

Note:

Course content may be changed, term to term, without notice. The information below is provided as a guide for course selection and is not binding in any form, and should not be used to purchase course materials.

COURSE SYLLABUS

PSYC 475

PSYCHOLOGY OF CRIMINAL BEHAVIOR

COURSE DESCRIPTION

An examination of the factors that contribute to criminal behavior, including various psychopathological and sociological aspects.

RATIONALE

This course will assist the student in understanding the thought processes of individuals who break society's laws. Those considering careers in psychology, counseling, law enforcement, or related fields, as well as individuals who simply desire a greater understanding of the criminal mind, will benefit from the knowledge provided.

I. PREREQUISITES

For information regarding prerequisites for this course, please refer to the [Academic Course Catalog](#).

II. REQUIRED RESOURCE PURCHASES

Click on the following link to view the required resource(s) for the term in which you are registered: <http://bookstore.mbsdirect.net/liberty.htm>

III. ADDITIONAL MATERIALS FOR LEARNING

- A. Computer with basic audio/video output equipment
- B. Internet access (broadband recommended)
- C. Microsoft Office

IV. MEASURABLE LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- A. Demonstrate competence in the major concepts of psychology of criminal behavior and tenets of crime theory.
- B. Use critical thinking to solve problems related to behavior and mental processes.
- C. Weigh evidence while tolerating ambiguity, acting ethically, and reflecting values in his or her personal and professional behavior that are the underpinnings of the multiple perspectives of psychology as a discipline and Christian faith and praxis.
- D. Communicate effectively in written, oral, and technological formats.
- E. Recognize and respect the complexity of socio-cultural and international diversity.

V. COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND ASSIGNMENTS

A. Textbook readings and lecture presentations

B. Course Requirements Checklist

After reading the Course Syllabus and [Student Expectations](#), the student will complete the related checklist found in Module/Week 1.

C. Discussion Board Forums (6)

There will be 6 Discussion Board Forums throughout the course. Discussion boards are collaborative learning experiences. Therefore, the purpose of Discussion Board Forums is to generate interaction among students in regard to relevant course topics. The student is required to submit 1 thread of at least 300 words in response to the provided prompt. In addition to the thread, the student is required to submit substantive replies of at least 150 words each to at least 2 classmates' threads. The student will cite the textbook and the Bible at least 1 time in each forum, using proper and current APA format.

D. Research Project

The student will complete and submit the following items in stages:

Research Topic

The student will identify a topic related to the course content to research.

Annotated Bibliography

The student will write an annotated bibliography using 3 journal articles related to the research project topic using proper and current APA format. The Annotated Bibliography must be 2–3 pages with 200–300 words per review of each of the 3 articles selected.

Reference Page

The student must use at least 10 scholarly sources and organize the references using proper and current APA format. The Reference Page will also be included with the entire Research Paper.

Research Paper

The student will write a research paper in proper and current APA format about a specific type of crime, criminal, mental disorder, or any topic related to the field of psychology and criminal behavior. The paper must be 10–15 pages of text and also include a title page and the Reference Page. The student must use at least 10 scholarly articles.

E. Exams (3)

The student will complete 3 exams. Each exam consists of 40 multiple-choice questions and is open-book/open-notes. The student will have 1 hour to complete each exam.

VI. COURSE GRADING AND POLICIES

A. Points

Course Requirements Checklist		10
Discussion Board Forums (6 at 50 pts ea)		300
Research Project:		
Research Topic		20
Annotated Bibliography		100
Reference Page		20
Research Paper		200
Exam 1	(Chapters 1–4)	120
Exam 2	(Chapters 5–9)	120
Exam 3	(Chapters 10, 13, 16)	120
	Total	1010

B. Scale

A = 900–1010 B = 800–899 C = 700–799 D = 600–699 F = 0–599

C. Late Assignment Policy

If the student is unable to complete an assignment on time, then he or she must contact the instructor immediately by email.

Assignments that are submitted after the due date without prior approval from the instructor will receive the following deductions:

1. Late assignments submitted within one week of the due date will receive a 10% deduction.
2. Assignments submitted more than one week late will receive a 20% deduction.
3. Assignments submitted two weeks late or after the final date of the course will not be accepted.
4. Late Discussion Board threads or replies will not be accepted.

Special circumstances (e.g. death in the family, personal health issues) will be reviewed by the instructor on a case-by-case basis.

D. Disability Assistance

Students with a documented disability may contact Liberty University Online’s Office of Disability Academic Support (ODAS) at LUOODAS@liberty.edu to make arrangements for academic accommodations. Further information can be found at www.liberty.edu/disabilitysupport.

COURSE SCHEDULE

PSYC 475

Textbook: Bartol & Bartol, *Criminal Behavior: A Psychological Approach* (2014).

MODULE/ WEEK	READING & STUDY	ASSIGNMENTS	POINTS
1	Bartol & Bartol: ch. 1 2 presentations 1 website	Course Requirements Checklist Class Introductions DB Forum 1	10 0 50
2	Bartol & Bartol: chs. 2–3 2 presentations 1 website	DB Forum 2 RP: Research Topic	50 20
3	Bartol & Bartol: ch. 4	DB Forum 3 Exam 1	50 120
4	Bartol & Bartol: chs. 5, 7 1 presentation 1 website	DB Forum 4 RP: Annotated Bibliography	50 100
5	Bartol & Bartol: ch. 6, 8 2 presentations 1 website	RP: Reference Page	20
6	Bartol & Bartol: ch. 9	DB Forum 5 Exam 2	50 120
7	Bartol & Bartol: chs. 10, 13 2 presentations 1 website	RP: Research Paper	200
8	Bartol & Bartol: ch. 16	DB Forum 6 Exam 3	50 120
TOTAL			1010

DB = Discussion Board

RP = Research Project

NOTE: Each course module/week (except Module/Week 1) begins on Tuesday morning at 12:00 a.m. (ET) and ends on Monday night at 11:59 p.m. (ET). The final module/week ends at 11:59 p.m. (ET) on **Friday**.