

**NORTHERN VIRGINIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE**  
**Annandale Campus**  
**ADJ 247 Criminal Behavior**  
**Fall 2025**  
**Monday 6:00 PM to 9:30 PM**  
**Virtual 13 Week Session via ZOOM**  
**Instructor: Scott Leonard, Psy.D.**  
**Office Hours via ZOOM Monday 5:00 PM to 6:00 PM (you**  
**must email first), or in-person on the Annandale Campus in the CT**  
**Building, Adjunct Office, on Thursdays from 4:45 PM to 5:45PM**  
**Or anytime by email at [sleonard@nvcc.edu](mailto:sleonard@nvcc.edu)**

## **SYLLABUS AND IMPORTANT STUDENT INFORMATION**

### **TEXT**

- **Criminal Behavior: A Psychological Approach (11<sup>th</sup> ed.), Bartol, C.R. & Bartol, A.M. Pearson Publishing, 2016, ISBN-10: 0134163745, ISBN-13: 978-0134163741**

### **COURSE PURPOSE AND DESCRIPTION**

Introduces and evaluates the concepts of normal and abnormal behavior. Focuses on the psychological and sociological aspects of criminal and other deviant behavior patterns.

### **COURSE OBJECTIVES**

**After completing this course, the student will be able to:**

- 1. Cite at least 5 different theories about the causation of criminal behavior.**
- 2. Apply a theory of criminal behavior to specific cases of criminal behavior.**
- 3. Cite how criminal behavior differs from non-criminal behavior from a psychological perspective**

### **INSTRUCTION METHOD**

This course will be taught by lecture supplemented by video and film presentations via ZOOM. You must read the assigned material before we discuss it in class. Due to the length of each class period, there will be two short (ten minutes) breaks each class day.

## **COURSE CONTENT ADVISORY**

This course may contain some graphic information pertaining to the field of criminal justice. Some videos contain profanity and disturbing language and are offered to educate and depict reality. If you are offended or bothered by the content of any video or PowerPoint, you may mute the presentation. I will attempt to advise the class of any such material prior to showing the material.

The topic of Criminal Justice in America is currently a volatile one. All persons are required to keep discussions civil and free from derogatory language and to be respectful of the opinions of others.

NOTE: NVCC is a place for learning and growing. You should feel safe and comfortable anywhere on this campus. In order to meet this objective, you should: a) advise your instructor, his/her supervisor, the Dean of Students, or Provost if any unsafe, unwelcome or uncomfortable situation arises that interferes with the learning process; b) inform the instructor within the first two weeks of classes, if you have special needs or a disability that may affect your performance in this class.

## **STUDENT EVALUATION AND COURSE GRADING**

**Final grades will be based on the following:**

**Four exams worth 70%. Exam content is not cumulative. Study guides for each exam will be provided.**

**One paper 28%. Details will be discussed in class, and a grading rubric will be posted in Canvas.**

**Personal introduction 2%.**

**Grading Scale:**

**A = 90-108**

**B = 80-89**

**C = 70-79**

**D = 60-79**

**F= below 60**

**SCHEDULE:**

WEEK	DATE	MATERIAL	ASSIGNMENTS
1	9/15/25	Introduction & Chapter 1	LAST ADD DATE (9/15)
2	9/22/25	Chapter 2 & 3	CENSUS DATE (9/24)
3	9/29/25	Chapter 3 & 4	INTRODUCTIONS
4	10/6/25	Chapter 4 & 7	
	10/13/25	Fall Break No Classes	
5	10/20/25	Chapter 7 & 8	EXAM 1
6	10/27/25	Chapter 8 & 6	
7	11/3/25	Chapter 11 & 16	EXAM 2
8	11/10/25	Chapter 5 & 9	LAST DROP (11/10)
9	11/17/25	Chapter 13	
10	11/24/25	Chapter 12	EXAM 3
11	12/1/25	Chapter 14	
12	12/8/25	Chapters 10 & 15	PAPERS DUE
13	12/15/25	Final Exam	EXAM 4

**IMPORTANT DATES FALL SEMESTER 2025 13 WEEK CLASSES**

9/15 NO ONE DROPPED FOR ANY REASON, INCLUDING FINANCIAL REASONS, MAY BE ADMITTED, OR READMITTED AFTER THIS DATE.

