

**PSYCHOLOGY 4384
FORENSIC PSYCHOLOGY
SPRING 2003**

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Office Hours: Monday (9:00 – 10:00) and Tuesday (1:30 – 3:30)
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REQUIRED TEXT:

Wrightsman, L. S. (2001). *Forensic Psychology*. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

This course is designed for students with a basic understanding of the field of psychology. The objective of this course is to introduce students to the interface of psychology and law, with a specific focus on forensic psychology. The primary goal of this course is to introduce students to the roles and responsibilities of forensic psychologists including forensic psychological assessments, expert testimony, offender treatment, and correctional psychology.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING:

- (1) Read and be prepared to discuss the assigned readings prior to class time.
- (2) There will be three examinations, 100 points each. The lecture and reading material will be about equally weighted. All students will be expected to take the examination on assigned dates. Except in the case of emergencies (documented emergencies) make-up exams will be offered at the end of the semester on the same day as the final exam and will most likely be significantly more difficult than the initial exam. Note that this does not include cases of “real” emergencies.
- (3) One paper, 100 points. For this paper you are to choose any topic within forensic psychology to research as a written assignment. The paper should cover all relevant legal issues (statutes, case law, etc.) as well as psychological principles. A one paragraph typed summary of your topic will be due on the Friday of the third week of class (the summary counts for five of the 100 paper points and late summaries will receive a penalty). For your paper, you should read and apply at least five journal articles of relevant studies or case laws relevant to your topic. Your reference section should include at least eight citations in all (e.g., journal articles, legal cases books, literature reviews, internet postings). The final product should be 6-9, typed, double-spaced pages (one inch margins, 12 pt. font). The reference section should be in APA format. You are free to organize your paper any way you prefer, but use headings and present the material in an organized fashion. Grammar, punctuation, and writing style do count in the grading of this paper.
- (4) One extra credit book report (10 points maximum). This is an optional assignment and is intended to expose you to aspects of forensic psychology you may not get from the assigned

readings and classroom discussion. For this book report, select a book (fiction or nonfiction) relevant to forensic psychology. Your book can be fiction (e.g., one of the Hannibal series) or nonfiction (e.g., The Hot House). Your book report should be 2-3 pages in length and should provide a brief summary of the book (do not spend three pages summarizing the book), a critique of the book (e.g., what you liked or didn't like), what you've learned from the book, how this book impacted your views of the profession, and your reaction to the book. You must have your book approved by me before you read it.

The grading scale is as follows:

400 Total Points

A = 360+

B = 320 - 359

C = 280 - 319

D = 240 - 279

F = 0 - 239

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:

In accordance with the policies stated in the Undergraduate Catalog, the Department of Psychology requires honesty in the classroom and in all academic work. Any cheating or plagiarism will not be tolerated and any student caught cheating will receive a "0" on the assignment involved (any cheating on the paper will result in a permanent failure without the opportunity to revise the failure). Repeated offenses will result in an "F" for the course. Cheating and plagiarism will also be reported to the College of Arts and Sciences, Student Disciplinary Committee, who may choose to take additional disciplinary action that may include expulsion from the University. Definitions of cheating and plagiarism are provided in the Undergraduate Catalog and will be used as a guide for dealing with such matters.

SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS:

Any student who, because of a disabling condition, may require some special arrangements in order to meet course requirements should contact the instructor as soon as possible so that the necessary accommodations can be made. Excused absences are allowed for bona fide religious holidays (see Texas Tech Operation Procedure 30.16).

Week/Date	Class Topic	Reading Assignments & Due Dates
Week 1		
1/15/03	Introductions; Review of Syllabus; Defining Forensic Psychology	N/A
1/17/03	Defining Forensic Psychology (Cont);	Chapter 1 (pp. 1–24)
Week 2		
1/20/03	Martin Luther King Day (No Class)	
1/22/03	Tour of the Law Library	
1/24/03	Overview of the Legal System and Criminal Process	Chapter 18 (pp. 371-388)
Week 3		
1/27/03	Forensic Psychologists: Activities and Duties	Chapter 2 (pp. 25-49)
1/29/03	Guest Speaker (Dr. Davis)	
1/31/03	Criminal Competencies	Ch 10 (224-229) & Ch 17 (348-352); <i>Paper Topic Due</i>
Week 4		
2/3/03	Criminal Competencies Continued	
2/5/03	Criminal Competencies Continued	
	Court TV “Defendant’s State of Mind” Tape Here	
2/7/03	Criminal Responsibility (Insanity Defense)	Chapter 10 (pp. 213-224)
Week 5		
2/10/03	Criminal Responsibility (Insanity Defense) Continued	
	American Justice “Pleading Insane” Tape Here	
2/12/03	Criminal Responsibility (Insanity Defense) Continued	
2/14/03	<i>Exam One</i>	
Week 6		
2/17/03	Risk Assessment (Need two days here)	Chapter 10 (pp. 230-231)
2/19/03	Sexually Violent Predator Laws	To Be Assigned
2/21/03	Sexually Violent Predator Laws Continued	
Week 7		
2/24/03	Child Custody Evaluations	Chapter 14 (pp. 292-312)
2/26/03	Child Custody Evaluations Continued	
2/28/03	Child Custody Evaluations Continued	
Week 8		
3/3/03	Other Civil Assessments	Chapters 16 (pp. 334-346)
3/5/03	Guest Speaker (Dr. Lim)	
3/7/03	Expert Testimony	Chapter 2 (pp. 32-41)
Week 9		
3/10/03	Expert Testimony Continued	
3/12/03	Tour of Lubbock County Courthouse	
3/14/03	<i>Exam Two</i>	
Week 10		
3/17/03 –	Spring Break (No Class)	

	3/21/03		
Week 11			
	3/24/03	Trial Consultation and Jury Analysis	Chapter 2 (pp. 30-32); Chapter 8 (pp. 180-187); Chapter 9 (pp. 190-211) To Be Assigned
	3/26/03	Criminal Personality and Psychopathy	
	3/28/03	Criminal Personality and Psychopathy Continued	
Week 12			
	3/31/03	Malingering	To Be Assigned
	4/2/03	Correctional Psychology	
	4/4/03	Tour of Montford Unit	
Week 13			
	4/7/03	Graduate Student Research Presentations	
	4/9/03	Correctional Psychology Continued	
	4/11/03	Guest Speaker (Dr. Giles)	
Week 14			
	4/14/03	Offender Treatment/Rehabilitation	To Be Assigned
	4/16/03	Juvenile Justice (Guest Speaker; Dr. Robertson)	
	4/18/03	Topic to be Determined; <i>Papers Due</i>	
Week 15			
	4/21/03	University Holiday; Day of No Classes	
	4/23/03	Mental Health Law (Guest Speaker; Brian Shannon)	Chapter 3 (pp. 50-69)
	4/25/03	Police Psychology	
Week 16			
	4/28/03	Serial Killers	To Be Assigned
	4/30/03	Serial Killers Continued	Chapter 4 (pp. 71-99)
	5/2/03	Criminal Profiling	
Week 17			
	5/5/03	Criminal Profiling Continued; <i>Last Day of Class</i>	
	5/9/03	<i>Final Exam</i> Friday 7:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.	