation	27%
Discussion Leader(s)	25%
Oral Test	15%
Research Paper	33%

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. SRA's will cover attendance, not participation.

Participation (27%) and Oral Test (15%)

Because this class is run as a seminar, it is essential that students come prepared to participate. Before-class preparation involves carefully reading and considering the assigned readings. Your participation grade will be calculated on both the frequency and cogency of your comments. You will find that your grade for this course will be adversely affected if you are absent or habitually unprepared to participate meaningfully in class discussions.

All students must be **fully visible** and contribute actively, on a weekly basis, in the **10** Zoom lectures, starting January 17th. Students will be expected to engage with the material presented, doing exercises and answering questions. At the end of term, a student's *poorest* weekly participation mark will be dropped.

One or two students will be randomly assigned in the first week, to respond to weekly "Oral" questions, posed by the professor in each of the 10 following weeks. The "Oral" test will be conducted in the last hour, before the end of class. It will be only the professor and the one or two designated students. The "oral" questions will be based on the lecture materials and readings.

Discussion Leaders (25%)

Two students will undertake to lead the weekly discussions for 2 hours. The leader(s) will be expected to undertake a 'facilitation' that will highlight key issues, raise concerns and challenge theoretical positions. Students can sign-up (a maximum of 2 students) for a set of readings, including Hickey.

Editing Note: Failure to edit for grammar, spelling, punctuation, sentence structure, tense alignment, noun/verb agreement will result in a *significant loss of marks* in all assignments.

Research Paper (33%)

This formal paper must be 16 pages in length, double-spaced, and typed in 12-point font, with one-inch margins on all sides. Research papers will be uploaded to the OWL Assignment tab by 1:30pm on Monday, March 28th. Late submissions, starting at 2pm on the 28th, will result in a **5%** reduction per day, past the due date, and will not be accepted after Friday, April 1st. Please note that late penalties will not be waived unless relevant medical or other appropriate documentation is provided.

This paper will be divided into 2 sections.

First, each student is to select a serial killer who has been caught, prosecuted and convicted. This section of the term paper will analyze in detail the 'causes' of the serial killer's actions from Eric Hickey's model presented in the required text or the Lonnie Athens model presented in class. Other relevant theories covered in-class are to be incorporated into the analysis.

In the second part of the paper, the case will be reviewed in terms of the accuracy and completeness of the media coverage, and address ways in which the media reports fuel or contest myths about serial killers.

Source materials (articles, books) to be used for this term paper can be selected from reputable presses and peer reviewed academic journals; although, there is rarely scholarly articles on specific serial killers. For media information about the case of the serial killer that you selected, please identify sources, in your references.

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 and insert “**Soc 4442**” in the subject line. 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 1:30pm. on Monday, April 8th 2019. 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>).

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.

Grade Distribution

Sociology courses at the 4400-level

Means in the range of 78-82%

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:

https://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/academic_consideration.html

Academic Consideration for Missed Work

Students who are seeking academic consideration for missed work during the semester may submit a *Self-Reported Absence (SRA)* form online provided that the absence is **48 hours or less** and the other conditions specified in the [Senate policy](#) are met. Two important exceptions to this rule: SRAs will NOT be allowed for final examinations or assessments worth more than 30% of a given course. Students whose absences are expected to last **longer than 48 hours**, or where the other conditions detailed in the policy are not met (e.g., work is worth more than 30% of the final grade, the student has already used 2 self-reported absences, the absence is during the final exam period), may receive academic consideration by submitting a [Student Medical Certificate](#) (for illness) or other appropriate documentation (for compassionate grounds) to your Home Faculty Academic Counselling office.

All students pursuing academic consideration, regardless of type, must contact their instructors no less than 24 hours following the end of the period of absence to clarify how they will be expected to fulfill the academic responsibilities missed during their absence. Students are reminded that they should consider carefully the implications of postponing tests or midterm exams or delaying submission of work, and are encouraged to make appropriate decisions based on their specific circumstances.

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

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 (www.uwo.ca/health/mental_wellbeing/) for a complete list of options how to obtain help.