

PSYCHOLOGY AND THE LAW (PSY 3383-02)

Dr. Donna M. Desforges CHSS 380 936-294-1178 desforges@shsu.edu

SPRING 2018 ONLINE

Office Hours: Virtual Office and by appointment

Course Description: This course is designed to provide an overview of the relationship between psychology and the legal system. The course will consist of lecture, discussion, and application.

Textbook: Greene, E., & Heilbrun, K. (2014). Wrightsman's Psychology and the Legal System (8th Ed.). Belmont, CA: Wadsworth/Thomson Learning, ISBN-10: 1133956564 | ISBN-13: 9781133956563. The assigned readings are indicated on the accompanying tentative calendar. The quizzes will include questions from both the lectures and the reading assignments, so expect some questions from the text that were not discussed in lecture.

Course Goals and Learning Outcomes:

► Goal: Gaining factual knowledge in the area of psychology and legal issues

Learning outcome: you will be able to define key terms and concepts

Learning outcome: you will understand and be able to describe the impact of the situation on individual behavior in the legal arena

Learning outcome: you will understand the ways information processing (i.e., attention, perception, memory) affects interpretation of the legal matters

► Goal: Learning fundamental principles & theories involved in psychology and legal issues

Learning outcome: you will be able to describe major theories and research findings in the area of psychology and law

Learning outcome: you will understand and be able to describe basic research methods utilized in psychology and law

► Goal: Learning to apply the knowledge of psychology to the legal issues

Learning outcome: you will be able to use information from psychology to interpret and understand new situations and events in the legal arena

Interaction Plan: You are welcome to attend virtual office hours and can also meet with me face-to-face during my scheduled office hours on campus. You may also want to email me (or the teaching assistant) directly with questions of a personal nature, grading questions, or with other issues that are not appropriate for the rest of the class to read. Please include "Psyc & Law" in the subject line and include your name in the email. I

check my email regularly and will respond to all emails within 24 hours except for weekends and holidays. Please note that although I (&/or the teaching assistant) may respond during the weekends, I generally am not available on weekends, but will respond to weekend email messages on Monday. General questions should be posted to the Virtual Office. If one person has a general question, it's a pretty safe bet that others have that same question and will benefit from the answer. We will check the Virtual Office during office hours as well as at other times during the work week, and will answer questions as needed. You are also encouraged to read and respond to postings from classmates.

Grading

There are a total of 450 points possible in the course consisting of 10 quizzes (10 points possible each), 4 application assignments (25 points each), four wikis (200 points possible), and two wiki discussions (25 points each). Each of these are described below.

Point Breakdown

Quizzes	100 points
Assignments	100 points
Wikis	200 points
Wiki Discussion	50 points
Total Points	450 points

Points needed for each letter grade are as follows:

450-405 points = A
404-360 points = B
359-315 points = C
314-270 points = D
269 and below = F

Quizzes

You are expected to take at least 10 of the 12 quizzes offered during the semester. Each quiz is worth 10 points possible and will consist of multiple choice, T/F, and/or fill-in-the-blank questions. Each quiz will include material covered in lecture and the text book since the last quiz. In other words, the quizzes are not comprehensive – they only include the new material since the last posted quiz. Quiz dates are noted on the attached calendar. Your cumulative quiz score will be based on your best 10 of the 12 quizzes. Therefore, make-up quizzes are not permitted. If you miss a quiz, simply take the next one. If you take the first 10 quizzes and are happy with your scores, you don't have to take the remaining two quizzes. You will have two attempts at each quiz. If you don't score as well as you wanted on the first attempt, regroup and take it a second time. The higher of the two quiz scores will be recorded.

Applying Psychology to Law Assignments

The assignments are intended to give you *an understanding of the research and applications of psychology to the legal arena*. The assignments include: web-based exercises, film reactions, and responses/reactions to articles. The "Applying Psychology to Law" assignment choices can be found at the link in our course's navigation panel on Blackboard. There are several application assignments from which to choose, so look them over and **select four (4)** that are of interest to you and that fit with your schedule. You need to **complete and submit four (4) application assignments by the assignment due date** (*no late assignments accepted*). Each assignment requires a 1-2 page paper and has a point value of 25 points possible for a cumulative total of 100 points. Follow the instructions (i.e., writing prompts) for each assignment in

writing your papers. Submit assignments to the “Assignment Submission” section of Blackboard, which automatically includes a Turnitin.com review.

Although late assignments will not be accepted, you are welcome to complete and submit any assignment in advance of the due date. If completing early, be sure to read the relevant chapter in advance of completing the assignment. Note that *only the first four assignments submitted will count toward your grade*.

Please note: ALL written assignments must be 12-font, be in your own words (see section on academic dishonesty below), and include works cited. In most cases, the only work cited will be the textbook, lecture, and/or article referenced.

Wiki Project

Throughout the semester, **you will be contributing to each of 4 wikis** for the course. Contributions consist of posting your own responses and comments to each of the wikis. Your first contribution should be made no later than 2/10. In other words, don't wait until the last day/week to begin contributing to the wikis. The wikis are intended to provide you with the opportunity to apply information gained from the lectures and readings to specific topics that are relevant to the course. Please note that to count, contributions must be substantive and consist of more than “I agree,” etc.. Substantive responses reference reading assignments, web references, lecture notes, or other outside resources. You may add images and hyperlinks in addition to text. Grading for wiki contributions will be done mid-semester and at the end of the course. The midsemester grades will consist of 50 points possible for each of the first two wikis, for a total of 100 points possible. The final wiki grade will consist of 50 points possible for each of the remaining two wikis, for a total of 100 points possible. Thus, there are 200 points possible for the wiki project. Additional instructions for completing the wiki portion of the course and a grading rubric will be available on Blackboard by 1/29 when the first two wikis “open” for business.