9/24 IS THE CENSUS DATE. IF YOU DO NOT ATTEND AND EITHER OF THE FIRST TWO CLASSES YOU WILL BE ADMINISTRATIVELY DROPPED

11/10 IS THE LAST DATE YOU MAY DROP THIS COURSE WITHOUT A GRADE PENALTY

**EXAM**

MATERIAL: EXAM 1: CH 1-4  
EXAM 2: CH 6-8 & 11  
EXAM 3: CH 5, 9, 13 16  
EXAM 4: CH 10, 12, 14, 15

**PLEASE NOTE: This is a tentative schedule.** Circumstances may cause changes. The student has the burden of keeping informed of any changes, which will be announced in class and will be posted on Canvas.

## **ATTENDANCE**

Even though this class is presented virtually you must still attend classes in order to do well in this course. Attendance will be taken each class period. It is your responsibility to make sure you are logged into ZOOM for this class on the class date. You must attend at least one class prior to the Census Date, or you will be administratively dropped from the course.

## **ZOOM issues**

In general, when you log onto ZOOM, make sure your microphone is turned off. From time-to-time student audio may be enabled where others can hear it. Please do your best to limit background noises. It is recognized that given that most of us will be participating in this course at our homes that total sound abatement is probably not possible. ZOOM presentations will be recorded and posted on Canvas. It normally takes one or two days to upload these presentations. If the instructor loses the ZOOM connection, you should try to reconnect every 15 minutes for the remainder of the class time and check your email for messages related to the outage. This will be discussed further during our first class meeting.

## **INSTRUCTOR AVAILABILITY**

While there are specific office hours, students must contact me earlier than that scheduled officer time so that I can set up the meeting in ZOOM. I can usually meet with students outside the scheduled office hours as well in the afternoon on other days as well. Contact me via email but please give me a specific date and time and at least 24-hour's notice. Also, due to the need to set up ZOOM for the evening's class, I will not be able to read and/or respond to any emails sent after 5:30 PM on class days until the completion of the class.

## **WEATHER AND OTHER UNFORSEEN CLOSURES**

Even with the course operating remotely, it is still theoretically possible that NVCC will cancel classes or if Canvas goes down, exams may have to be rescheduled. You should receive an email regarding this from the school and from the instructor. A short-term closure of the school will be resolved with the instructor recording the class and posting the recording on Canvas, as will be done with all classes. You will be responsible

for watching the video at your leisure at any time before the next exam. Exam scheduling will be adjusted as needed.

## **FIRE/EMERGENCY EVACUATION PROCEDURES**

Since this course is being delivered by ZOOM, you are on your own to develop an evacuation plan for any area where you take this course. If you go to the campus anytime during the semester, please note that each building has evacuation procedures posted in all rooms.

## **LEARNING CHALLENGES**

It is my philosophy that everyone can learn, and everyone can be tested, however, we all have our strengths and weaknesses. I will be happy to work with you in any area where you have a either a learning or testing challenge. You may request additional time to complete examinations if you have been assessed for special accommodation. If you have a special circumstance regarding any learning challenges, please bring it to my attention as early in the semester as possible.

## **INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY STUDENT/PATRON ETHICS AGREEMENT**

Students are expected to follow Information Technology Student/Patron Ethics Agreement as posted in computer areas and academic integrity standards as set down in the Student Handbook. **All assignments are to be your own work.**

## **ASSIGNMENTS/EXAMS**

All students are expected to take the exam as scheduled. These will be taken on CANVAS and will be time limited, approximately 1 minute per question (generally 35 minutes). The topics of the questions will be scrambled in such a manner that if you attempt to look up the answers you will not finish the exam and your grade will suffer. You will not see the correct answers to the questions until ALL students have completed the test. **There will be a study guide for each exam.** These will be posted on CANVAS. Students in the past have indicated that these study guides are **VERY** helpful in preparing for each exam. At the end of each exam the instructor will analyze the responses to the

questions. Consideration will be given to removing questions or granting everyone credit where more than 50% of those taking the exam respond incorrectly. This is done following the completion of the exam by all students so it is possible that the grade you see posted when you complete the exam will not be your final grade for the exam.

