SCOTTSDALE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
DIVISION OF APPLIED SCIENCES
ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE STUDIES

AJS 192 – Section Number 23958
Serial Killers and Mass Murderers

Monday & Wednesday, 12:00pm-1:15pm
INSTRUCTOR: Dominick Bueti, B.S.

Email: Dominick.bueti.jr@scottsdalecc.edu

Cell Phone: 480-363-6910

Office Location: Administration of Justice Building #269

Office Hours: One hour prior to class or by appointment
Scottsdale Community College
Spring 2017

Course Prefix & Number
AJS192   23958  

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Course Description
The study of serial killers, mass murderers and their victims. Examines the history and frequency of these crimes, profiles the killers and their victims, explores theories of causation, and discusses the problems and techniques of investigation, prosecution, punishment, and prevention

Prerequisites: None

Course Objectives
1. Describe and contrast serial killers and mass murders. (I)
2. Discuss the history and frequency of serial killing and mass murder. (I)
3. List the motivations involved in multiple murders. (I)
4. Explain theories of causation. (II)
5. List characteristics of the offenders. (III)
6. Describe and explain the victimology of serial killing and mass murder. (IV)
7. Discuss public interest in real and fictional offenders. (V)
8. List and examine the problems associated with investigating, apprehending, prosecuting and punishing serial killers and mass murderers. (VI)
10. Determine the impact these murders have on society and strategies for prevention. (VII & VIII)

Texts and Course Materials
No text required – handouts provided.

Course Policies
Students are responsible for the college policies included in the college catalog and the student handbook.

Grading Standards & Practices
There will be 3 tests and a final examination. The final exam will be comprehensive.
AJS 192
Serial Killers and Mass Murderers

I. Distinguishing Between Mass Murder and Serial Killing

A. Mass murder
   1. Incidence
   2. History
   3. Motivation
      a. Disciple (Manson family)
      b. Family annihilator (Ronald Gene Simmons, Jeffrey MacDonald, John List, Mark Barton)
      c. Disgruntled employee (Joseph Wesbecker)
      d. Cult (Jonestown, Heaven's Gate)
      e. Set and run (Timothy McVeigh, Tylenol)
      f. Disgruntled citizen (James Oliver Huberty, George Hennard)
      g. Psychotic (Ronald De Feo)
      h. Youthful (Columbine school killings)

B. Serial killing
   1. Incidence
   2. History
   3. Motivation
      A. Rational
         a. For profit, e.g. tontine
         b. For revenge
         c. For fun
         d. Cover-up, i.e. getting rid of witnesses
         e. Doing society a favor: Nazi experiments, vigilantism, mercy killing, Munchausen's by Proxy
         f. Gang war
         g. Political/genocide
         h. Other
      B. Irrational
         a. Neurotic, psychopathic, sociopathic - insanity
         is no defense
         b. Sexual
         c. Other obsessive behavior
   4. Psychotic - insanity might be a defense
      A. Delusional
      B. Jekyll and Hyde
II. Theories of Causation
   A. Social structure
   B. Social class
   C. Social process
   D. Neutralization
   E. Social control
   F. Labeling
   G. The MacDonald Triad

III. Characteristics of Offenders
   A. Gender
   B. Ethnicity/race/religion
   C. Age
   D. Occupation
   E. Work style - alone or with others
   F. Level of intelligence
   G. Geographical area of residence
   H. Family history/upbringing
   I. Cult involvement
   J. Drug or alcohol use
   K. Past criminal activity
   L. Presence of organic brain disease
   M. Impact of television/radio programming on psyche/behavior
   N. Person, idol worshiper
   O. Sexual deviance
   P. Personal habits, appearance
   Q. Personality type: extravert, introvert, etc.
   R. Affiliation with hate groups
   S. Inspired by religious beliefs

IV. Victimology
   A. Men
   B. Women
   C. Children
   D. Members of racial/religious groups
   E. Family
   F. Supervisors, co-workers
   G. Teachers
   H. Students
   I. Prostitutes
   J. Bad guys
   K. Politicians
   L. Police
   M. Political enemies
   N. Random victims
V. Public Interest
   A. Media impact
   B. Fear for self and close ones
   C. General fascination, anti-hero
   D. Educational
   E. Chasing myths

