

Objects in mirror are closer than they appear

SOCIAL CONSTRUCTION OF

Serial Murder



*Look down on me, you will see a fool.
Look up at me, you will see your Lord.
Look straight at me, you will see yourself.*

--Charles Manson

Socio562, W09
Ref# 15001
Dec 30 – Jan 13, 1:00-5:30pm
Justin 109, K-State



Dr. L. Susan Williams, PhD
Sociology & Criminology
254 Waters Hall
532-4971
lswilli@k-state.edu



Assistants:
David Westfall, GTA
Adryanna Siqueira, M.A.
Allison Unruh, UTA
Travis Linnemann, M.A.

- Facts, Fables & Fiction
- The Science of Serial Murder
- Profiles & Process
- The Practice of Serial Murder
- Response to Societal Fears & Concerns

Required Texts:

Hickey, Eric W. 2005. *Serial Murderers & Their Victims*. 4th Edition. Wadsworth.

Selected readings, available electronically through KSOL
Selection from True Crime Book List (to be assigned)



We serial killers are your sons, we are your husbands, we are everywhere. Tomorrow there will be more of your dead children.

--Ted Bundy

We are a community of inquirers



It is your responsibility to check the website for announcements and information pertinent to class and class assignments.

In case of inclement weather, check announcements under the KSOL link to this course.

● Class members are expected to read assigned material prior to its listing on the course outline, be prepared for daily short quizzes, and actively participate in class activities.

● Students will critically analyze a book from the "True Crime" genre, concluding with a book report, class presentation, and directed essay.

COURSE EVALUATION

Based on 1000 points (NOT percentage; points cumulative)

10 Daily Quizzes @25.....	250
In-Class Participation*.....	150
"True Crime" Project	
Group Proposal.....	50
Group Book Review.....	100
Group Presentation & Brochure.....	150
Group Involvement.....	50
Individual Final Essay.....	250

** Latecomers, early-leavers, and absentees will not receive in-class participation points; sorry, no exceptions.*

Please carefully note due dates and times. While I remain open to students who need to catch up the first 2-3 days of class, late assignments beyond that point will not be accepted. Sorry!



If you need an A in this course, please note the number of points needed for an A; ditto for B, etc. I do not grade on the basis of need, and grades are not curved. Thx..



What is the
big idea of
serial murder?

That question is the task
at hand.

Assignment Details

Daily Quizzes. 10 quizzes are offered through KSOL, based on the Hickey chapters, other assigned readings, films, and lectures. Note that on selected days, the quiz may cover two chapters. ***Note: you must watch carefully for beginning and ending times/dates for each quiz.***

Semester Participation. Point opportunities are available every day for attendance and in-class participation points. I reserve the right to qualitatively evaluate your overall contributions during the semester.

'True Crime' Project. Each class member is assigned to one book from the "True Crime" genre, which documents a serial murder case. Groups are formed according to the assigned true crime selection, and a proposal is required so that I can give you early feedback.

The Book Review assignment and Presentation are designed to evaluate both content and creativity; group involvement is monitored through KSOL. Each of these components are group-based, and the group gets one grade (but see details on group negotiations).

The Final Essay is an individual assignment and constitutes the final exam for this course.

Guidelines and Rubrics are provided for each component.



Note:

I provide
direction for
successful
completion of
this killer
course.

So far, no
fatalities.

Killer Team Work

Each group elects a designated group leader. Responsibilities of the group leader include:

- Coordinating close communication of the group project, primarily to be conducted through the Groups function within KSOL;
- Securing alternative forms of communication for all group members (e.g., cell phone #s);
- Organizing meetings and work sessions;
- Regular reports of progress, questions, or concerns to designated instructor(s);
- Notification to the designated instructor(s) of any problems with the group project or with lack of full participation from all members;
- Notification to any group member(s) who do not fully participate in the project;
- Polling of group members as to recommended solutions to problems that might arise, including possible exclusion of non-participating group member(s).



NOTE: In the event group member(s) do not fully participate in the group components of the 'True Crime' Project, the following procedure guides a negotiation process:

- The group leader, in consultation with a majority of other group members, notifies the non-participant member, in writing (with a copy to the Professor), that s/he must contact the group leader at once and make arrangements for full participation.
- The notified member must respond in 24 hours. The notified member is also to copy the Professor with any correspondence.
- If the issue is not resolved within the 24-hour period, the Professor will call a group meeting of all parties. At that time, various options will be explored, including
 - agreements for full participation;
 - 'break-away' formation of new group(s); and/or
 - alternative assignments for the project.

Folie a Deux

As your Professor, I retain full discretion for the outcome of any arbitration, including a change in grade allocation.