**Late penalties are as follows:** For EACH DAY that you are late in taking an exam you will have your grade reduced by 10% unless you received PRIOR permission to take the exam late. If you are unable to take an exam as scheduled, due to an unexpected emergency, you must notify the instructor prior to the start of the class on the day on which the exam is given (an email must be posted prior to the 6:00 PM start time of the class). You may request to take the exam early if you have a planned absence for the scheduled day of the exam. Your grade on your paper will be reduced by 20% for EACH DAY it is submitted late. If you submit your paper early, you may be given the opportunity to correct any noted shortcomings and improve your grade, depending how much before the deadline the paper is turned in via Canvas.

### **ABSENCES:**

To do well in this class, you must attend as many classes as possible, hopefully, all of them. It is recognized that many in the evening classes have jobs that may make demands on students that conflict with class attendance, or that many also have family demands that may interfere with class attendance as well, i.e., the suddenly sick child. In these cases, please send an email to the instructor as soon as you find this out. As noted above, the classes are recorded and will be posted to CANVAS within a few days of the completion of the class. All PowerPoints are posted in Canvas. The videos in the PowerPoints posted to CANVAS will not play directly from the Canvas postings, but there is a reference list for all materials that are outside of the textbook at the end of each PPT presentation. This will include the URL links to all videos shown in class and you can cut and paste them and view them on your own. You may also want to contact another student in the class and go over their notes as well.

### **COLLEGE SUPPLEMENT TO THE FALL 2025 SYLLABUS (THIS IS APPLICABLE TO ALL FALL 2025 NVCC COURSES):**

## **Academic Integrity Policy**

NOVA promotes and emphasizes the importance of honesty in academic work. It is therefore imperative for students to maintain the highest standard of honor in their scholastic work.

Academic dishonesty, as outlined in more detail in the [Academic Integrity Policy \(Policy Number: 224\)](#), can include, but is not limited to cheating on an exam or quiz, submitting work that is not your own (plagiarism), or sharing assessments online. Consequences of academic dishonesty can include a failing grade on an assignment, a failing grade in the course, and may include additional administrative sanctions such as suspension or expulsion from the college. Procedures for disciplinary measures and appeals are outlined in the [Academic Integrity Procedures](#). It is a student's responsibility to become familiar with the student code of conduct. Lack of awareness is no excuse for noncompliance with NOVA's policies and procedures.

NOVA faculty may choose to use tools such as Turnitin to detect and flag instances of plagiarism in academic writing.

The use of AI to complete assigned work may be considered a violation of the academic integrity policy. Students are urged to be cautious when using any web tools designed to assist with assignments without their instructors' explicit permission to do so and to cite their sources in all their work.

## **Accommodations and Accessibility Services**

NOVA is committed to ensuring all students have an opportunity to pursue a college education regardless of the presence or absence of a disability. No academically qualified student with a disability will be denied access to or participation in the services, programs, and activities of the College. Your access to and inclusion in this course is important to NOVA and your professors. Please request your accommodation letter (Memorandum of Accommodations) early in the semester or as soon as you become registered so that you have adequate time to arrange your approved academic accommodations with your professors. Returning students must renew their Memorandum of Accommodations (MOA) every semester; these students should submit the request 24 hours or later after enrolling in at least one class. Allow up to 7 business days for the request to be approved.

