

Course: Psy4300 Forensic Psychology

Instructor: James E. Horton
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Office Hours: Posted on the Web page

Textbooks: (Required) Wrightsman, Lawrence S. & Fulero, Solomon M. (2005).
Forensic Psychology,
(2nd edition). Thomson/Wadsworth: Belmont, CA

Course Objectives:

This course will cover a variety of topics pertaining to the interaction of psychology and the law. The student will investigate the influence of various psychological principals as they apply to our legal system. The required text will be used as a basis for the information and study with additional readings for specific topics. At the completion of the course, the student should possess a rudimentary knowledge of the role of psychology in the following areas of law.

1. Students should have an elementary working knowledge of the role of procedure in the legal system.
2. Students should demonstrate understanding of the influence of psychology in the role of victims, defendants, judges, police officers and lawyers as they interact with the legal system.
3. Students should understand the influence of psychological principles as applied to various aspects of pretrial and trial activities.
4. Students should understand influence of psychological principles as applied to the eyewitness, the child witness and expert testimony.
5. Students should understand the influence of psychological principles as applied to the decisions of juries and judges.
6. Students should demonstrate an overall understanding of the role of social science in the legal system.
7. Students should demonstrate an understanding of research methods, ethical concerns and investigative procedures involved in studying the social and legal aspects of the justice system.

Class Communications:

The preferred method of communications for this course is via email. I will answer questions, make class announcements which may include changes in the class requirements and provide feedback via email so it is important that you maintain a current email address and frequently check the mailbox for that address. Bad email addresses and full mailboxes create problems for the class messages and prevent you from receiving information. Due to the impact on the class and the demonstrated lack of personal responsibility these conditions present, I will not normally allow any credit lost due to bad email addresses or full mailboxes to be made up.

Software: This course assumes a complete installation of a Web browser, a college e-mail account and access to the Internet. You should be able to do everything required with your iPad that was furnished by UVA WISE, however, if you have a problem accessing the Internet or software needed to successfully complete this course we will do everything possible to assist you and ensure that you have what you need.

Internet use: Since this course is online, students will be required to use the Internet to access course content in Moodle. If you have a problem with Internet access or accessing course content contact me immediately so that we can investigate possible solutions and assist you in any way we can.

Moodle: The Moodle system will be a key tool in completing this course so I advise you to take time to get familiar with the content it holds for this course. There will be PowerPoint files with notes for the material to supplement your textbook, chat rooms and forums for you to participate in course material discussions as well as announcements about the class. Be sure to check it often.

Discussion Forum and Chat Room evaluation is based on four points:

1. Number of posts on the discussion forum for each Discussion topic. (Are you really involved in the discussion? I am looking for real activity focused on learning or sharing class related information)
2. How well your posting shows your understanding or efforts to gain understanding of the subject.
3. Your posting provides value to the discussion (basically it is not irrelevant talk – something submitted just to say you did it)

4. Replies to and comments on other students' postings on the discussion forum that contribute to a better understanding of the topic or a solution to a problem.

Postings to the discussion forum should be written as you would for a formally submitted paper, not in a texting or instant messaging style (no capitalization, punctuation, abbreviations, etc.). Your written word has a large impact of potential employers so let's practice good writing skills throughout the class.

Discussion forums are graded as individual assignments and the average of all postings becomes a weighted percentage of the overall class grade. Remember that any discussion without a post from you will receive a grade of zero and substantially reduce the credit you receive for class discussions.

Zoom Meetings

Zoom meetings will be scheduled as needed with students that prefer to use Zoom rather than forum or chat rooms.

Exams:

Your grade will be determined by your participation online and the section exams.

Grading:

Participation		10%
Section exams	3 @ 30%ea	<u>90%</u>
		100%

Honor Code:

The Honor Code of Clinch Valley College is fully supported and each student in this class will be treated as a responsible and honest adult. Violations of the Honor Code will be prosecuted through the Honor Court.

Special Accommodations: ADA: All students with disabilities requiring accommodations should present the appropriate paperwork from the ADA Coordinator (Faculty Accommodation Notice). It is the student's responsibility to present this paperwork in a timely fashion and follow up with the instructor about the accommodations being offered. Accommodations for test-taking (e.g. extended time) should be arranged at least 3 class days before an exam. If you are not registered with the Disability Services, please do so as soon as possible by contacting the ADA Coordinator (Zehmer Hall, Office 152, 328-0177).

Sexual Misconduct/Harassment Statement: The University of Virginia's College at Wise is committed to maintaining a respectful, professional and nondiscriminatory academic, living, and working environment for students, faculty, staff, and visitors. This includes having an environment free from sexual and gender based harassment, sexual assault, intimate partner violence, stalking, sexual exploitation, complicity, and retaliation. The College reaffirms its commitment to maintain a campus environment emphasizing the dignity and worth of all members of the college community.