CLASS & UNIVERSITY POLICIES

Student Conduct. I have a pretty simple rule about this one: *Just do the right thing.* The University, on the other hand, is much more specific and detailed. Please refer to the Student Code of Conduct statement, as follows:

<http://courses.k-state.edu/catalog/undergraduate/regulations>. In particular, please note:

All student activities in the University, including this course, are governed by the Student Judicial Conduct Code as outlined in the Student Government Association By Laws, Article VI, Section 3, number 2. Students that engage in behavior that disrupts the learning environment may be asked to leave the class.

I, as the professor of this course, determine what constitutes disruptive and/or hostile behavior. This may also include sleepers, habitual late-comers, and early-leavers. It may also include violation of any of the items listed as classroom policies.

Makeup work. No makeups for exams or other assignments will be given unless you have a university-approved reason, in writing. Go through Student Services to get documentation. Prior approval, except in dire emergency, must be arranged. **No Incompletes.**

Honor Code. Please write the KSU honor code on every written assignment, along with your signature; your assignment is counted as incomplete without this statement (see below for honor statement. Plagiarism and cheating are serious offenses and may be punished by failure on the assignment or failure in the course; and/or expulsion from the University. For more information, refer to the KSU Academic Dishonesty policy.

<http://www.k-state.edu/honor/>

On my honor, I have
neither given nor
received
unauthorized aid on
this assignment.

(signed)

Class Etiquette.

Be sure that your cell phones are turned off. No open laptops during lecture. Please do NOT pack up early. That is distracting to students around you who are paying attention to last-minute words of wisdom. Even more important, it annoys the Professor, which, ultimately, does not work to your advantage.

Attendance

Nonattendance will negatively affect your grade. Please show your respect by arriving on time and not leaving early. Habitual late-comers will be asked to drop the course as well as early-leavers and people who sleep during class. ***If you miss class, it is your responsibility to first check online and with fellow students for announcements, notes, and material. If your questions cannot be answered through such methods, please contact me or one of the assistants.***



Online and Email Etiquette.

I and the course team work diligently (often around the clock!) to respond to you in a prompt, respectful, and helpful way. We really DO like to hear from you – you are what makes this class interesting, engaging, challenging and yes, even fun! However, please check the syllabus, handouts, and FAQs to be sure that your inquiry cannot be answered easily (or at least partially) through that venue. This means we will be better able to help you with clarification or additional issues as they arise.

In turn, we ask the following from you:

- Write from your personal KSU email account. Do not have your email forwarded to another email address. This works procedure works best with KSOL

COMMUNICATE

- Email all of us simultaneously. This ensures that ONE of us can get back to you relatively quickly. If you have a personal or sensitive issue that is appropriate only for the professor to see, then of course, write only the professor.
- It is also etiquette to use the name(s) of the addressees, just as you would do in a letter. None of us respond as well to 'hey you'.
- Be sure that your subject line is descriptive. This helps us be alert to resources or information that we may need in order to respond most efficiently.

- Please sign your email.
- Your writing skills, even in email correspondence, reflect your skill and diligence as a student.
- Please be concise, to the point, but include enough detail so we can best help you. Remind us if we have asked you to remind us (!), and give us sufficient context so that we know who you are and why you are writing.
- Finally, read back over your email before hitting that 'send' button. Electronic communication is often difficult to convey tone.



Course Outline

Module I: Killer Facts,	Fables & Fiction	
Tue, 12/30	Readings Hickey, Ch 1 ER: Researching Serial Murder	Assignments & Activities Purchase True Crime Book
Wed, 12/31	The Story of One Hickey, Ch 2 ER: Monsters Inc	Q1, Q2 Due 12:30pm
	The Story of One	
	Module II: The Science of Serial Murder	
Fri, 1/2	Hickey, Ch 3 & 4	Q3, Due 12:30pm
	The Story of One	
Sun, 1/4		Group Proposal due 12:30pm
Mon, 1/5	ER: Creation of Dangerous, Violent Criminals	Q4, Due 12:30pm
	The Story of One	Guest Speaker
	Module III: Profiles & Processes	
Tue, 1/6	Hickey, Ch. 5 & 7 ER: Sexualizing the Serial Killer	Q5, Due 12:30pm
	The Story of One	
Wed, 1/7	Hickey, Ch. 6	Q6, Due 12:30pm
	The Story of One	Guest Speaker
Thu, 1/8	Hickey, Ch. 8 & 9	Q7 & Q8, Due 12:30pm
	The Story of One	Book Report Due 11:59pm
Fri, 1/9	Hickey, Ch. 10 ER: Explaining Paraphilia & Lust Murder	Guest Speakers
	The Story of One	
	Module IV: Practicing Serial Murder	
Sat, 1/10	Hickey, Ch. 11 & 12 ER: Creating Fear	Q9 & Q10, Due 11:59pm
	The Story of One	Presentations
Mon, 1/12		Guest Speakers
	The Story of One	Presentations
Tue, 1/13		Presentations
	The Story of One	Final Essay Due 11:59pm
	The Story of One	
	The Story of One	