Accommodations are provided for in-person, online, and remote/synchronous (Zoom) learning. To get started, review NOVA's [Accommodation and Accessibility Services](#) website. Following a meeting with a counselor, you will be issued a Memorandum of Accommodation (MOA). You must provide your MOA to your professors, testing proctor, and/or tutoring center to receive your accommodation. You may provide your MOA any time during the semester; however, accommodations are not retroactive. You may email your MOA to your professors or provide them with a printed copy. They will send you an email to acknowledge receipt. You and your professors should schedule a meeting outside of class to discuss questions regarding your MOA. Please remind your professors of any special arrangements that must be made in advance of tests and assessments. If you need a sign language interpreter, or if you need live captions for your Zoom class, send an email to [interpreters@nvcc.edu](mailto:interpreters@nvcc.edu).

### **Career Services**

The College is committed to providing career services to all students as part of the comprehensive educational journey. [Career Services](#) assists students with exploring, developing and setting goals related to each student's unique educational and academic needs. These services include career assessments, occupational information, goal setting, planning and employment resources. You can [request an appointment with a career counselor](#).

### **Closing Information**

NOVA announces campus and college closings on the NOVA homepage. You can also receive notification by cell phone or email if you register for [NOVA Alert](#). Also review NOVA's guidance on [emergency closings, delayed openings, and continuation of instruction](#).

If a course is canceled due to a weather event or other unforeseen situation, check the course Canvas site or NOVA email (@email.vccs.edu) as soon as possible for instructions and assignments to avoid falling behind in coursework. You are expected to be up to date with all assignments the next time the class meets.



## Communication

Northern Virginia Community College (NVCC) faculty, staff, and administrators communicate with students through their official NVCC email accounts (\_\_\_\_@nvcc.edu). Students are likewise required to use their VCCS email accounts (\_\_\_\_@email.vccs.edu) to communicate with instructors and other college personnel. Students should check their [email accounts](#) regularly.

## Course Drop/Withdrawal Policy

Please note these important deadlines related to your enrollment in a course:

- Students may drop courses through NOVAConnect until the last day to drop with a tuition refund (census date). Students who drop a class during this period will receive a full refund.
- Requests to change your grade status to audit must also be completed before the last day to drop with a tuition refund (census date).
- Students who do not attend at least one class meeting or participate in an online learning class by the last day to drop with a tuition refund (census date) may be administratively withdrawn from the class. This means that there will be no record of the class or any letter grade on the student's transcript. The student's tuition will not be refunded.
- The *Last Day to Withdraw* is the last day to withdraw from classes without a grade penalty. Students will receive a grade of W. Students may withdraw from a course through NOVAConnect. The student's tuition will not be refunded. Withdrawing from a course after the census date and before the withdrawal date will result in a "W" grade appearing on your transcript.

To identify these important dates for your courses, please visit the [College Academic Calendar](#) and scroll down to the specific session for your course. Please note that any drops or withdrawals from a course may impact [financial aid](#), [international student status](#), or [military benefits](#). Students with questions should check with the appropriate offices.

## Enrollment Cancellation

- Students who do not make payment arrangements for their courses will be dropped.
- Students dropped for nonpayment cannot be enrolled in a course after the Last Day to Add/Drop, even if

they have attended the class and completed coursework. Only students who were dropped due to college error are eligible for late enrollment (enrollment after the Last Day to Add/Drop).

- See <https://www.nvcc.edu/admissions/tuition/payment/index.html> for Payment Options.

### **Financial Stability and Advocacy Centers**

[The Financial Stability and Advocacy Center](#) provides assistance to students who are experiencing financial hardships that might prevent the students' academic success. The personnel at the Financial Stability and Advocacy Centers work with students to identify college or community services available. For more information, please visit the [Financial Stability and Advocacy Center](#) webpage, or contact the office by calling 703.323.3450 or emailing [financialstability@nvcc.edu](mailto:financialstability@nvcc.edu).

### **Forms to Request Services and Assistance**

[NOVA's Forms Library](#) is where you can access forms frequently used by the College. The forms are available in Portable Document Format (.pdf), Online or Excel. Some of the forms you will find online include:

- Accommodations and Accessibility Services: Request for Alternate Format
- Course grade appeal
- Enrollment Services: Course Repeat Request
- Enrollment Services: Enrollment with Permission
- Financial Aid: Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) Appeal Form
- Parking Services: Vehicle Registration Form
- Student Grievance Forms
- Veteran Enrollment Request Form (VERF)

You also have the option to [Make a Report](#) to the college. Here is the list of reports you can submit:

- Report an academic violation.
- Report a student conduct violation (non-academy integrity).
- Report Sexual Misconduct (Title IX).
- Report a student needed assistance (non-conduct).

