

Contact: University Relations
(860)-465-5735
Keri Schimmenti, Public Relations Assistant
(860) 465-3749 LII107@aol.com
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Criminologist Lonnie Athens to Speak at Eastern

Willimantic- Criminologist Dr. Lonnie Athens will speak at Eastern Connecticut State University (ECSU) on March 12th in the Betty Tipton Room as part of the University Hour events, which are held weekly from 3:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m. Athens received his doctorate of criminology from the University of California at Berkeley and is now a professor of Criminal Justice at Seton Hall University. His theory of “*violentization*” has received considerable scholarly attention among sociologists and criminologists.

First published in 1980 as *Violent Criminal Acts and Actors*, 17 years later Athens has chosen to revisit his original study. In 1997 he published *Violent Criminal Acts and Actors Revisited*. He claims that his premises are just as relevant and original as in their

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earlier version but continue to be overlooked by society.

Athens believes that violent criminals go through four specific stages, usually early in their lives. "Violentization" proceeds step by step, He says. The process may be

interrupted, but once someone has completed all four steps, there's virtually no turning back, He says. His theory is derived from more than 150 interviews with criminals over the last 25 years.

His life and work are the subject of Pulitzer Prize winner Richard Rhodes' highly acclaimed book, *Why They Kill: The Discoveries of a Maverick Criminologist*.

For more information on this event call (860) 465-4450.

It is the policy of ECSU to ensure equal access to its events. If you are an individual with a disability and will need accommodations for this event, please contact the Office of University Relations at (860) 465-5735.

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Eastern Connecticut State University is the state's public liberal arts university,

located in Willimantic, Connecticut.