Advanced Seminar: Forensic Psychology

Spring 2015
PYI 705

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Meeting Schedule: Monday mornings, 8:45 – 11:30
Credits: 3

General Overview

This Seminar focuses on the practice of forensic psychology with an emphasis on the context for a relationship between the law and behavioral sciences. Psychologists who work effectively with the legal system combine an understanding of the law with pertinent clinical information to communicate psychological findings in the adjudicative arena.

Methods

Following a general overview of the legal and court systems, this seminar focuses on twelve pertinent issues for clinical psychologists who provide services to legal professionals:

• Ethical considerations in forensic psychology
• Competency in the criminal process
• Mental status at the time of offense
• Sentencing and rehabilitation
• Civil commitment and civil competencies
• Compensation for mental or emotional injuries
• Discrimination and entitlement issues
• Child abuse
• Children in divorce proceedings
• Juvenile justice
• Clinical assessment of malingering and deception
• Clinical reports and expert testimony

With each of these venues, students will learn to appreciate relevant clinical and legal issues, and how to communicate important psychological findings to courts and legal professionals.

This class uses readings, discussion, lectures, simulations and group projects, and video
documentaries to explore the field of forensic psychology.

Diversity issues as they pertain to poor and minority people will be discussed in the opening lecture, “Law and the Psychologist,” and throughout the course. This will include a discussion of Brown v. Board of Education, how poor and minority people are over-represented in the legal system, and how children and adolescents interact with criminal and family courts. For class number four students will read and discuss Brown v. Mississippi—a case involving the use of torture to obtain a confession from three African-American men—as this matter relates to the law of confessions and the forensic psychologist’s participation in or scrutiny of police interrogations.

Required Text


Verification

1) Verification is based in part on active discussion and participation in the class process. Students must integrate assigned readings into their class participation.
2) It is critical that students read the assigned text for adequate learning and participation in this class.
3) Students will correctly answer 80% of questions on a multiple choice, open-book, twenty-item exam covering the class readings and lectures.

Class Outline and Reading Assignments

Class #1: Introduction

Class #2: Law & the Psychologist
Melton pp. vii - xiv; 3 - 68.

Class #3: Ethical Considerations in Forensic Psychology
Melton pp. 69 - 122.

Class #4: Competency to Stand Trial
Melton pp. 125 - 200.

Class #5: Mental State at Time of Offense
Melton pp. 201 - 268.

Class #6: Sentencing & Rehabilitation
Melton pp. 269 - 321.

Class #7: Civil Commitment
Melton pp. 325 - 367.

Class #8: Civil Competencies; Compensation for Mental Injury
Melton pp. 368 - 423.

Class #9: Discrimination & Entitlement
Melton pp. 424 - 461; 564 - 574.

Class #10: Juvenile Delinquency
Melton pp. 465 - 493.

Class #11: Child Abuse
Melton pp. 494 - 538.

Class #12: Children in Divorce
Melton pp. 539 - 563.

Class #13: Clinical Reports & Expert Testimony
Melton pp. 577 - 605.

Class #14: Sample Reports
Melton pp. 606 - 691.

Class #15: Final Exam, Evaluation & Termination of Class

Student Academic Support Services:

Support for Research & Audiovisual Services:

The AUNE Library offers research support, both face-to-face and long-distance via telephone, email, Gchat, and Skype. Your librarian, Rachel Sperling, is available weekdays 9 - 4:30 and by appointment to discuss topics, research strategies, citation management, and more. For more information about the AUNE Library, visit our website: HYPERLINK "http://www.antiochne.edu/library/" \h HYPERLINK "http://www.antiochne.edu/library/"

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In addition to books, DVDs, and journals, the library has a large collection of audiovisual equipment available for checkout. For a complete list of AV equipment and borrowing guidelines, visit this page: HYPERLINK "http://www.antiochne.edu/library/audiovisual-services/" \h HYPERLINK "http://www.antiochne.edu/library/audiovisual-services/"

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Any research materials that the library does not own can be requested through our

**Support for Writing and Presentations:**

The **AUNE Writing Center**, located in the library, offers free peer support for all parts of the writing process, including brainstorming and starting an assignment; organizing and structuring a draft; revising at the paragraph and sentence level; polishing near-final work; integrating your sources, and more. The AUNE Writing Center also supports Power Points, Prezis, Resumes, Cover Letters, and CVs.

Support at the **AUNE Writing Center** is available in via face-to-face, phone, or Skype sessions. You can see our schedule, make appointments, and access resources at the Writing Center website, HYPERLINK "http://www.antiochne.edu/writingcenter/" \h http://www.antiochne.edu/writingcenter/.

For written feedback on writing, you can submit your work to the **Virtual Writing Center**, which operates out of Antioch Seattle and is available to all AU students. You can submit a paper to the VWC at HYPERLINK "http://www.antioch.edu/vwc/" \h http://www.antioch.edu/vwc/ and you will receive a response in 24-48 hours.

**Support for Students with Disabilities:**

**Office of Student Disability Services**
Antioch University is committed to providing reasonable accommodations to qualified students with disabilities in accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 2008. Students with disabilities may contact the Disability Support Services office to initiate the process and request accommodations that will enable them to have an equal opportunity to benefit from and participate in the institution's programs and services. Students are encouraged to do this as early in the semester as possible, since reasonable accommodations are not retroactive. The Disability Support Services office is available to address questions regarding reasonable accommodations at any point in the semester.

For more information, please contact Fran Ziperstein, Director of Student Disability Services at fziperstein@antioch.edu or leave a message at 603 283-2438. The Office for Student Disability Services is located across from conference room 1C.

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