

DEREE COLLEGE SYLLABUS FOR:

PS 4349 FORENSIC PSYCHOLOGY-LEVEL 6
(Revised Fall 2015)

3/0/3
UK CREDITS: 15

PREREQUISITES: PS 1000 Psychology as a Natural Science
PS 1001 Psychology as a Social Science
PS 2147 Analysis of Behavioral Data – Level 4

CATALOG

DESCRIPTION: A systematic examination of the applications of psychology to legal issues including criminal profiling, insanity defence, competency to stand trial, commitment to and release from mental institutions, jury selection, eyewitness testimony, expert witness testimony as well as child custody disputes.

RATIONALE: This course is expected to serve as a resource for students in their effort to attain a more in-depth understanding of how psychological expertise can be applied to problems faced by judges, attorneys, police officials, and, in general, anyone who must deal with issues related to justice. Designed primarily (but not exclusively) for psychology majors, the course examines the psychologist's role in a number of processes related to civil, criminal, or administrative justice.

LEARNING OUTCOMES: As a result of taking this course, the student should be able to:

1. Define the areas of testimony and expertise of forensic psychologists
2. Critically discuss controversial professional matters such as certification and licensing of forensic experts.
3. Evaluate and synthesize the knowledge from recent legal controversies that have shaped forensic psychology both in the U.S. and Europe and their application in the practice of forensic psychology.
4. Discuss the basic issues pertaining to the commitment to and release from mental institutions, insanity defence, competency to stand trial, jury selection, and expert witness testimony
5. Critically evaluate and analyse the methodology and application of criminal profiling
6. Understand and evaluate custody disputes where the doctrine of "the best interests of the child" is being applied
7. Compare the psychological profiles of victims and violators
8. Compare and analyse the differences between children and adults as eyewitnesses.
9. Synthesize their knowledge of legal doctrines and psychopathology to discuss the legal rights of offenders who present some type of psychopathology

METHOD OF TEACHING

AND LEARNING:

In congruence with teaching and learning strategy of the college, the following tools are used:

- Classes consist of lectures, discussions, in-class activities, and case study discussions.
- Office hours
- Use of Blackboard site

ASSESSMENT:

In-class practical exercises - formative	0%	Review, analysis and discussion of case studies
Essay (approximately 3,000 words) - summative	60%	Critical review/argumentative paper on recent empirical findings on controversial issues in forensic psychology practice.
In-class final examination (2 hours, comprehensive) - summative	40%	Essay questions (choice: 3 out of 5)

The formative assessment relates to learning outcomes 1, 5-8

The essay assignment tests learning outcomes 3, 4, 7, 8, 9

The final exam tests learning outcomes 1-6

READING LIST:**1. Required Material**

Wrightsmann, S.L., & Fulero, S.M. (3rd ed). Forensic Psychology

2. Further Reading: Readings to supplement the basic material covered in the textbook.

American Psychiatric Association (APA). (2000) Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (4th ed. Text Revision) Washington, DC: American Psychiatric Association

Melton, GB, Petrila, J., Poythress, NG & Slobogin, C. (2007) Psychological Evaluations for the Courts: A Handbook for Mental Health Professionals and Lawyers. New York: The Guilford Press

Weiner, I.B., Hess, A.K. (2006). The Handbook of Forensic Psychology. New Jersey: John Wiley & Sons, Inc.

Heilbrun, K., Marczyk, G.R., Dematteo, D. (2002). Forensic Mental Health Assessment: a casebook. Oxford University Press.

Ackerman, M.J. (2006). Clinician's Guide to Child custody Evaluations. New Jersey: John Wiley & Sons, Inc.

Goldstein, A.M. (Ed.) (2006). Forensic Psychology: Emerging Topics and Expanding Roles. New York: John Wiley & Sons, Inc.

Perera, A.L., Van Hasselt, V.B., Baker, M.T., Ramano S.J., Shlessinger, K.M., Zucker, M & Dragone, R. (2006). Crisi (hostage) negotiation training: a preliminary evaluation of program efficiency. Criminal Justice and Behavior. 33(1), 56-69.

Sheridan, L.P. , Grant, T. (2007) Is cyberstalking different?
Psychology, Crime and Law 13(6)., 627-40.

**RECOMMENDED
MATERIAL:**

Law and Human Behavior
International Journal of Forensic Psychology
Journal of Forensic Psychiatry and Psychology
American Journal of Forensic Psychology
Criminality and Behavior
Psychology, Public Policy and Law
International Journal of Offender Therapy and Comparative
Criminology
Criminal Justice and Behavior
Journal of Applied Psychology

WWW RESOURCES:

American Psychological Association
www.apa.org

APA, Division on Psychology & Law
www.unl.edu/ap-ls

British Psychological Association
www.bps.org

National Institute of Mental Health
www.nimh.nih.gov

World Health Organization
www.who.int

American Academy of Forensic Psychology
www.aafp.ws

American Board of Forensic Psychology
www.abfp.com

- INDICATIVE CONTENT:**
1. The Science of Forensic Psychology
 2. The American/European Legal System
 3. Correctional psychology and the Police
 3. Commitment to and Release from Mental Institutions
 4. The Insanity Plea
 5. Competency to Stand Trial
 6. Children and Adults as Eyewitnesses
 8. The Role of Psychology in Domestic Disputes
 9. Criminal Profiling
 10. Psychopathology and Crime
 11. Trial consultation