



The mission of Concord University is to provide quality, liberal arts based education, to foster scholarly and creative activities and to serve the regional community (<http://www.concord.edu/academics/>).

**Course Prefix, Number and Title:** English 2205 Serial Killers

**Course CRN # and Section 20315; Section 1AS**

**Semester Taught (including year):** Spring 2019

**Professor:** Dr. A. Malkovich

**Credit Hours:** 1

**Office Location:** Admin 313

**Prerequisites:** C or higher in ENGL 102 or equivalent proficiency.

**Office Hours:** M & W 10 A.M.-12 P.M. Online and by appointment

**Course Time (if applicable):** Online

**Email:** [prcuof@gmail.com](mailto:prcuof@gmail.com)

**Building and Room Number (if applicable):** N/A

**Phone:** x5143

**Office Fax:** N/A

**College/Department Website:** [www.concord.edu/humanities/](http://www.concord.edu/humanities/)

**Course Description/Rationale:** This course provides a writing-intensive overview of works falling into the horror and serial killer genre in the contexts of literature and film. We will explore ways in which society and culture has been and continues to be impacted by literature and film focusing on the serial killer and the horror genre. The primary focus of this class is literary and discussions will examine the traditions, impacts and evolutions of such texts. Students will also explore various literary criticisms and engage in analytical approaches to literature.

**Course Management System** (Blackboard/Moodle or other systems): Blackboard

**Please note this is not a self-directed course. A schedule exists with due dates outlined.**

**Hardware/Software Needed:** Word, GroupMe app, Zoom

**Text requirements:**

Larson, Erik. *The Devil in the White City*.

Capote, Truman. *In Cold Blood*.

Lindsay, Jeff. *Darkly Dreaming Dexter*.

Philbin, Tom. *I, Monster*.

Ellis, Bret. *American Psycho*.

Harris, Thomas. *Silence of the Lambs*.

**Concord University Educational Goal(s)**

<b>Course Objectives for English 2205</b>	<b>CU Educational Goals</b>
<p>Students will demonstrate their ability to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• draw inferences from close readings</li> <li>• demonstrate understanding of interrelationships among textual elements</li> </ul>	<p><b>Skills Goal #1a</b></p> <p>Effective intercommunication skills and literacies, adapted as needed for the demand of various kinds of discourse [ . . . including] <b>reading</b> [ . . . ]</p>
<p>Students will demonstrate their ability to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• write critically, supporting inferences drawn from close reading by citing and interpreting specific textual evidence</li> <li>• write proficiently at a level of “adequate” or above, as defined by the division’s criteria for evaluation of essays</li> </ul>	<p><b>Skills Goal #1 b</b></p> <p>Effective intercommunication skills and literacies, adapted as needed for the demand of various kinds of discourse [ . . . including] <b>writing</b> [ . . . ]</p>
<p>Students will demonstrate their ability to apply critical thinking skills (analysis, synthesis, evaluation) to literary texts.</p>	<p><b>Skills Goal #2</b></p> <p>An ability to employ appropriate observational, logical, analytical, computational, creative, and critical thinking skills in problem solving</p>
<p>Students will demonstrate competency in analyzing and synthesizing textual elements; and in integrating these elements within a unified discussion.</p>	<p><b>Skills Goal #4</b></p> <p>An ability to analyze, synthesize, and integrate elements, information and ideas</p>
<p>Students will demonstrate an ability to interpret literary texts of the Enlightenment, Romantic, and Modern periods within their historical contexts.</p>	<p><b>Knowledge Goal #3</b></p> <p>An ability to interpret events and trends within historical contexts</p>
<p>Students will demonstrate acquaintance with aesthetic principles, methods, materials, and methods that empower works of literature to speak to the human heart.</p>	<p><b>Knowledge Goal #6</b></p> <p>Awareness of the aesthetic principles, methods, materials, and media employed in artistic performance and in the creation of works of art and literature.</p>
<p>Through close reading of literary texts presenting moral dilemmas, the students will demonstrate competency in recognizing and evaluating underlying assumptions based on ethical or moral values.</p>	<p><b>Attitudes Goal #1</b></p> <p>Habitual reflection on ethical/moral implications of actions when weighing decisions and evaluating outcomes</p>
<p>Through close reading of texts that reflect the world views of various cultures and time periods, the students will develop a capacity for respectful attentiveness to differing perspectives.</p>	<p><b>Attitudes Goal #3</b></p> <p>Respectful attentiveness to differing perspectives and willingness to engage in dialogue across differences in order to seek mutual understanding and equitable conflict resolution</p>

