Iowa State University

Department of Psychology
Spring 2013
PSYCH 383
Sections 9080005, 9080010, and 9080015

Monday, Wednesday, and Friday 1:10 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Room: Carver 305

Psychology & Law

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Iowa State University

Office: 203C East Hall
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Office hours: 4:00p-5:00p M/W/F

Course Description:
The 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 legal 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 exams 1-3, but only one attempt will be allowed for each exam. The final exam will only be available during the allotted exam time according to the University Final Exam Schedule.
You are not allowed to utilize any outside materials when completing the exams. The grade breakdown is as follows:

25% - Exam 1
25% - 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 assigned class period. Class participation is expected. Discussing and debating the issues raised in these 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 Dean of Students office.

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, 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. The end of the semester is too late to address poor performance or other issues that hinder your success in this class. Please see me if you are having difficulty with this material.

**Schedule:**

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<th>Week 1</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>January 14:</strong> Introductions &amp; Expectations</td>
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<td><strong>January 16:</strong> Overview of the Legal System</td>
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<td><strong>January 18:</strong> Overview of the Legal System</td>
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<th>Week 2</th>
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<td><strong>January 21:</strong> No Class – MLK Holiday</td>
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<td><strong>January 23:</strong> Overview of the Legal System</td>
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<td><strong>January 25:</strong> Overview of Psychology within the Legal System</td>
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<th>Week 3 – What is a victim?</th>
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<td><strong>January 28:</strong> Overview of Psychology within the Legal System</td>
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<td><strong>January 30:</strong> Overview of Psychology within the Legal System</td>
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<td><strong>February 1:</strong> Aileen Wuornos Case 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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<td><strong>February 4:</strong> Exam 1 closes at 1:10 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aileen Wuornos Case Review</td>
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<td><strong>February 6:</strong> Aileen Wuornos Video Presentation</td>
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<td><strong>February 8:</strong> Aileen Wuornos Video Presentation</td>
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<th>Week 5 – Legal Competence</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>February 11:</strong> Dusky v. U.S. (362 U.S. 402)</td>
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<td><strong>February 13:</strong> Dusky v. U.S. (362 U.S. 402)</td>
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<td><strong>February 15:</strong> Competence vs. Insanity</td>
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<th>Week 6 - Insanity</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>February 18:</strong> State v. Eusinazuri (1991 WL 271538 (unpublished))</td>
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<td><strong>February 20:</strong> State v. Eusinazuri (1991 WL 271538 (unpublished))</td>
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February 22: Tests for Insanity
Exam 2 released at 2 p.m.

Week 7 – Insanity

February 25: Exam 2 closes at 1:10 p.m.
Tests for Insanity

February 27: Tests for Insanity

March 1: Course Reader – Yates v. Texas (171 S.W. 3d 215)

Week 8 – Insanity

March 4: Course Reader – Yates v. Texas (171 S.W. 3d 215)
March 6: Course Reader – Yates v. Texas (171 S.W. 3d 215)
March 8: Andrea vs. Yolanda/ John Hinckley case review

Week 9 – Insanity

March 11: John Hinckley case review
March 13: Dear Zachary video presentation
March 15: Dear Zachary video presentation

Week 10 – Spring Break March 18-22

Week 11 – Differences between men & women who kill

March 25: Casey Anthony case review
March 27: Casey Anthony case review
March 29: Casey Anthony case review
Exam 3 released at 2 p.m.

Week 12 – Differences between men & women who kill

April 1: Exam 3 closes at 1:10 p.m.
John List case review

April 3: John List case review
April 5: John List case review

Week 13 – Children who kill

April 8: Roper v. Simmons (543 U.S. 551)
April 10: Roper v. Simmons (543 U.S. 551)
April 12: Roper v. Simmons (543 U.S. 551)
Week 14 – Children who kill

April 15: Eric Smith case review
April 17: Eric Smith case review
April 19: Review & Catch up

Week 15 – Serial Killers

April 22: Ted Bundy Case Review
April 24: Ted Bundy Case Review
April 26: Ted Bundy Case Review

Week 16 – Serial Killers

April 29: Jeffrey Dahmer Case Review
May 1: Jeffrey Dahmer Case Review
May 3: Jeffrey Dahmer Case Review

Final Exam: Thursday, May 9, 2013, 12:00-2:00p.m.