

RUTGERS UNIVERSITY

Department of Criminal Justice

01:202:422 – Crisis Intervention in Criminal Justice Settings

Spring 2011 – Section 01 (Index 56656)

Tillett Hall – Room 207

Monday & Thursday – 10:20AM to 11:40AM

Professor:

**Sergeant Frank LoSacco, B.S., M.A.
East Brunswick Police Department**

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COURSE SYLLABUS

Background: Since the events of September 11, 2001, we have come to recognize the important role played by professionals trained in crisis theory and crisis intervention protocols. Law enforcement officers, clinical psychologists, professional counselors, social workers, emergency service workers, and crisis responders must be educated in both theory and the practical applications of crisis intervention. In this course, you will be taught methods that incorporate various aspects of crisis responding, crisis intervention and stress management. We will discuss and demonstrate a broad spectrum of challenging situations and you will be privileged to hear experts in the field of law enforcement discuss police stress, critical incident stress debriefing, and crisis management and other similar topics.

Course Description: This course provides an overview and introduction to crisis assessment and time-limited crisis counseling with children, youths, and adults in health, mental health and criminal justice settings. Emphasis will be placed on the conceptualization and application of the various crisis intervention models, techniques, and protocols. Course lectures will also focus on the latest evidence-based and outcome studies on the effectiveness of crisis intervention.

Course Requirements: We will be working with the required textbook listed below, as well as class handouts. There will be a midterm exam, a final exam, and a written assignment (details to follow). The two exams will be based on the textbook and classroom lectures and discussions. **There will NOT be any opportunities for extra credit.** The final grade will be determined by grades achieved on the exams, the written assignment, and your attendance.

Required Textbook: Roberts, A. R. (2000). *Crisis Intervention Handbook* (2nd Edition). Oxford University Press. ISBN-13 #978-019-513-3653.

Recommended Books: De Becker, G. (1999). *The Gift of Fear and Other Survival Signals that Protect Us From Violence*. Dell Publishing. ISBN-13 #978-044-022-6192.

Roberts, A. R. and B. Roberts (2005). *Ending Intimate Abuse: Practical Guidelines and Survival Strategies*. Oxford University Press. ISBN-13 #978-019-513-5473.

Roberts, A. R., Editor. *Crisis Management and Brief Treatment*. ITP-Wadsworth. ISBN-13 #978-083-041-4291.

Methods of Instruction: Although the textbooks and handouts will be the primary source of test questions, classroom discussions will provide information not found in the textbook. A considerable number of test questions will come from activities within the classroom; therefore it is essential for students to attend each class. Students will be expected to come to class prepared to engage in open discussions. It is suggested that students bring copies of their textbooks and handouts whenever possible.

Written Assignment: Each student must complete a written assignment, which will be explained in greater detail over the first 3 weeks of the course. Every student will be required to give a 10-minute oral presentation on their assignment.

Grading Breakdown:

Attendance	20%
Midterm Exam	30%
Final Exam	30%
Written Assignment	20%

Grading Scale: (Grades will **NOT** be rounded up)

90 - 100	A
87 - 89	B+
80 - 86	B
77 - 79	C+
70 - 76	C
65 - 69	D
0 - 64	F

Class Attendance and Conduct:

- Attendance will be taken each class and every student is expected to attend every class! Students who miss a class are responsible for obtaining class notes from their fellow students. I will **not** provide class notes to students who miss a class. All “excused” absences must be **approved by me PRIOR** to the class being missed. **Students WILL be penalized for every unexcused absence!** Students exceeding five (5) unexcused absences will not receive any credit for attendance.
- All students are expected to ask questions and provide input into class discussions.
- Since we will be discussing topics that might be emotional and personal, each student is expected to be sensitive to the emotions of their fellow students. Furthermore, no student will be required to enter into discussion that they feel are too personal or disturbing to them.
- Students are expected to arrive for class **on time** and conduct themselves appropriately. Students arriving for class more than 15 minutes late will be marked as being absent. Cell phones must be turned off or placed on vibrate. Students are not permitted to use recording devices or MP3 players.
- **Each week I will announce the reading assignments for the following class. All students are expected to complete the reading assignments prior to the next class to actively participate in the lecture.**
- Rutgers University has a well-defined academic integrity policy, which will be **strictly enforced** in this class. All students in this class should review and be familiar with the policy of the university, which can be found at <http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/integrity.shtml>.

Office Hours:

My goal is to provide quality instruction and share my years of experience to enhance learning. My obligation to the students is not limited to the course material, as I welcome the opportunity to provide guidance to any student who would like to pursue a career in the criminal justice field.

I will always make the time to meet with any student who would like to discuss this course, law enforcement career opportunities, or any other matter. Due to the nature of my schedule, as well as my status as a part-time adjunct, I do not have set office hours. Accordingly, I will meet with any student by appointment. Please see me before or after class, or contact me via email, so that we may arrange an appointment.