WOODS COLLEGE OF ADVANCING STUDIES

ADEN 1161 01 – Crime, Criminals, and the Courts
4 Credits - Spring 2018
Syllabus*

Woods College of Advancing Studies
Spring 2018 Semester, January 16– May 8, 2018
Class meeting Day and Time: Tuesdays – 6:15 p.m. – 9:15 p.m.

Instructor Name: Andrew S. McAleer, J.D.
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Phone Number: 339-223-1561
Office: Woods College
Office Hours: Tuesdays - 5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. or by Appointment or by Phone

NOTE: Classroom assignment will be assigned at a later date. Please visit Agora and go to “Course Information & Schedule” prior to the first evening of class for classroom assignment.

Boston College Mission Statement
Strengthened by more than a century and a half of dedication to academic excellence, Boston College commits itself to the highest standards of teaching and research in undergraduate, graduate and professional programs and to the pursuit of a just society through its own accomplishments, the work of its faculty and staff, and the achievements of its graduates. It seeks both to advance its place among the nation's finest universities and to bring to the company of its distinguished peers and to contemporary society the richness of the Catholic intellectual ideal of a mutually illuminating relationship between religious faith and free intellectual inquiry.

Boston College draws inspiration for its academic societal mission from its distinctive religious tradition. As a Catholic and Jesuit university, it is rooted in a world view that encounters God in all creation and through all human activity, especially in the search for truth in every discipline, in the desire to learn, and in the call to live justly together. In this spirit, the University regards the contribution of different religious traditions and value systems as essential to the fullness of its intellectual life and to the continuous development of its distinctive intellectual heritage.

Course Description
Crime, Criminals, and the Courts
Real life crime captivates our sense of intrigue, imagination and our investigative nature. The Whitey Bulger saga, the Lindbergh kidnapping, the Lizzie Borden case, the Boston Strangler murders and the Charles Manson family, are just some of the fascinating cases that enthral the public. Analyzing alleged criminals, their suspected motives, and the justice system, students discover how true crime writers master the art of recreating and retelling notorious crimes. Videos and guest lecturers supplement class discussions.

Textbooks & Readings (Required)
Member of the Family: My Story of Charles Manson, Life Inside His Cult and the Darkness that Ended the Sixties Author: Diane Lake

Fraternal Bonds, Thomas Donahue

Selected Reading Suggestions
The Declaration of Independence
The United States Constitution
Massachusetts Declaration of Rights

Canvas
Canvas is the Learning Management System (LMS) at Boston College, designed to help faculty and students share ideas, collaborate on assignments, discuss course readings and materials, submit assignments, and much more - all online. As a Boston College student, you should familiarize yourself with this important tool. For more information and training resources for using Canvas, click here.

Course Objectives
Through class discussions, readings, lectures from experts in the criminal justice field, practical assignments, and overall course content, Crime, Criminals, and Courts will provide students with an overview of the criminal justice and penal systems and their ultimate impact on society.

Further, through discussions, written assignments and in-class examinations, students will demonstrate their knowledge, skill and competency as to how the criminal justice and penal systems affect society across cultural settings. Finally, Crime, Criminals, and Courts will instill in students how society relies and ultimately functions because of the ethical conduct of the public and those willing to serve the criminal justice and penal systems.

-Students will understand the processes through which criminal laws are made and enforced.
-Students will be able to bring major theories of criminality to bear on the analysis of criminal behavior.
-Students will be able to communicate effectively, orally and in writing.
-Students will be able to articulate the ethical issues surrounding criminality and punishment.

Grading
FINAL EXAM POLICY:
Final exam administered on May 8 at 6:15 p.m.

FINAL GRADE:
Attendance 20%; 1st Quiz 20%; 2nd Quiz 20%; Final Examination 40%

WCAS Grading System
The undergraduate grading system consists of twelve categories: A (4.00), A- (3.67), excellent; B+ (3.33), B (3.00), B- (2.67), good; C+ (2.33), C (2.00), C- (1.67), satisfactory; D+ (1.33), D (1.00), D- (.67), passing but unsatisfactory; F (.00), failure; I (.00), incomplete; F (.00), course dropped without notifying office; W (.00), official withdrawal from course. The graduate grading system is A (4.00), A- (3.67), Excellent; B+ (3.33), B (3.00), good; B- (2.67), C (2.00), passing but not for degree credit; F (.00), failure.

Grade Reports. All students are required to log into the web through Agora to access their semester grades. Students must utilize their BC username and password to log on. If your username or password is not
known, the Student Learning and Support Center in the O’Neill Library Computer Center will issue a new one. The SLSC requires a valid picture ID (a BC ID, driver’s license or passport) to obtain your password. All students can access final grades through Agora after the grading deadline each semester. Students who complete course evaluations can access grades earlier, as they are posted.

**Deadlines and Late Work**
Based on extenuating circumstances late work assignments may be accepted on a case by case basis and, if so, by the terms set forth by the instructor and in compliance with WCAS policy.

**Course Assignments**
Students will spend approximately six hours per week on out-of class assignments. Generally, this will include reading, writing, and preparing to participate in thoughtful class discussions.

