This course is designed to provide an overview to the interaction between psychology and the criminal law. We will focus primarily on the three major aspects in which psychologists are involved in the criminal justice system: competence to stand trial evaluations, mental state at the time of the offense (mens rea and the insanity defense), and the assessment of risk/prediction of future dangerousness. One of the guiding principles in forensic psychology, which will be reflected in this course, is the need to understand legal standards in order to tailor psychological knowledge and practice to the courts. As such, the content of the course will be evenly divided between understanding the legal issues involved and the practical application of psychological principals and knowledge. Likewise, readings and class time will be divided reviewing legal standards and case law and the psychological research, theories and techniques related to these issues. In additional, specific topics such as forensic psychological assessment, report writing, and expert testimony will be discussed.

Grading is based on three factors, weighted approximately equally:

Participation in class discussions
Mock trial (team grade)
Term paper

Final papers are due by 5 pm, December 22 (the last day of the examination period). Papers must be emailed to both Professors Cohen and Rosenfeld.

NB: Law students who wish to use the final paper to fulfill the writing requirement should consult the law school’s requirements (see http://law.fordham.edu/registrar/2763.htm)

Textbook:

Note: Under the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Vocational Rehabilitation Act of 1973, all students, with or without disabilities, are entitled to equal access to the programs and activities of Fordham University. If you believe that you have a disabling condition that may interfere with your ability to participate in the activities, coursework, or assessment of the object of this course, you may be entitled to accommodations. Please schedule an appointment to speak with someone at the Office of Disability Services (Rose Hill-O’Hare Hall, Lower Level, x0655 or at Lincoln Center-Room 207, x6282.
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<td>Introduction/Overview</td>
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<td>Risk Assessment: Dangerousness</td>
<td>9 (299-321), 19 (642-647)</td>
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<td>Risk Assessment: Sex Offenders</td>
<td>9 (280-284), 19 (634-642)</td>
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<td>11/17</td>
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<td>Mock Trial # 2</td>
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<td>12/1</td>
<td>Other Sentencing Issues/Juvenile Offenders</td>
<td>9 (269-280, 289-299)</td>
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<td>12/22</td>
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Readings

9/8  Forensic Assessment / Evidence

Case Law:

Research/Clinical Literature:

9/15-22 Competence to Stand Trial

Case Law:

Research/Clinical Literature:

9/29 Other Competence Issues

Case Law:

Research/Clinical Literature:

### 10/6-20 Criminal Responsibility

**Case Law:**
1. McNaughton’s Rule, 8 Eng. Rep. 718 (1843)

**Research/Clinical Literature:**
3. Amicus Brief (2012), *Delling v. Idaho*

### 11/3 Risk Assessment - Dangerousness

**Case Law:**

**Research/Clinical Literature:**

### 11/10 Risk Assessment - Sex Offenders

**Case Law:**
3. NYS Article 10 (SOTP act)

**Research/Clinical Literature:**

**11/17**

**Death Penalty**

**Case Law:**
1. Furman v. Georgia, 408 U.S. 238 (1972)

**Research/Clinical Literature:**

**12/1**

**Other Sentencing Issues**

**Research/Clinical Literature:**