Iowa State University

Department of Psychology
Fall 2012
PSYCH 383
Sections 9080005, 9080010, and 9080015

Monday, Wednesday, and Friday 1:10 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Room LAGOMAR E0164

Psychology & Law

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Department of Sociology
Iowa State University

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Phone: (515) 294-8379
Office hours: 2:30-3:30 M/W/F

Course Description:
This class will focus on the role of psychology within the legal system. The goal of this class is to introduce you to the various aspects of psychology within the system and our justice system’s response to its involvement. We will utilize various legal cases to examine the role of psychology at all stages of the criminal justice process from understanding the origins of crime to various theories of incarceration.

The class will also serve as a method for challenging and developing your ability to think critically. You should not undertake this course unless you are willing to attend lectures daily and perform a considerable amount of reading and discussion. While each day has some form of lecture, we will largely rely on discussions regarding the reading assignments and issues raised by them.

The goal of this course is to introduce you to the state of the art dialogue surrounding relevant issues in the psycho/legal nexus and to help you develop the critical thinking skills necessary to successfully participate in that dialogue. This course is also designed to help you develop your opinion on a variety of controversial topics in this field and identify ways to support your opinions with sound research.

Required Texts:
There is no required text for this course.

Required Additional Readings:
This course will utilize articles and legal cases that will be available online through Blackboard.

Requirements:
You will be required to submit four exams to receive a passing grade for this course. All exams must be completed by the deadline as stated on the syllabus. Exams will be administered on BlackBoard. You will have four days to complete the exam, but only one attempt will be allowed for each exam. You are not allowed to utilize any outside materials when completing this exam. The grade breakdown is as follows:
10% - Participation  
20% - Exam 1  
20% - Exam 2  
25% - Exam 3  
25% - Final Exam  

The exams will consist of multiple choice and matching items. Exam items will cover all assigned readings. We will discuss the exams in more detail a few days before you take the test.

Readings:  
Weekly readings should be completed before the reading is discussed. Class participation is expected. Discussing and debating the issues raised in the readings with your classmates (regardless of your position on the issues) will help you develop a clear sense of your stance on controversial issues, opposing views and arguments, and the ability to engage in a professional dialogue with those who hold differing opinions. Having a discussion about these topics is one of the ways that criminal justice professionals of all levels, even undergraduates, improve their own understanding of the subjects they study. Please come to class prepared to discuss the assigned readings.

Disabilities:  
Iowa State University complies with the American with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. The ADA is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. Any student who may require an accommodation under such provisions should contact me as soon as possible. You should also contact, at your earliest conveniences, the Student Disability Resources office. The SDR is located in the Student Services Building, Room 1076, 515-294-7220, TDD 515-294-6335.

Academic Misconduct:  
Academic Misconduct in any form violates Iowa State University’s Student Disciplinary Regulations and will not be tolerated. This includes, but is not limited to: copying or sharing answers on tests or assignments (ie. cheating – the use of prohibited information including notes, cribsheets, copying from another student, etc.), plagiarism (ie. copying – the appropriation of someone else’s writing, data, analysis, and/or results without attribution, acknowledgement, or credit including passages copied directly from a book, the internet, other student’s papers, etc.), and having someone else do your academic work. See the Conduct Code at www.dso.iastate.edu/ja for more details and a full explanation of the Academic Misconduct policies. If you are caught cheating or plagiarizing, your work will be turned in to the Office of Judicial Affairs.

Class Decorum:  
Please do not carry on extraneous conversations during the lecture or discussion. All electronic devices must be silenced before you enter the classroom. Disruptions due to cell phones will not be tolerated. If you arrive to class late, please enter the room quietly and inconspicuously. Should you be required to leave the room during the lecture, please do so quietly and be respectful of your fellow students.

