

Psychology and Law
PSYC 401S
Fall 2015

Graduate Instructor: Josh Haby
Email Address: psyc401instructor@gmail.com
Faculty Instructor: Dr. Eve Brank

Office Hours: By email only: Monday through Friday (all weekdays)

When sending emails:

Email will only be answered Monday through Friday during typical business hours. I will make every effort to email you within the same day if it is during business hours, otherwise you can expect a response the next business day. You should plan when you will complete course material accordingly so that you have sufficient time to receive responses to emails, if needed.

A short note about basic email etiquette to best represent yourself when corresponding with the instructors -- It is expected that each email will include a subject alerting the instructor to the content of the email, a simple greeting, at least one sentence, and a closing that includes the student's full name. For more information about email etiquette please visit <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/636/1/>.

Course Description:

This course focuses on the application of behavioral science research and practice to the legal system. Topics covered include psychologists and the legal system; lawyers: socialization, training, and ethics; legality, morality and justice; forensic assessment; the insanity defense; competence in the legal system; eyewitness identification; jury selection, theories of crime; punishment and sentencing.

Prerequisites: 12 hours of psychology

Textbook:

Wrightsman's Psychology and the Legal System (8th ed., 2013) by Greene and Heilbrun, other materials will be provided through Blackboard

Honesty Policy:

Basically, don't cheat. If you need more than that, please see the University of Nebraska's Student Code of Conduct (§ 4.2)

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:

Students with disabilities are encouraged to contact the instructor for a confidential discussion of their individual needs for academic accommodation. It is the policy of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln to provide flexible and individualized accommodation to students with documented disabilities that may affect their ability to fully participate in course activities or to meet course requirements. To receive accommodation services, students must be registered with the Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) office, 132 Canfield Administration, 472-3787 voice or TTY.

Time Zone:

This class is entirely online, which means some of you may not be in Lincoln, Nebraska while you are taking this class. Nonetheless, all times used for due dates, etc. will be based on current time in Lincoln, Nebraska which falls under Central Standard Time.

Exams:

- Exams are open-book and open-note. Even though exams are open-book and open-note, you still need to study the material in preparation for the exams. The exam is timed and you will not have time to look up answers. The material for the exams comes from the lectures, readings, and quizzes.
- Each exam is timed and will be open for 90 minutes. You will have one attempt for each exam.
- During your exams, please use Mozilla Firefox as your browser and take your exams somewhere that has reliable internet (i.e., plugging into an Ethernet cable, using a library's computer, or using a reliable wireless connection available on campus). If you lose Internet connection during your exam, Blackboard will automatically submit your exam at that point, which presents numerous complications. Please email the instructor if this happens and the instructor will respond within the allocated email office hours (see above).

Weekly units:

Each week you will be responsible for completing one unit (except for the week of Thanksgiving). Within each unit there is an assigned reading, a video lecture, an activity, and a quiz based on the lecture and the reading. The unit will become available each week on Fridays at 5:00 pm and you have one week to complete that unit (by the next Friday at 5:00 pm). There will be an exam every 5 units, which will be due the same week as the final unit for that exam (see schedule below). If for some reason you are unable to complete any of the course materials by the deadline, you will receive a 10% penalty for each day (including weekends) that passes after the deadline. For example, if you do not complete an activity (worth a total of 10 points) until the Monday after the due date (3 days late), then 3 points (10% for each day) will be deducted from the points you earned.

| Unit | Week | Topic | Assigned Readings |
|---|---------------|--|--|
| Unit 0 Unit 1 | 8/24 -8/28 | Welcome lecture and introduction Introduction to the Legal System | Syllabus Chapter 2; pp. 25-45 Extra Credit Syllabus Quiz due 8/28 by 5pm |
| Unit 2 | 8/28 – 9/4 | Psychology’s Role in the Legal System | Chapter 1 ; pp. 1 – 24 |
| Unit 3 | 9/4 – 9/11 | Psychology of Police | Chapter 4; pp. 69 -92 |
| Unit 4 | 9/11 – 9/18 | Witnesses: Memory and System Variables | Chapter 5; pp. 93 - 106 (stop at eyewitnesses in courtroom) |
| Unit 5 | 9/18– 9/25 | Witnesses: Estimator Variables and False/Repressed Memory | Chapter 5 ; pp. 106 - 118 |
| Exam 1 covering Unit 1 – Unit 5 Due 9/25 by 5:00 pm | | | |
| Unit 6 | 9/25 – 10/2 | Evaluating Criminal Suspects | Chapter 7; pp. 146 – 173 |
| Unit 7 | 10/2 – 10/9 | Between Arrest and Trial | Chapter 8; pp. 174 – 196 |
| Unit 8 | 10/9 – 10/16 | Competency and Criminal Law | Chapter 10 ; pp. 213 – 236 (stop at juvenile transfer) |
| Unit 9 | 10/16 – 10/23 | Competency and Civil Law | Chapter 11; pp. 240-265 |
| Unit 10 | 10/23 – 10/30 | Victims | Chapter 6; pp. 119-145 |
| Exam 2 covering Unit 6 – Unit 10 Due 10/30 by 5:00 pm | | | |
| Unit 11 | 10/30 – 11/6 | Jury Selection and Representation | Chapter 12; pp. 266-294 |
| Unit 12 | 11/6 – 11/13 | Jury Decision-making | Chapter 13; pp. 294 - 318 |
| Unit 13 | 11/13 – 11/20 | Sentencing | Chapter 14 pp. 319-329 (stop at Sentencing Juveniles); pp. 331-345 (begin at sentencing sex offenders) |
| No Unit | 11/20 – 11/27 | Thanksgiving Break! | No Readings |
| Unit 14 | 11/27 – 12/4 | Corrections | Chapter 15; pp. 356-370 (begin at adult corrections) |
| Unit 15 | 12/4 – 12/11 | Juvenile Issues | Chapter 10, pp. 236-240 (begin at juvenile transfer); Chapter 14, pp. 329-331 (begin at sentencing juveniles); Chapter 15, pp. 346-355 (stop at adult corrections) |
| Exam 3 covering Unit 11 – Unit 15 Due 12/11 by 5:00 pm | | | |

Grading: 600 points

3 exams: 100 points each (300 total)

15 activities: 10 points each (150 total)

15 reading/lecture quizzes: 10 points each (150 total)

1 intro/syllabus quiz: 10 points (10 extra credit points!)

Grading Scale:

The following scale is intended only as an approximate guideline, and may be adjusted at the discretion of the instructor when awarding final grades:

A+: 97-100

A: 93-96

A-: 90-92

B+: 87-89

B: 83-86

B-: 80-82

C+: 77-79

C: 70-76

D: 60-69

Extra credit policies:

- There will be no extra credit beyond the syllabus/intro quiz. It **must** be completed within the first week of class.
- You may take the syllabus quiz as many times as you would like and we will use your highest score.