VI. Problems of Solving and Prosecution
   A. Skill of killer in avoiding detection
   B. Forensic clues/circumstantial evidence
   C. Use of psychics and other non-conventional methods
   D. Evidentiary roadblocks
   E. Constitutional road blocks
   F. Status of current cold cases

VII. Punishment

VIII. Prevention

NOTE: Course content may vary from this outline to meet the needs of this particular group.
Attendance Policy & Withdrawals

Withdrawal Policy

- Student may initiate an official withdrawal from any course by submitting a withdrawal form with required signatures to the A&R office within published deadlines.
- Failure to attend any classes is not a guarantee for a refund or an excuse of debt incurred through registration. See Refund Policy in the 2016-2017 College Catalog page 241.
- Official date of withdrawal is last date of attendance as determined by student’s withdrawal or as reported by the instructor.
- The official date of withdrawal will determine degree of refund, if any.
- Failure to file official withdrawal form within published deadlines can result in a failing grade and may affect refund of course tuition and fees.

Additional information on Withdrawals can be found in the 2016-2017 College Catalog page 252.

Academic & Student Support Services

A variety of student services can be accessed online. Services are free of charge to all registered SCC students. Refer to the SCC College Resources Student Home Page.

Accommodations

Scottsdale Community College provides equal opportunity to qualified students. If you have a documented disability (medical, physical, learning, psychological, etc.) and wish to request disability-related accommodations to complete course requirements, contact Disability Resources & Services (located in SC building; 480-423-6517). Course requirements cannot be waived, but reasonable accommodations may be provided based on disability documentation and course objectives.

Pregnant & Parenting Students

Students who are pregnant may receive accommodations similar to those given to students with a temporary illness when deemed medically necessary. Students may be eligible to receive attendance leniency, extended deadlines, alternative test dates, or in cases of severe temporary illness, an “incomplete” from a course.

Students who are pregnant should contact Disability Resources & Services for consultation. If a student needs an academic or athletic accommodation due to pregnancy they will need to provide documentation, from their doctor, regarding their condition. Medical documentation regarding absences must also be provided. Disability Resources & Services is located in the SC Building; 480-423-6517.

Sexual Harassment

Sexual harassment is any unwelcome, verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature that is sufficiently severe, persistent, or pervasive that it alters working conditions and creates a hostile environment or reasonably interferes with, limits, or deprives a
student of the ability to participate in or benefit from any educational program or activity.

Sexual harassment and discrimination in any college education program or activity, is prohibited. Students should report any discrimination and/or harassment they experience and/or observe to the Vice President of Student Affairs (SCC’s Title IX Coordinator); located in the Administration Building (AD), phone 480-423-6300.

To view the full Sexual Harassment Policy, refer to the Student Handbook – page 254.

**SCC General Education Statement**

General Education enhances students’ abilities in critically analyzing and effectively communicating in Written, Oral, Visual, and Numerical form. General Education is woven through the curriculum and co-curricular experiences at Scottsdale Community College.

**Student Misconduct Policy**

The classroom is an educational learning environment where students are expected to engage in behaviors which are conducive to their own learning and the learning of their peers. To facilitate this, respect for self and others is mandatory and necessary. Should a student exhibit disruptive behavior and/or use profane language to the extent that it interferes with the learning environment, an academic consequence may be imposed. Any student found by a faculty member to have committed academic misconduct may be subject to the following academic consequences:

- **Warning** – A notice in writing to the student that the student has violated the academic code.
- **Grade Adjustment** – Lowering of a score on a test or assignment.
- **Discretionary Sanctions** – Additional academic assignments determined by the faculty member.
- **Course Failure** – Failure of a student from a course where academic misconduct occurs. Further information can be found in the SCC Student Handbook, Academic Misconduct 2.3.11, page 277

**Technology**

**Technology and skills needed:**

You should have regular access to a computer with an Internet connection. Additionally, you should be comfortable using the Internet and word processing tools. You should run the course materials on either FireFox or Chrome browsers. To download these browsers visit:

- [FireFox Website](#)
- [Chrome Website](#)

**Computer Equipment / Access Needed**

For this course, you will need a working e-mail address, a Canvas account, and access to the Internet. Internet access can be from school, home, or work.
Maricopa Community Colleges provides all students with an email address. It is now the official way to receive communication from the college and district. Look up your email account at the Maricopa Student Email Site. You will be able to log into the Canvas Learning Management System using your MEID and associated password.