Since this class has a large discussion component based upon several subjective and controversial issues, a professional dialogue will be expected. Several viewpoints different from your own will likely be expressed. Intimidation, profanity, hostility, or aggression towards others who express a point of view different from your own will not be tolerated.
**Expectations:**
As your professor, my goal is to develop your analytical and critical thinking skills. This requires regular class attendance, completion of all assignments, and classroom participation. I am here to help you learn the course material, improve your writing skills, do well on exams, and develop skills that will be useful to you as a professional. Ask lots of questions. Share your concerns. Visit my office hours or see me after lecture.

**Schedule:**

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<tr>
<th>Week 1</th>
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<tr>
<td>August 20:</td>
<td>Introductions &amp; Expectations</td>
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<td>August 22:</td>
<td>Careers in Psychology and the Law</td>
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<td>August 24:</td>
<td>Graduate Study in Psychology and the Law</td>
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<th>Week 2</th>
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<td>August 27:</td>
<td>Overview of the Legal System</td>
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<td>August 29:</td>
<td>Overview of the Legal System</td>
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<td>August 31:</td>
<td>Overview of Psychology within the Legal System</td>
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<th>Week 3</th>
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<td>September 3:</td>
<td>Labor Day</td>
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<td>September 5:</td>
<td>Overview of Psychology within the Legal System</td>
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<td>September 7:</td>
<td>Catch up/Review</td>
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<td><strong>Exam 1 released at 2:00 p.m.</strong></td>
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<th>Week 4 – What is a victim?</th>
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<tr>
<td>September 10:</td>
<td><strong>Exam 1 closes at 1:10 p.m.</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Aileen Wuornos Case Review</td>
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<td>September 12:</td>
<td>Aileen Wuornos Case Review/ Video Presentation</td>
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<td>September 14:</td>
<td>Video Presentation</td>
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<th>Week 5 – What is a victim?/Legal Competence</th>
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<tr>
<td>September 17:</td>
<td>Cary Stayner Case Review</td>
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<td>September 19:</td>
<td>Cary Stayner Case Review</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 21:</td>
<td><em>Dusky v. U.S.</em> (362 U.S. 402) [reading found in week 6 on Blackboard]</td>
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<th>Week 6 - Competence</th>
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<tr>
<td>September 26:</td>
<td>Lionel Tate Case Review</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 28:</td>
<td>Lionel Tate Case Review</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Exam 2 released at 2 p.m.</strong></td>
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Week 7 – Insanity

October 1: **Exam 2 closes at 1:10 p.m.**


October 5: Tests for Insanity

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Week 8 – Insanity

October 8: Tests for Insanity

October 10: Tests for Insanity

October 12: Catch up/Review

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Week 9 – Insanity

October 15: Course Reader – *Yates v. Texas* (171 S.W. 3d 215)

October 17: Course Reader – *Yates v. Texas* (171 S.W. 3d 215)

October 19: Course Reader – *Yates v. Texas* (171 S.W. 3d 215)

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Week 10 – Insanity

October 22: John Hinckley case review

October 24: John Hinckley case review

October 26: Catch up/Review

**Exam 3 released at 2 p.m.**

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Week 11 – Differences between men & women who kill

October 29: **Exam 3 closes at 1:10 p.m.**
Casey Anthony case review

October 31: Casey Anthony case review/John List case review

November 2: John List case review

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Week 12 – Children who kill

November 5: *Roper v. Simmons* (543 U.S. 551)

November 7: *Roper v. Simmons* (543 U.S. 551)/ Eric Smith case review

November 9: Eric Smith case review

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Week 13 – Ripple effects of crime

November 12: *Dear Zachary video presentation*

November 14: *Dear Zachary video presentation*

November 16: *Dear Zachary video presentation/Discussion*
Week 14 – Thanksgiving Break!!

November 19-23

Week 15 – Serial Killers

November 26: Ted Bundy Case Review
November 28: Ted Bundy Case Review
November 30: Ted Bundy Case Review

Week 16 – Serial Killers

December 3: Jeffrey Dahmer Case Review
December 5: Jeffrey Dahmer Case Review
December 7: Catch up/Review

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**Final Exam: Wednesday December 12, 2012, 2:15-4:15 p.m.**

*(Exam will be online and available only during the allotted exam time)*