## Course Requirements

### Grading Policy and Scale

Digital Project: 25%	90-100-A
Final Essay: 25%	89-80-B
Attend./Participation & daily work: 30%	79-70-C
Presentation: 20%	69-60-D
Total: 100%	59-50-F

**Notes on Incompletes:** Incompletes (I) are only given in documented emergency cases, such as for a death in the family, major illness, etc. and if the student has completed the majority of the coursework, which typically means everything but the final essay or project. The students' attendance must also fall within the guidelines set forth in the syllabus for the instructor to award such a grade. It is the students' responsibility to both provide documentation and query after the potential of such a grade. **Please note:** Incomplete grades are very rarely given. If an incomplete is given, it must be made up within one semester, at the latest, from which the course was taken or the grade will turn into an 'F' on the students' transcript. The exact deadline will be set up between the instructor and student. No extensions on such grades are possible.

**Participation, Attendance and Discussion Board Policies:** Students are expected to participate throughout the course. Failure to post on the discussion board threads is equivalent to being absent from the course. These posts are in lieu of in class attendance for those weeks our ground course does not meet. Students must post and respond to one another's threads within the given timeframe. Absent or late posts will not receive any credit. **Posts and responses are worth 20 points each, except for your Introductory post which is worth 10 points, and are a part of your overall participation and attendance grades for the semester.** Likewise, if a post/response is missed, it must be made up; even if no credit is given. If a student misses two posts, they will be dropped from the course. It is important to keep up with the Discussion Board and reading. Each week I will post some information and questions about that week's material. You should respond to this thread. Develop your posts; a paragraph will not typically work so make sure that posts contain quality and that you fully develop your thoughts by using examples from that week's readings. Keep in mind these should resemble in class discussions. You should respond to at least two other individual's posts. If someone does not have any responses, please respond to them first. Discussion Board posts are meant to serve as class discussion. You should post thoughtful comments, ask questions, and raise important points about that week's readings. Comments should be thought provoking and devoid of explicit language, rudeness and offensive material. If such comments are made, the participant will be removed from the course. While I've never had a problem with this, please practice good netiquette. ☺ It is okay to be constructively critical as your work should help continue discussion and help one another think more broadly about the subject matter. You should check the course daily for any updates, as if you were attending class in person. It is the student's responsibility to make-up all work missed in a timely fashion. Remember it is in your own interest, as is explained in Concord's attendance policy (*Catalogue*, pp. 221-22) to be "in class." I do not distinguish between excused and unexcused "absences." If there are any questions about this policy, please consult the instructor.

**The Discussion Board will open Monday mornings at 8AM and close on Saturday at 11 PM. Your initial post is due by 11 PM Wednesday evening. Responses to one another's posts should be made by 11 PM Saturday evening.**

Please note that I will not spend office hours updating absent students on the previous class. Please get to know your fellow classmates in order to share notes when necessary. Participation in class discussion, an important part of the classroom learning environment and your grade, will assist in making the class more exciting and thought provoking.

**Late Work Make-up Policy:** Late work will not be accepted. The only exception to this policy is in the case of absences pertaining to official college sanctioned activities and extreme emergency situations. In emergency cases, the instructor must be notified about the absence prior to its occurrence for official college sanctioned activities and within 24 hours of an emergency. The student will have to meet with the instructor regarding the missing work. The instructor and the student will then construct a contract where the student *may* be allowed to make-up the work. The work must be made up within a reasonable amount of time and it is the student's responsibility to find out what has been missed. Only one late assignment daily assignment, paper, etc. will be allowed throughout the semester and must have met the above conditions for acceptance. Quizzes cannot be made up. If an exam is missed the above policies are in effect. Please note this may only be used once during the semester and the above criteria must be met for any late work to be considered. The instructor reserves the right to refuse any late work.

**Technology Policy:** Our class will utilize many forms of technology over the course of the semester and you should familiarize yourself with them from the onset of the course. This policy is important to 1) familiarize students with technologies they may use in university settings and situations, as well as those outside of the university, especially in the workplace 2) illustrate environmental awareness 3) help with tightening budgets. In addition to the use of computers, you will be using Blackboard, Dropbox and GroupMe throughout the semester. Use of these is **mandatory**. On Blackboard you will be able to find all important course materials as well as grades. Dropbox will be used for group work as you can work with one another very easily through this medium. GroupMe, an app that can be downloaded to any smartphone, will be used for ease of communication between us all. If you do not have a smartphone, you can download GroupMe to your computer and access messages sent through it via any email account. Additionally, all presentations must be given via Prezi. Please create and access these accounts so that you will be able to read course materials and information.