Wiki Review & Discussion: At mid-semester and during the final exam period, you will have the opportunity to review and discuss the wikis. The first review and discussion opportunity will open 3/19 with a discussion board that closes on 3/25 at 11:59. The second review and discussion opportunity will open 5/7 with a discussion board that closes on 5/10 at 11:59. There are 25 points possible for participation in each discussion board, 50 points total. To participate, look back at the previous wikis and then discuss what you learned, how what you learned might be applied to other topics or issues relevant to psychology and the law, and/or what you would like to know more about.

In addition to posting your own comments to the discussion board, to earn full points, you will want to respond to at least one other student's posting. In order for comments to count, responses must be substantive and consist of more than “I agree,” etc.. The T.A. and/or I may pose follow-up questions in the discussion. Responding to these follow-up questions counts toward participation, too. So, if the original discussion seems to have run its course, join in by responding to one of our follow-up questions.

Do not wait until the last minute (hour, day, etc.) to respond! Remember this is a conversation with your fellow students.

NOTE: This is not an opportunity to critique other individual students' work on the wiki; it is meant as a review of the material and project that the class created as a group. Be sure to **provide the type of respectful comments and feedback that you would want to hear or read**. Comments that are deemed by the instructor or the T.A. to be disrespectful and/or inappropriate will be removed, a zero will be given for that discussion, along with a 30-point deduction from the final course grade.

Additional Policies

Syllabus Guidelines: You may find online a more detailed description of the following policies. These guidelines will also provide you with a link to the specific university policy or procedure: <http://www.shsu.edu/syllabus/> Additionally, specific University policy links are included in each of the following sections for ease of reference.

Academic Dishonesty Policy: All students are expected to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action. Academic dishonesty in any form in this class will result in a zero for exam or assignment, and an "F" for the course. Further, the University and its official representatives may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work which is to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of resource materials. In other words, just don't go there! University policy links:

University Code of Conduct <https://netreg.shsu.edu/mirror/codeofconduct.html>

University's policy on Academic Dishonesty <http://www.shsu.edu/dotAsset/728eec25f780-4dcf-932c-03d68cade002.pdf>

Classroom Rules of Conduct: Students are expected to assist in maintaining a virtual classroom environment that is conducive to learning. Students are to treat faculty and students with respect. Apparent inability to do this may be reported for disciplinary proceedings. University policy link: University Code of Conduct <https://netreg.shsu.edu/mirror/codeofconduct.html>

Students with Disabilities Policy: It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that individuals otherwise qualified shall not be excluded, solely by reason of their disability, from participation in any academic program of the university. Further, they shall not be denied the benefits of these programs nor shall they be subjected to discrimination. Students with disabilities that might affect their academic performance should visit with the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) located in the Lee Drain Annex (next to the Farrington Building). Their contact information is: Telephone: 936-294-3512 TDD: 936-294-3786 E-mail: disability@shsu.edu Web Address: www.shsu.edu/disability Please note that no accommodation can be made until the student registers with the SSD Office.

Religious Holidays: Students are allowed to miss class and other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. Students remain responsible for all work. University Observance of Religious/Holy Days policy link: <http://www.shsu.edu/dotAsset/0953c7d0-7c04-4b29-a3fc-3bf0738e87d8.pdf>

Department Grade Policy: As of Fall 2009, only grades of C or better (A, B, or C) will be counted toward the student's major in Psychology.

Tentative Schedule

Date	Session	Topic	Reading
1/17	1	Course Introduction	
1/17-1/23	2	Issues in Psychology & Law QUIZ 1 Open from 1/22-1/23 @ 11:59 p.m.	Ch. 1
1/24-1/29	3	The Legal System QUIZ 2 Open from 1/28-1/29 @ 11:59 p.m.	Ch. 2
1/30-2/5	4	Trial Processes QUIZ 3 Open from 2/4-2/5 @ 11:59 p.m.	Ch. 8,9
2/6-2/14	5	Jury Selection & Issues QUIZ 4 Open from 2/13-2/14 @ 11:59 p.m.	Ch. 12,13
2/15-2/22	6	Crime Investigation: Eyewitnesses QUIZ 5 Open from 2/21-2/22 @ 11:59 p.m.	Ch. 5
2/23-3/2	7	Punishment & Sentencing QUIZ 6 Open from 3/1-3/2 @ 11:59 p.m.	Ch. 14
3/3-3/10	8	Juvenile & Adult Corrections QUIZ 7 Open from 3/9-3/10 @ 11:59 p.m.	Ch. 15
3/11-3/18		Spring Break!	
3/19-3/25		Wiki Review & Discussion	
3/26-4/4	9	Evaluation of Criminal Suspects & Confessions QUIZ 8 Open from 4/3-4/4 @ 11:59 p.m.	Ch. 7
4/5-4/12	10	Forensic Assessment – Criminal QUIZ 9 Open from 4/11-4/12 @ 11:59 p.m.	Ch. 10
4/13-4/19	11	Forensic Assessment – Civil QUIZ 10 Open from 4/18-4/19 @ 11:59 p.m.	Ch. 11
4/20-4/27	12	Psychology & Police QUIZ 11 Open from 4/26-4/27 @ 11:59 p.m.	Ch. 4
4/28-5/4	13	Psychology of Victims QUIZ 12 Open from 5/3-5/4 @ 11:59 p.m.	Ch. 6
5/7-5/10	14	Wiki Review & Discussion	