For help with Canvas:
- Check out the Canvas self-help site or call 1-888-994-4433 for 24/7 support
- Visit the Maricopa 24/7 help site for a live chat with a support team member
- The Start Here Link has information on student and academic resources as well as videos on how to use Canvas

Note: It is essential that you set your notifications in Canvas before you get started with the course. Here is a video to help you set your notifications.

SCC Help Desk
- Contact the SCC Help Desk at (480) 423-6274. Hours are Monday – Friday 8a-8p and Saturday from 8a-4p. Summer Hours vary.

Code of Civility
Instructors are expected to be professional, courteous, respectful and empathic to students. They will:
- Begin and end class on time
- Be prepared for each class session
- Provide academic feedback and grade assignments in a timely manner
- Be available for individual consultation
- Clarify assignments and inform students of any adjustments to the class schedule

Students are expected to be reflective, courteous, respectful and empathic to classmates, instructor and other college staff assisting in their learning. Students are expected to arrive on time for class and remain until class has ended. The instructor should be notified in advance if there is a need to leave early. Students will be expected to:
- Mute mobile phones and pagers before entering classroom
- Be in class and be on time
- Be prepared for class sessions
- Participate in class activities
- Follow instructions and complete assignments
- Keep up with and turn in assignments by due dates
- Put forth their best efforts
- Exchange phone numbers with two classmates in order to keep current.
- Ask questions when they don’t understand
- Maintain knowledge of their grade status
- Contact instructor right away about concerns or situations that may interfere with their success in class
- Comply with policies found in the [SCC Catalog and SCC Student Handbook](#)

**Diversity and a Safe Learning Environment**
This classroom will be a safe learning environment for every individual as far as I am able to ensure that outcome. This means I will treat each student with respect, and in turn I expect respect to be given to the instructor and every individual in this course. Disagreement does not equal disrespect. We all bring different points of view, different personal values, different life experiences, and different personal preferences with us into the classroom. This diversity makes for great discussion, adds interesting dimensions to our interpersonal relationships, and is welcome in the academic arena. Though we celebrate our differences, I expect each student to respect the rights and needs of fellow classmates. Students cannot feel safe to express themselves without the assurance that their ideas, attitudes and beliefs will be treated with respect.

**Academic Honesty**
- Every student in this class is expected to produce his/her own original work.
- Plagiarism is unacceptable and will not be tolerated.
- Plagiarism will result in being dropped from the course with a failing grade.
- Plagiarism will result in actions as outlined in the [College Catalog](#).

**Using Web-Based Applications**
We will be using web-based for academic use in this course. By default, the web-based/discussion applications are open to the public for the purpose of sharing your work with the larger Internet community; specifically, using web-based presentation tools, online discussion and comments will:
- provide an opportunity to track and reflect upon your design process/progress,
- provide an opportunity to collaborate on design projects, and
- engage a larger audience who may provide feedback on the project.

To use the web-based/discussion/comment applications responsibly please observe all laws, SCC, and MCCCD policies that are incorporated into the Codes of Conduct and Academic Integrity. Some specific aspects of law and policy that might be well to remember are prohibitions against copyright infringement, plagiarism, harassment or interferences with the underlying technical code of the software. Some resources to remind yourself about SCC and MCCCD policies as well as laws about copyright and fair use:
- [SCC College Catalog and Student Handbook](#)
- [MCCCD Copyright Guidelines](#)

As a student using the web-based/discussion/comment applications certain rights accrue to you. Any original work that you make tangible belongs to you as a matter of copyright law. You also have a right to the privacy of your educational records as a matter of federal law and may choose to set your discussion privacy settings to
private and only share with the instructor and your classmates. Your contributions to the web-based/discussion/comment applications constitute an educational record. By contributing to the web-based/discussion/comments applications, and not taking other options available to you in this course equivalent to this assignment that would not be posted publicly on the Internet, you consent to the collaborative use of this material as well as to the disclosure of it in this course and potentially for the use of future courses.