**Plagiarism:** Plagiarism is the presenting of others' ideas as if they were your own. When you write a paper, create a project, do a presentation or create anything original, it is assumed that all the work, except for that which is attributed to another author or creator, is your own. Plagiarism is considered a serious academic offense and may take the following forms: 1) Copying word-for-word from another source and not giving that source credit. 2) Paraphrasing the work of another and not giving that source credit. 3) Adopting a particularly apt phrase as your own. 4) Using an image or a copy of an image without crediting its source. 5) Paraphrasing someone else's line of thinking in the development of a topic as if it were your own. 6) Receiving excessive help from a friend or elsewhere or using another project as if it were your own.

Note that word-for-word copying is not the only form of plagiarism. The penalties for plagiarism may be severe, ranging from failure on the particular piece of work, failure in the course or expulsion from school in extreme cases. [Adapted from the Modern Language Association's *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*. New York: MLA, 1995: 26]

There is no extra credit work for this course.

### **Special Notes:**

- 1) All papers must be typed and word-processed. They should be saved in at least two locations. If you lose something, you will need to make it up in order to have a complete portfolio. Remember it is your responsibility to account for all of your work.
- 2) Students must provide evidence of significant invention and revision if requested to do so.
- 3) Excessive lateness and absences will impact final grades. It is rude to be late and a sign of disrespect of classmates that arrived on time and the instructor. These issues will affect grades on a sliding scale.
- 4) Office hours will not be spent updating absent students on the previous class. Please get to know classmates in order to share notes when necessary. Participation in class discussions, an important part of not only your grade but also the classroom environment, will assist in making the class more exciting and more thought provoking.
- 5) All assignments will be due at the beginning of the next class period. Please hand them in stapled and in your class folder. Avoid paper clips, plastic covers, binders, etc. Please be prepared with your assignments.
- 6) Grades will not be given over email, phone, or letter. It is your responsibility to keep up with your grades so please either contact me via Blackboard through the LMS or set up a meeting to discuss them via Zoom or in person.
- 7) The instructor reserves the right to modify the schedule.
- 8) Please hand in paper copies of all of your essay work. I cannot accept work via email.
- 9) If you are absent when a quiz is given, note that these cannot be made up. If you are attending the class, but not submitting the required work you will be dropped from the course.
- 10) NO TM, IM, Facebook (or the like) or cell phone conversations are allowed in class.
- 11) Cell phones must be turned off before entering class or placed on vibrate. If a cell phone rings, I will answer it. For any of the above issues you will be considered absent for the day. NO exceptions.
- 12) Plagiarism will result in a failed grade for the assignment and possible referral of the matter to appropriate administrators.
- 13) Absence during large presentations will cause a subtraction totaling 5 pts. for each person that is absent in class.
- 14) Homework for other classes is to be done outside of this class. If homework for another class is being done during our class time the student will be considered absent for that day.

## Course Timeline (Schedule of Assignments/Assessments/Presentations)

Week	Date	
1	M 1/14	<b>Course Introduction</b> <b>Defining, Typing, and Examining the “Serial Killer”</b>
	W 1/16	<b>Beginnings: The Traditional Gothic</b> <i>I, Monster</i> : H.H. Holmes and Jack the Ripper (Other readings announced)
2	M 1/21	<b>Martin Luther King, Jr. Day</b> <b>No class</b>
	W 1/23	<i>Psycho</i>
3	M 1/28	<i>Psycho</i>
4	W 1/30	<b>Psychosis, Detectives, and Dark Passengers</b> <i>Darkly Dreaming Dexter</i>
4	M 2/4	<b>The Complex Nature of the Contemporary Serial Killer</b> <i>Darkly Dreaming Dexter</i>
	W 2/6	<b>Urban Blood: The Serial Killer and the City</b> <i>The Devil in the White City</i> <b>Presentation Due</b>
5	M 2/11	<b>The Fair Space and the Carnival</b> <i>The Devil in the White City</i>
	W 2/13	<b>Grisly Chambers and What’s Left Behind</b> <i>Silence of the Lambs</i>
6	M 2/18	<b>Reimagining American Horror</b> <i>Silence of the Lambs</i> <b>Digital Project Due</b>
	W 2/20	<b>The Dawn of the New Rural Serial Killer in Pop Culture</b> <i>In Cold Blood</i>
7	M 2/25	<b>The Serial Killer as “Other”</b> <i>In Cold Blood</i>

