INSTRUCTOR: THOMAS R. PANKO, Ph.D.
PHONE: (601) 266-5692/4509
EMAIL: Thomas.Panko@usm.edu
OFFICE: 116 Arthell Kelley Hall
OFFICE HOURS: 9:30-12:00 TTH or by appointment
CLASS SCHEDULE: Tuesday 2:25-5:05
CLASSROOM: JST 214
James Alan Fox and Jack Levin

COURSE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES
The purpose of this course is to increase the student’s understanding of serial killers and mass murderers. While the emphasis will be on these heinous phenomena in American society, consideration also will be given to the international scene. Extreme killing will be examined in its social, cultural, psychological, and historical contexts. Types of serial killers and mass murderers, their methods, the role of victims, profiling, forensic methodologies, the role of law enforcement, and possible means of early detection and prevention will be discussed. Case histories of serial killers and mass murderers will be examined to accentuate course objectives.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:
All students at The University of Southern Mississippi are expected to demonstrate the highest levels of academic integrity in all that they do. Forms of academic dishonesty include (but are not limited to):

- Cheating (including copying from others’ work)
- Plagiarism (representing another person’s words or ideas as your own; failure to properly cite the source of your information, argument, or concepts)
- Falsification of documents
- Disclosure of test or other assignment content to another student
- Submission of the same paper or other assignment to more than one class without the explicit approval of all faculty members involved
- Unauthorized academic collaboration with others
- Conspiracy to engage in academic misconduct

Engaging in any of these behaviors or supporting others who do so will result in academic penalties and/or other sanctions. If a faculty member determines that a student has violated our Academic Integrity Policy, sanctions ranging from resubmission of work to course failure may occur, including the possibility of receiving a grade of “XF” for the course, which will be on the student’s transcript with the notation “Failure due to academic misconduct.” For more details, please see the University’s Academic Integrity Policy: (https://www.usm.edu/institutional-policy-acaf-pro-012%20). Note that repeated acts of academic misconduct will lead to expulsion from the university.
CLASSROOM RULES
NO cellular phones/pagers/iPods/iPhones/Blackberries, recording devices, computers, etc.
NO food, drinks (except water), or tobacco products
NO caps/hats

THE OPERATION OF CELL PHONES (INCLUDING TEXTING), PAGERS, iPODS, iPHONES, BLACKBERRIES, ETC. WILL RESULT IN REMOVAL FROM THE CLASSROOM AND A GRADE OF “F” IN THE COURSE. ALL STUDENTS ARE REQUIRED TO SIGN A FORM ACKNOWLEDGING AND ACCEPTING THIS POLICY AND ITS CONSEQUENCES.

CLASSROOM ATTENDANCE
It is extremely important that students attend each weekly scheduled class meeting since test performance and course grade depend greatly on lecture material, class discussions, films, special assignments, and assigned readings. Roll will be taken at the beginning of each class. If you are late for class, it is your responsibility to let me know you were in attendance and to sign the seating chart.
YOU ARE ALLOWED TWO (2) EXCUSED/UNEXCUSED ABSENCES IN THIS CLASS. A third absence will result in a fifteen (15) point reduction from your course total. A fourth absence will result in an “F” in the course.

GRADING
A student’s grade in this course will be computed using a combination of test scores, term paper, and any in/out of classroom work. Some extra credit is possible for attending various courts/special activities.

EXAMS
There will be three (3) equally weighted exams in this course. Each exam will be worth 100 points and contain a variety of objective/subjective items. The test material will come from class lectures, the text, films, and classroom discussions.
MAKE UP EXAMS WILL BE GIVEN ONLY FOR EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES.

TERM PAPER
This is not a writing intensive course. However, you will be responsible for an 8-10 page double-spaced term paper. Your paper should have a title page and an abstract page (one paragraph) stating the nature of the topic. Footnotes/bibliography should be at the end of the paper, and do not count as part of the minimum page length. You should have at least as many references as you have pages of text. Left, right, and bottom margins will be 1”; the top margin will be 1.5”. Be sure to check your paper for spelling/grammar before submitting. The paper is worth 100 points (the equivalent of an exam), so put forth a credible effort. Papers are due November 21. Papers turned in after this date will not be accepted.

GRADING SCALE
TOTAL POINTS IN COURSE = 400
A = 90-100% (360-400)
B = 80-89%
C = 70-79%
D = 60-69%
F = Under 60% (239 or less)
STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES
If a student has a disability that qualifies under the American With Disabilities ACT (ADA) and requires accommodations, he/she should contact the Office for Disability Accommodations (ODA) for information on appropriate policies and procedures. Disabilities covered by ADA may include learning, psychiatric, physical disabilities, or chronic health disorders. Students can contact ODA if they are not certain whether a medical condition or disability qualifies.

Mailing Address: The University of Southern Mississippi
Office for Disability Accommodations
118 College Drive #8586
Hattiesburg, MS 39406-0001

Voice Telephone: (601) 266-5024 or (228) 214-3232  FAX: (601) 266-6035

Individuals with hearing impairments can contact ODA using the Mississippi Relay Service at 1-800-582-2233 (TTY) or email Suzy Hebert at Suzanne.Hebert@usm.edu

TENTATIVE COURSE OUTLINE

UNIT 1: Multiple Murder
  Chapter 1: America’s Fascination with Multiple Murder
  Chapter 2: Defining Multiple Murder
  Chapter 3: An Anatomy of Serial Murder
  Chapter 4: With Deliberation and Purpose
  Chapter 5: Murder Without Guilt
  Chapter 8: Fantasyland
  Chapter 9: The Making of a Serial Killer

EXAM #1  SEPTEMBER 26

UNIT 2: Serial Murder
  Chapter 6: Partners in Murder
  Chapter 7: Killing for Company
  Chapter 8: Team Killers
  Chapter 10: Nonsexual Control
  Chapter 11: Killing Cults
  Chapter 12: So Many Victims

EXAM #2  NOVEMBER 7

UNIT 3: Massacres
  Chapter 13: For Love, Money, or Revenge
  Chapter 14: Family Annihilation
  Chapter 15: Firing Back
  Chapter 16: Schooled in Mass Murder
  Chapter 17: Fighting City Hall
  Chapter 18: Hate Motivated Mass Murder
  Chapter 19: Going Berserk
  Chapter 20: Weapons of Mass (Murder) Destruction
  Chapter 21: Remembering the Victims

FINAL EXAM:  DECEMBER 4: 1:30-4:00 PM
IMPORTANT DATES

AUGUST 23:  Last day to drop/add courses without academic/financial penalty
Last day to drop without grade of W
Last to withdraw and receive 100% tuition refund; after this date, no tuition whatsoever will be returned.

SEPTEMBER 26:  EXAM #1
OCTOBER 19-20:  Fall Break
OCTOBER 27:  Last day to drop full-term courses with permission and receive a grade of “W”.
(After the withdraw deadline, students will not have the option to request permission to drop/withdraw. After this date, the grade a student has earned will appear on the official transcript).

NOVEMBER 7:  EXAM #2
November 21:  TERM PAPER DUE
NOVEMBER 22-24:  Thanksgiving Holidays

FINAL EXAM  DECEMBER 4:  1:30-4:00 PM

CLASS MEETINGS

AUGUST

22  29

SEPTEMBER

5  12  19  26

OCTOBER

3  10  17  24  31

NOVEMBER

7  14  21  28

DECEMBER

4

FINAL EXAM:  MONDAY DECEMBER 4  1:30-4:00