- Title IX Pregnant and Parenting Accommodation Request.
- Ombuds Assistance Request.

### Important Dates

The [academic calendar](#) provides information about important dates and deadlines each semester. Visit this calendar to learn about

- Open registration dates.
- Academic advising dates.
- Registration dates.
- Deadlines to pay tuition fees.
- First and Last day of classes
- Deadline to drop the class with a tuition refund or change classes to audit.
- Deadline to withdraw without grade penalty (W) and no refund.
- Final Exams Schedule.
- Breaks and holidays.
- Financial aid disbursement dates.
- Deadline to apply for graduation.

### Fall 2025 Important Dates

<b>Fall 2025</b>	<b>15-week Term</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> 7-week Term</b>	<b>13-week Term</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> 7-week Term</b>
Last day for students to add their names to the wait list	August 13	August 13	August 27	October 7
Classes Begin	August 25	August 25	September 9	October 22
Last day to add/enroll in a course—payment is due at time of enrollment	September 2	August 27	September 15	October 24
Last day to drop with a tuition refund or	September 11	September 2	September 24	October 30

Fall 2025	15-week Term	1 <sup>st</sup> 7-week Term	13-week Term	2 <sup>nd</sup> 7-week Term
change to audit (census date) **				
Last day to withdraw without grade penalty ***	November 3	September 23	November 10	November 24
Final exam week	December 10-16		December 10-16	
Classes/exams end	December 16	October 12	December 16	December 16
Last day to submit grades	December 18	October 14	December 18	December 18

### Fall 2025 Breaks & Holidays

Labor Day; College closed	September 1, 2025
Fall Break (classes do not meet)	October 13-14, 2025
Thanksgiving Holiday (November 26: non-instructional day/no classes. College offices close at noon.)	November 26-30, 2025
Winter Break	December 22, 2025-January 1, 2026

\* To find the last day to drop with tuition refund (census date) for a variable duration (dynamic) course, go to [schedule of class](#), search for the course, then click on the class number.

\*\* Withdrawals after this date require documentation of mitigating circumstances and permission of the instructor and the academic dean. Please check NOVAConnect for start dates and census dates for variable duration (dynamic) sessions.

### Libraries

[NOVA Libraries](#) support the mission of the College to deliver in-person and online postsecondary teaching, learning, and workforce development to students, faculty, staff and community members. The libraries promote equity and inclusion by addressing systemic barriers to student success and fostering intellectual curiosity, creativity and critical thinking. At our libraries, you may borrow books/printed material, access article databases, access videos, connect to Wi-Fi, use the printers, and reserve a study room.

## **NOVA All Access**

Starting in Fall 2024, the College moved to a new student-centric course material delivery model in collaboration with Barnes & Noble. The program is called NOVA All Access (formerly Barnes & Noble College First Day<sup>®</sup> Complete). NOVA All Access will reduce the cost of course materials and ensure students have all their materials across all courses prior to the first day of class. Instead of purchasing materials a la carte, students get access to *all* required course textbooks and digital materials for a flat fee per credit (\$22.50/credit). They choose the delivery method that works for them (either pickup at the campus bookstore or direct shipment to their home) and receive all digital and electronic materials directly through Canvas. If the cost for course materials is determined to be less outside of NOVA All Access, students have the choice to opt out of the program each semester.

More information is available on the NOVA Website ([www.nvcc.edu/novaallaccess](http://www.nvcc.edu/novaallaccess)).

