

PSYC 4400 A : SPECIAL TOPICS IN FORENSIC PSYCHOLOGY: PSYCOPATHY

Instructor	Dr. Kristopher Brazil
Term	Fall 2024
Course Delivery	In-person
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Office Location	Loeb A519
Office Hours	TBA

COURSE DESCRIPTION/INSTRUCTOR'S STATEMENT

Welcome to the fascinating world of psychopathy. This seminar will focus on the assessment, empirical, and theoretical research on psychopathy. What is psychopathy? How do you measure psychopathic traits? Are there “successful” psychopaths? Does treatment work with psychopaths? What is the impact of being involved with a psychopath? These are the types of questions we will be discussing. This seminar is designed to familiarize students with the fundamentals of research and theory on psychopathy and to develop critical thinking skills. Each week there will be readings on key topics and a review of the methodology commonly used in research. You will have the opportunity to learn how to score someone on psychopathic traits and examine a specific psychopathy topic in detail.

EVALUATION (SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

Class participation: 16%

Quizzes: 24%

True crime/Psychopathy Rating Assignment: 20%

Presentation: 15%

Literature Review/Research Proposal: 25%

TEXT

There will be weekly readings (mostly journal articles) posted on Brightspace.

In addition, you will purchase and read 1 of 3 true crime books to be posted in the course syllabus and the following book is required reading:

Hare, R. D. (1999). *Without conscience: The disturbing world of the psychopaths among us*. Guilford.