**Course Schedule – Crime, Criminals, and the Courts**

**January**

January 16
Introduction. Overview of the American Justice System; Felony vs. Misdemeanors; *United States of America v. Stephen J. Flemmi*; Assignment: Begin *Member of the Family*

January 23
Three Branches of Government; Elements of burglary. Discussion *United States of America v. Stephen J. Flemmi* (Continued); “The Green Harbor Friends of George V. Higgins”; Assignment: *Member of the Family*

January 30
Discussion – Manson/*Member of the Family* (MOF); Documentary “Crimes of the Century”; The Black Dahlia; John Lennon; Oklahoma Bombing, etc. Assignment: *Member of the Family*

**February**

February 6
Overview Massachusetts Courts; Elements of larceny. Discussion *MOF*; History of Cedar Junction and the Boston Strangler; Assignment: *Member of the Family*

February 13
Elements of robbery. Discussion *MOF*; History of Cedar Junction (Continued); The Assassination of JFK – a forensic documentary. Assignment: *Member of the Family*

February 20
Discussion *MOF*; What is Domestic Violence, Witness for the Prosecution; Assignment: Assignment: *Member of the Family*

February 27
QUIZ. Elements of a tort. Discussion *MOF*; History of MCI-Norfolk; Guest Lecturer; Assignment: *Member of the Family*

**March**

March 1
Elements of Assault and Battery. Discussion *Whitey on Trial*; History of MCI-Norfolk (Continued); “The Lizzie Borden Grand Jury”; Assignment: *Whitey on Trial*

**March 6 - NO CLASS**

March 13
Discussion *MOF*; “The Law in a Tutshill”; “The Lindbergh Kidnapping”; Assignment: *Member of the Family*

March 20
QUIZ; Discussion *MOF*; “Pinkerton”; “Brinks Job” Complete: *Member of the Family*

March 27
Final Discussion *MOF*; “White Collar Crime”; Assignment: Begin *Fraternal Bonds*

**April**

April 3
Discussion *Fraternal Bonds (FB)*; Guest Lecturer: Kris Meyer – “The Catcher was a Spy” – the amazing life of lawyer, linguist, major league baseball player, and American spy - Moe Berg. Assignment: *Fraternal Bonds*

April 10
Discussion *FB*; “Did Lizzie Whack Her Parents”; Guest Lecturer. Assignment: *Fraternal Bonds*

**April 19 NO CLASS**

April 17
Discussion *FB*; “The Webster Parkman Murder” at Harvard University; Assignment: *Fraternal Bonds*

**May**

May 1
“The Great Train Robbery”; Final Discussion *FB*; “The Black Dahlia”; Wrap up for final examination.

**May 8** FINAL EXAM begins at 6:15 p.m.

**Written Work**

Woods College students are expected to prepare professional, polished written work. Written materials must be typed and submitted in the format required by your instructor. Strive for a thorough yet concise style. Cite literature appropriately, using APA, MLA or CLA style per your instructor’s requirements. Develop your thoughts fully, clearly, logically and specifically. Proofread all materials to ensure the use of proper grammar, punctuation and spelling. For writing support, please contact the Connors Family Learning Center.

**Attendance**

Attending class is an important component of learning. Students are expected to attend all class sessions. When circumstances prevent a student from attending class, the student is responsible for contacting the instructor before the class meets. Students who miss class are still expected to complete all assignments and meet all deadlines. Many instructors grade for participation; if you miss class, you cannot make up participation points associated with that class. Makeup work may be assigned at the discretion of the
instructor. If circumstances necessitate excessive absence from class, the student should consider withdrawing from the class. Students are the backbone of the class. We all learn from each other and have important contributions to make. WCAS students are professionals. Our peers are our colleagues. We rely on each other to attend class and share our collective knowledge. The semester is short consisting of fifteen classes only. Two missed classes represents approximately one-seventh of the semester. Three missed classes represents approximately one-fifth of the semester – as importantly, your colleagues have missed your input! Students must attend class and may be excused from class for extenuating circumstances and/or in accordance with WCAS policy only. Since attendance and class participation represents 20% of the final grade, missed classes without approval, will affect one’s final grade accordingly. Generally, this will include reading, writing, and preparing to participate in thoughtful class discussions.

Consistent with BC’s commitment to creating a learning environment that is respectful of persons of differing backgrounds, we believe that every reasonable effort should be made to allow members of the university community to observe their religious holidays without jeopardizing their academic status. Students are responsible for reviewing course syllabi as soon as possible, and for communicating with the instructor promptly regarding any possible conflicts with observed religious holidays. Students are responsible for completing all class requirements for days missed due to conflicts with religious holidays.

**Accommodation and Accessibility**
Boston College is committed to providing accommodations to students, faculty, staff and visitors with disabilities. Specific documentation from the appropriate office is required for students seeking accommodation in Woods College courses. Advanced notice and formal registration with the appropriate office is required to facilitate this process. There are two separate offices at BC that coordinate services for students with disabilities:

- [The Connors Family Learning Center (CFLC)](https://www.bc.edu/dept/arts/ld-and-adhd/) coordinates services for students with LD and ADHD.
- [The Disabilities Services Office (DSO)](https://www.bc.edu/dept/arts/disability-services/) coordinates services for all other disabilities.

Find out more about BC’s commitment to accessibility at [www.bc.edu/sites/accessibility](http://www.bc.edu/sites/accessibility).

**Scholarship and Academic Integrity**
Students in Woods College courses must produce original work and cite references appropriately. Failure to cite references is plagiarism. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not necessarily limited to, plagiarism, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, cheating on exams or assignments, or submitting the same material or substantially similar material to meet the requirements of more than one course without seeking permission of all instructors concerned. Scholastic misconduct may also involve, but is not necessarily limited to, acts that violate the rights of other students, such as depriving another student of course materials or interfering with another student’s work. Please see the [Boston College policy on academic integrity](https://www.bc.edu/dept/arts/academic-integrity/) for more information.

*Please note that this syllabus should be regarded only as a general guide to the course and is subject to change at the instructor’s discretion.

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