- W 2/27    **Gender and the Serial Killer**  
*American Psycho*
- 8        M 3/4    **The Gothic and the Insane**  
*American Psycho*
- W 3/6    **Cultural Reimaginings of the Serial Killer in Literature and Film**  
*American Psycho*
- Final Essay Due**

**Accessibility/Accommodations:**

Concord University is committed to responding to the needs of students with disabilities as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act. Please inform your instructor at the beginning of the class semester if you have a disability and are requesting accommodations. It is your responsibility to self-disclose that you are requesting accommodations. The University and instructor will provide you with a reasonable accommodation. You should register with CU's Disability Services Office, located in the Athens campus Jerry and Jean Beasley Student Center, Bottom Floor, across from the Campus Post Office. The Disability Services Office phone is 304-384-6086 or you can email the Director, Nancy Ellison, at nellison@concord.edu for assistance.

**Academic Dishonesty**

Academic dishonesty is morally unacceptable as well as destructive to the learning and teaching atmosphere. Academic dishonesty includes the giving or receiving of improper help on examinations or assignments, falsifying documents, and plagiarism (the act of stealing and using, as one's own, the ideas or the expression of the ideas of another). Such dishonesty can lead to a variety of penalties — including but not limited to failure of assignment, failure of course, loss of institutional privileges, or dismissal from the University. (See University Catalog Academic Policies and Procedures.)

**Concord University Honor Code**

A Concord University Honor Code was approved by students, staff, faculty, administration, and the CU Board of Governors. The Code states:

*"As a member of the Concord University Community I will act with honesty and integrity in accordance with our fundamental principles and I will respect myself and others while challenging them to do the same."*

The Honor Code is intended to unite the Concord community behind a culture of honesty, integrity, and civility.

## **Class/Online Attendance Policy**

Regular class attendance is part of a student's academic obligation at Concord. Irregular attendance may affect academic performance adversely and is detrimental to the atmosphere of a class. (See University Catalog Academic Policies and Procedures.)

## **Emergency Alert System**

In an effort to increase safety and security on our campus, Concord University encourages everyone to register for instant text message alerts. Alerts will only be used for security and safety notices. All students, faculty, and staff are eligible to receive text message alerts on their cell phones or email alerts. Please contact the IT Help Desk for further assistance (304-384-5291).

## **Emergency Information**

Emergency/courtesy telephones are located at the main entrance of each residence hall and at various other locations on campus. Emergency telephones can be identified by the flashing blue light and will provide the user with a direct link to Public Safety at the press of a button. To report an on-campus emergency, call 304-384-5357 or 911. The Office of Public Safety is located on the bottom floor of the Rahall Technology Center. For further emergency information go to: <http://www.concord.edu/administration/office-public-safety>.

## **Inclement Weather Policy**

As a general policy, the University will remain in normal operations during adverse weather conditions. In the event of severe weather conditions, the following may occur:

### University Closure

No students or employees are to report.

### Classes Cancelled

Students do NOT report BUT employees are expected to report to work at their normal time.

### Operating on an Inclement Weather Delay

Under this schedule, all 8 a.m. classes will start at 10 a.m. Students and faculty will follow the Inclement Weather Schedule. (See <http://www.concord.edu/emergency-alerts> for Athens/Beckley Inclement Weather Schedules.)

*\*Announcements invoking the late schedule or other options referenced above are aired on area radio and television stations and are sent as text and email messages to those enrolled for this service.*

## **Student Conduct**

In classrooms, online, laboratories, and during any activities that are part of course requirements, students are expected to observe reasonable rules of conduct.

## **Sexual Harassment & Assault**

Federal law, Title IX, and Concord University policy prohibits discrimination, harassment, and violence based on sex and gender (Including sexual harassment, sexual assault, domestic/dating violence, stalking, sexual exploitation, and retaliation). If you or someone you know has been harassed or assaulted, you can receive confidential counseling support through the Concord University Counseling Center (304-384-5290). Alleged Violations can be reported non-confidentially to the Concord University Title IX Coordinator at 304-384-6327 or [titleix@concord.edu](mailto:titleix@concord.edu). Reports to Campus Security can be made at (304-384-5357). As an employee at Concord University, I am a mandatory reporter which means I must report any sexual misconduct I am made aware of. This includes verbal or written (such as in an assignment) disclosures of sexual harassment or sexual assault.

## **Technology Services**

Contact the CU Help Desk at extension 5291 from campus or 304-384-5291 off campus. You may also e-mail [cuhelpdesk@concord.edu](mailto:cuhelpdesk@concord.edu).

## **Syllabus Disclaimer**

**"This syllabus is subject to change based on the needs of the class. Please check it regularly."**