If your course uses OER materials (for “open educational resources”) or is “no materials required,” instructor will let you know the best way to get your course materials. You *may not be required* to purchase textbooks and other materials for this course. We are making this information available so you can make an informed choice about participating in NOVA’s new course materials program, *NOVA All Access*. For more information on *NOVA All Access*, please visit the website – [www.nvcc.edu/novaallaccess](http://www.nvcc.edu/novaallaccess).

If your instructor indicates you are not required to purchase materials and you are taking only courses with no materials required, then you should opt-out of the NOVA All Access program.

## **Office of Wellness and Mental Health**

During your time at NOVA, you may experience challenges including struggles with academics or your personal well-being. NOVA has support resources available. Please contact the [Office of Wellness and Mental Health](#) if you are seeking resources and support, or if you are worried about a friend or classmate.

## **Prerequisite Verification Statement**

As noted in the [Course Prerequisites Policy](#), some courses have prerequisite or corequisite requirements that are established to foster a student's success in the course. Students may not enroll in a course for which they do not meet the prerequisites by the time the course begins or for which they do not simultaneously enroll in any corequisite. Students may be administratively dropped from any course for which they have not met the prerequisite. If a course has a prerequisite, it is the responsibility of the student to ensure completion of this pre-requisite course first. Any student needing assistance in determining prerequisite or corequisite requirements can reach out to their faculty member or Campus Academic Division office for support.

## **Remote Student Support Services**

If you need academic assistance or need college services but cannot make it to campus, many of our services can be accessed remotely. We can provide assistance from several departments, including the following:

- [Academic Advising](#)
- [Canvas and Course Resources](#) (guides and tutorials)
- [Financial Aid](#)
- [IT Help Desk](#)
- [Library Support](#)

## **Student Rights and Responsibilities**

The Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities (OSRR) promotes and encourages honesty, integrity, and respect among NOVA students and staff. We accomplish our mission through education, compliance through behavioral standards, and support of individual rights. Our work helps enhance the quality of the NOVA community and equips students with the knowledge, skills, and resources to be successful inside and outside of the classroom.

The Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities (OSRR) comprise the following areas:

### **[Student Integrity and Conduct](#)**

Investigate alleged violations of the [Student Code of Conduct](#).

- Adjudication of informal and formal Code of Conduct hearings
- Mediation (settling differences)
- Student development workshops
- Professional development workshop on topics like

## Conflict Resolution and Classroom Management

- Referrals to resources and services

### Student Ombuds Services (SOS)

For students who believe an unfair resolution was made for a formal complaint made to NVCC (i.e., academic concerns, ethical behavior, violation of College policies and/or procedures, business services, financial aid, etc.), SOS will investigate the student's concern.

- Confidential - students may discuss problems or issues in a confidential manner
- Independent - of any individual/office within NVCC
- Informal - review matters received and make informal inquiries to offer resolution options, make referrals, and mediate disputes.
- Neutral - strives for impartiality, fairness, and objectivity in the treatment of people and the consideration of issues
- Voluntary – it is the student's responsibility to contact SOS for services

Contact: Dr. Tanneh Kamara  
Coordinator, Student Ombuds Services (SOS), Office of  
Student Rights and Responsibilities  
Phone: 703-530-2834  
Email: [ombuds@nvcc.edu](mailto:ombuds@nvcc.edu)

## **TITLE IX**

Title IX is a civil rights law that prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in educational programs, activities, admission, and employment. Complaints of sex-based discrimination, sexual violence, domestic violence, dating violence, and sexual or gender-based harassment are governed by the Title IX Policy. For more information or to make a report, visit the [Office of Title IX](#).

## **Tutoring**

NOVA's Tutoring Centers offer free in-person and virtual tutoring to all NOVA Nighthawks. Students can drop by any one of campus Tutoring Centers for walk-in services or set up an appointment for tutoring. To request an appointment for one-on-one tutoring, either in-person or via Zoom, log in to myNOVA to [select EAB Navigate](#). For more information and for Tutoring Center locations, visit [Tutoring & Academic Support](#). In addition, 24/7 online tutoring (via Brainfuse) is free to all students. To access online tutoring, click on the

**24/7 Tutoring link** located in your Canvas course in the course navigation menu.