

PSYC 405: Forensic Psychology

Fall, 2012

Monday • 5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. • RU 033

Dr. Mike Aamodt

Office	Email and Course Web	Office Hours
Russell 343 (202) 280-2172	maamodt@radford.edu http://maamodt.asp.radford.edu/FORENSIC.HTM	Monday 4:30 – 5:00 By appointment

Date	Topic	Reading/Assignments
Aug 27	Introduction to the class and forensic psychology	Start reading <i>Gift of Fear</i>
Sept 03	Aggression	
10	Aggression	
17	Serial killers	
24	*** EXAM ***	
Oct 01	Eyewitness testimony	
08	Eyewitness testimony	
15	Courtroom psychology	<i>Gift of Fear</i> questions due
22	Courtroom psychology	Start reading <i>Minds on Trial</i>
29	*** EXAM ***	
Nov 05	Detecting deception	Serial killer timelines are due
12	Insanity plea & detecting malingering	
19	*** Thanksgiving Break ***	
26	Critical incident counseling	
Dec 03	Hostage negotiation	
12	*** FINAL EXAM 5:30 (note that this is a Wednesday) ***	<i>Minds on Trial</i> questions due

GRADES

Exam 1	100
Exam 2	100
Final Exam	100
Serial Killer Project	80
<i>Gift of Fear</i> questions	10
<i>Minds on Trial</i> questions	10

Final Grading Scale A = 360 points, B = 320 points, C = 280 points, D = 240 points

You can earn 10 points of extra credit by not missing any classes. You will lose 5 points for every absence after the second absence. Leaving class early or arriving late will be considered as an absence. Because this is a bonus system, there are NO excused absences.

Exam Policy: All students are expected to follow the Radford University Honor Code. Unless you receive the instructor's permission **prior** to an exam, missed exams cannot be made up.

Extra Credit: You can earn extra-credit in two ways: participating in experiments or writing one-page summaries of shows related to forensic psychology such as those aired on A&E. You will receive one point for each experiment or summary. Five extra-credit points is the maximum that can be earned.

REQUIRED TEXTS

De Becker, Gavin (1999). *The Gift of Fear*. New York: Dell (ISBN-13 978-0-44-050883-0)

Ewing, Charles Patrick & McCann, Joseph T. (2006). *Minds on trial: Great cases in law and psychology*. New York: Oxford University Press (ISBN-13 978-0-19-518176-0)

SERIAL KILLER PROJECT

Students will work in groups of 3-4 people for this project. If there is a graduate student or an undergraduate student taking this class for honors credit, they will be the leader of the group. I will assign each group the name of a serial killer and the group will research the serial killer to create a timeline and to obtain the information requested on the serial killer template on my webpage. Your grade will be based on the thoroughness and accuracy of your timeline. Sources you can use to obtain information include the Internet, true crime books, other books, and newspaper articles. The newspaper articles may be your best bet for much of the information and you can find these through Lexis-Nexis, Proquest, and by asking the reference librarian for help in finding articles not listed in these sources.

All students are expected to attend group meetings, get their research done prior to the deadlines established by the group, and to contribute in any way that helps the group. Group leaders will be asked to identify any student who does not meet these guidelines and such students will receive a lower grade for the project.

Class notes will be sent to you through e-mail and can be obtained at my web site
It is essential that you bring these notes to class each evening!

CLASS ETIQUETTE

It is expected that students behave in a professional manner while in class. You are not permitted to have cell phones or any type of PDA on your desk. They must remain in your pocket/backpack/purse. Should I see you with one, or should your phone ring during class, I will either confiscate it and you can pick it up two days later at the Dean of Students office or I will ask you to leave the class and you will not get credit for attending.

Surfing for email or doing other assignments in class is not acceptable. If you are going to bring a computer to class, you must ask permission, sit in the front row of class, and demonstrate that you have the class notes visible. Failure to follow this policy will result in my asking you to leave the class and you will not get credit for attending.