

CLASS PAPER ADJ 247

FALL 2025

A paper is required for this class. The paper will comprise 28% of your final grade. Below are the instructions for completing the paper:

You are required to have a cover page that includes as a minimum: 1) Your name, 2) the name of the course and 3) the title of your paper. **The minimum length for this paper is 3 FULL pages** of text. This does minimum NOT count the cover page or the reference list. You must also include a **minimum of 3 academic references**. While you may use material from Wikipedia, Wikipedia **cannot** count toward meeting the 3 reference requirement as it is not peer reviewed. Your textbook may be used as one of the references and it is highly suggested that you do use it as one of those references. **ALL references in your reference list *MUST* appear as citations somewhere within your text or they will not count as references**. Follow a citation format that is appropriate for academic reports i.e. the APA or Turabian formats. ***Please note, a lack of citations within the text is plagiarism, even if unintended***. Plagiarism can result in your failing the course regardless of what your overall grade is on the exams.

Papers shall be submitted in 12-point type and shall be in either Times New Roman, Calibri or Ariel typeface. Margins shall be consistent with those suggested by the APA: 1 inch on both sides as well as at the tops and bottoms. Spacing shall be standard double space. Page numbers should also be included but do not need to be on the cover page. There is no maximum on the number of pages you may submit or on the number of references and citations you may include. More is usually better.

The topic of the paper will be a serial killer. A list of serial killers is included. You will select any one of these persons to evaluate. If you have someone else that is not on the list, just let your instructor know prior to doing the assignment so it can be approved. If you have completed a similar assignment in the ADJ 107 class, you must use a different person in your evaluation for this class. While it is usually necessary to outline the crimes committed by the individual you are reporting on, remember that this is a course on criminal behavior so your main focus should be on analyzing the potential causes of this person's criminality. Do not submit a paper that simply contains the criminal record of the offender. Focus on the 'why' of what they did.

Papers should be written in the 3rd person. Your paper should include an introduction. The introduction should include the name of the serial killer, and a brief description of the crimes that person committed, that you will be discussing. The introduction should also include a statement regarding your thesis. This involves you making a statement about what you will be attempting to show. Is there a theory, or theories, of criminal behavior that you will try to

show fits with this person's development into a life of severe deviance? The best introductions contain something that will grab the readers attention and will make them want to continue reading the rest of the report.

The main body of your report should explain what the lifespan development of the person you have selected was and how that development fits in with one or more theories of criminal behavior (remember this is a class on criminal behavior so your paper needs to be linked to one or more of these theories). List and discuss the crimes that this person committed. What behavior patterns did the person follow. Were they cunning and did they take steps to avoid detection? Conversely, were they disorganized and were there actions spontaneous and unplanned? Were there any motivations for the behavior? Which criminal behavior theory(s) best explain why this person developed into a serial killer. Explain why you believe this to be true. While this may be your personal opinion, and that is fine, defend your position with an analysis of the facts and show how they fit the theory(s) you believe best explain this behavior.

Your paper should include a conclusion. This should include a restatement of your thesis from the introduction as well as a brief explanation why your report supported this position. Put more simply, what were you trying to prove, how did you prove it, if you did prove anything, citing material that you included in your report.

A grading rubric has been posted on Canvas. It is highly suggested that you use the rubric and grade your report yourself prior to submitting it. This might point out weaknesses that you could improve before you submit the report as being completed. The grading rubric for this assignment is posted on Canvas. It is suggested that you grade your paper yourself before submitting it. This may indicate shortcomings that can be corrected to improve your grade.

Papers will be submitted via Canvas. They are due by the start of class on the due date listed in the syllabus. There can be NO extensions. You MAY submit your paper early.

The number one problem students have with this assignment stems from not following instructions. Make sure you read all of the below instructions and follow them. There are minimum requirements for length and for references. Make sure you meet all of the requirements. Most commonly, those that fail to meet the minimum requirements fail for one of three reasons:

- 1) The paper does not contain a minimum of 3 FULL pages of text
- 2) The paper does not have at least 3 references
- 3) If the paper does have references, it does not have them cited within the text showing where the material was used.

There is also a grading rubric included for this assignment. It is advisable for you to review your completed paper with the rubric to see if your work has anything you might improve on