**Campus Security Services**
The main security services that are provided on campus are provided to faculty, staff and students on a regular basis. Most importantly if you see something “out of place” or suspicious please contact the safety Department.

**SCC Emergency Numbers:** Call 4-0-911 or 480-784-0911

All Maricopa County Community College Public Safety offices have a fully monitored, centralized dispatch center. This center is actively staffed 24 hours a day and these numbers directly access the dispatch center, where dispatchers will then send officers to the location of the emergency activity. Non-emergency situations should be reported directly to the SCC campus safety office by calling 480-423-6175 or x36175

**Patrol:** We have a 24/7-patrol service by police officers and police service aides. Both are marked with uniforms and patrol on foot, bike, cart or patrol car. Police officers are AZPOST certified and the police aides are civilian, some with prior law enforcement or military experience.

**Cameras:** There are several security camera on campus they are operational 24/7. The cameras are digital recording devices and are subject to computer errors.

**Blue outdoor call boxes/inside classroom “Talk Master” systems:** These devices activate at the press of a button and are answered by our on-campus Dispatch 24/7. The activation of these systems should only be for Emergencies: crime in progress, medical emergencies, and suspicious person/vehicle calls. Should you accidentally activate one in the classroom a police officer will be dispatched regardless of your response and comments (i.e. It’s OK). Officers may or may not enter the classroom to assess the situation when they arrive.

**Safety Escort / Disability Shuttle Service:** Safety can be called for a safe escort to your car or class, also in the case of disability assistance. Security staff may arrive by electric cart, on foot or on a bike depending on the request. The shuttle may take a few minutes but will arrive as soon as resources allow.

**Building Lockdown:** In the unlikely event of a violent incident involving an immediate threat, Public Safety or other college officials may order a lockdown of the campus. Notification of the lockdown may come from several sources including telephones, ALERTUS beacons or pages to student and employee cellular phones. If a lockdown is ordered:

- Locate a safe classroom, office, or meeting room
- Assist others in moving to the safe room
- Lock the door if possible
- Close any window shades in the room
- Turn off all lights if possible
- Move away from doors and windows
- Remain in the safe location and quietly await further instructions

During a lockdown, the Public Safety office should only be contacted in an emergency, such as a serious injury or if you have additional information on a suspect’s location.

Active Shooter Response: Three aspects to remember are run, hide, and fight
If you can escape, do so – run
- Know at least two exits out of your room/building
- Take different routes into and out of your room/building to develop familiarity with avenues of escape
- Leave your belongings and get out
- If you encounter responding police officers, raise hands and follow their orders
If you are unable to run – hide
- Lock doors (block if unable to lock), turn off lights, silence cell phones
- Locate areas inside your room/building where you can hide
- Do not “bunch up” – spread out
- Turn off lights, silence cell phones
If you cannot run and you have been discovered – be prepared to fight
- Locate items inside your room/building that could be used as weapons
- Do whatever you have to do to incapacitate the shooter
- Do not be tentative – commit to action

Other important things to know:
- The first police officers on scene will not render aid or stop to help the injured – they will be focused on finding the shooter and stopping any future injuries (victims will be treated/evacuated when additional officers arrive)
- Responding officers will not necessarily know who the shooter is – everyone they encounter may be a threat
- Remain calm and follow the officers’ instructions
- Drop items in your hands
- Keep your hands visible
- Avoid quick movements toward officers (do not reach for or grab them)
- Be prepared to provide as much information as you can to help the officers find the shooter
Helpful links to review for your safety:

- [http://www.scottsdalecc.edu/public-safety/emergency-procedures](http://www.scottsdalecc.edu/public-safety/emergency-procedures)
- [https://administration.maricopa.edu/the-maricopa/what-to-do-in-an-active-shooter-situation](https://administration.maricopa.edu/the-maricopa/what-to-do-in-an-active-shooter-situation)

[YouTube](https://www.youtube.com) has several good videos produced by police departments that can be accessed by searching “run hide fight” in the YouTube search bar.