To view the UVA Wise's Sexual Misconduct and Interpersonal violence Policy, please visit <http://www.uvawise.edu/compliance/sexualmisconduct>

If you have questions or concerns, please immediately contact your Title IX Coordinator listed below.

Tabitha Smith, title IX Coordinator
Office of Compliance and Conduct
1 College Avenue
Wise, VA 24293
Office: 276-328-0131 Cell: 276-870-506 Fax 276-376-4876 email tabitha.smith@uvawise.edu

Broad Diversity Statements – Feedback Process

It is my intent to present materials and activities that are respectful of diversity: gender identity, sexuality, disability, age, socioeconomic status, ethnicity, race, nationality, religion, and culture. Your suggestions are encouraged and appreciated. It is expected that some of the material or discussions in this course may evoke strong emotions, please be respectful of others' emotions and be mindful of your own. I will attempt to foster an environment in which each class member is able to hear and respect each other.

To help accomplish this:

- If you have a name and/or set of pronouns that differ from those that appear in your official student records, please let me know.
- It is critical that each class member actively listen and show respect in their comments and actions for all worldviews expressed in class.

While our intention may not be to cause discomfort or offense, the impact of what happens throughout the course is not to be ignored and is something that I consider to be very important and deserving of attention. I (like many people) am still in the process of learning about diverse perspectives and identities. If something was said in class (by anyone, including me) that made you feel uncomfortable, there are several ways to alleviate some of the discomfort or hurt you may experience:

- Discuss the situation privately with me. I am always open to listening to students' experiences, and want to work with students to find acceptable ways to process and address the issue.
- Discuss the situation with the class. Chances are there is at least one other student in the class who had a similar response to the material. Discussion enhances the ability for all class participants to have a fuller understanding of context and impact of course material and class discussions.
- Notify me of the issue through another source such as your academic advisor, a trusted faculty member, or a peer. If for any reason you do not feel comfortable discussing the issue directly with me, I encourage you to seek out another, more comfortable avenue to address the issue. [Insert potential resources]

Religious Diversity – Accommodation Process

Students who wish to request academic accommodation for a religious observance should submit their request to me by email as far in advance as possible. If you have questions or concerns about your request, you can contact [Insert Compliance/Student/Resource Office]. Accommodations do not relieve you of the responsibility for completion of any part of the coursework you miss as the result of a religious observance.

Key Planning Resource: Interfaith Calendar (<http://www.interfaith-calendar.org/>)

Disability – Accommodation Process

If you anticipate or experience any barriers to learning in this course, please feel welcome to discuss your concerns with me. If you have a disability, or think you may have a disability, you may also want to meet with the Student Disability Support Services, to request an official accommodation.

Tentative Schedule:

Week	Dates	Reading Schedule
1	8/26-29	Syllabus & Introduction Chapter 1 – Forensic Psychology: Promises and Problems
2	8/30-9/5	Chapter 2 – Forensic Psychologists: Roles and Responsibilities Chapter 3 – Psychology and Law Enforcement: Selection, Training, and Evaluation
3	9/6-12	Chapter 4 – Techniques of Criminal Investigation: Profiling, Psychological Autopsies, Hypnosis, and Lie Detection Exam 1 due by midnight Saturday September 12
4	9/13-19	Chapter 5 – Insanity and Competency Chapter 6 – From Dangerousness to Risk Assessments: Violence, Sexual Offending, Domestic Violence, Child Abuse, and Suicide. Chapter 7 – “Syndrome” Evidence: Battered Woman Syndrome and Rape Trauma Syndrome
5	9/20-26	Chapter 8 - Child Sexual Abuse Chapter 9 – Child Custody and Related Decisions Exam 2 due by midnight Saturday September 26
6	9/27-30	Chapter 10 – Improving Eyewitness Identification Procedures Chapter 11 – Interrogations and Confessions Chapter 12 – Trial Consultation: Jury Selection, Case Preparation, and Pretrial Publicity
7	10/4-10	Chapter 13 – Discrimination Chapter 14 – Sexual Harassment Chapter 15 – Death Penalty Trials and Appeals Chapter 16 – Influencing Public Policy
8	10/11-12	Exam 3 due by midnight Monday October 12

Since this course is online I need you to confirm that you have access to the Internet and software required to successfully complete this course. You should be able to do everything required with your iPad that was furnished by UVA WISE, however, if you have a problem accessing the Internet or software needed to successfully complete this course we will do everything possible to assist you and ensure that you have what you need.

Notify me immediately by email if you do not have access to the Internet or any other problems that might interfere with you completing this course online.