CRIM-205

CRIMINAL PROFILE PAPER

For 20% of the grade students will be expected to complete a research paper on a particular case-study in criminology. You will be expected to research either a particular crime or criminal. You do not have to limit this to one person, but can include something as large as a government. This is an exercise in critical thinking, therefore, the “offender(s)” of the “criminal act” does not necessarily have to have been convicted. This can be a case where you thought there was a crime committed, but no one was punished (i.e. OJ Simpson). But you do have to identify an alleged offender.

Papers should consist of THREE sections:

1. **Crime(s)-**Identify in detail the crime(s) including dates, circumstances and victims. Tell the story of the crime. Considering that you will not be able to investigate as a true CSI, you will have to rely on witness testimony, news articles, documentaries, and book resources for information. (2 pgs)

1. **Offender(s)-**Who the alleged offender is, and his/her (their) **life history**. (i.e. how was this person raised? What was his/her socio-economic background? Does he/she have a history of mental illness?) You should look for and include information on the offender’s criminal history, school or work history (if you are able to find), upbringing, mental health history, etc. Close attention should be paid to the offender’s childhood.. (2 pgs)

1. **Analysis-**Analysis by is an exercise in interpretation of information. It is not fact. Using one or more of the theories presented in class, explain the motivations for the individual’s crime. Consider social, psychological and biological causes. In other words, you will be expected to give your own **diagnosis** for the cause of the crime. Did the offender have some sort of “biological” defect? Did the offender have some sort of psychological defect? Or was his/her behavior a product of his/her social environment? A combination? Quotes from classroom readings are a must. (1 pg)

1. **Bibliography-** A work cited page of all literature used. (1 pg).

**Papers** should be 6 pages in length; typed double-spaced and no larger than 12 size font. Paper should also include an introduction plus the three sections mentioned above. **Topics to be chosen by and confirmed via email on Mar 18th .**Points will be deducted from the final grade if I do not receive an email by then. **Papers will be due May 17th**A minimum of one book source, two newspaper (and/or) one magazine, and one peer-reviewed journal are necessary as sources. (**Wikipedia will NOT be allowed as a source- points will be deducted if I find this is the case**).