

Psychology and the Legal System

FP 6010 (Online)

Course Syllabus—Fall 2010

September 07-October 27, 2010

Professor: Jenna Frischknecht Holden, J.D., Psy.D.

Meeting Times: Online throughout each week of the course

Office Hours: By appointment via e-mail or telephone to schedule

Contact Information: jfrischknecht@juno.com or 415/939-1060

Required Reading:

*Bartol, C. & Bartol, A. (2008). Psychology and the Legal System, 2nd Edition. Sage Publications (eBook)

ISBN: 1-4129-5831-8

[eBook access and links are available at the course eCollege website. Students should familiarize themselves with the eBook use resources and the VitalSource Bookshelf website and tutorials to develop competence in using the eBook format.]

*Any supplemental materials provided by the instructor

Recommended Reading:

***Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, 5th Edition**

(2001). ISBN: 1-55798-790-4

***Black's Law Dictionary (9th Edition is the latest, but prior editions will suffice as well) (2009). New York: West Publishing. ISBN: 0314199500**

Final Date to Drop the Class:

To receive a “W” grade a student must officially drop this class by the date listed below that corresponds to this course’s term and length. Students may not withdraw from this course after this date. If a student chooses to discontinue course work after the final drop date, the student may receive an “F” grade for the course.

Session I (7.5 week courses):

Deadline for withdrawal “W”: October 11th, 2010

Course Description (from AU catalog):

This course focuses upon the relationship between law and psychology and the mental health system, mental illness, and criminal conduct, with a more specific historical and procedural examination of the practice of psychology in the judicial forum. Substantive issues related to ethics and the law, risk assessment screening, psychological principles applied to law enforcement and correctional functions, and standards of legal competency and insanity are discussed.

Course Objectives:

1. To understand the relationship between psychology and law and the influences of each upon the other;

2. To understand the various perspectives and assumptions held by law and psychology regarding human behavior;
3. To understand the role of psychology within existing and varied court systems (i.e., civil court, criminal court, delinquency court, family court);
4. To understand legal concepts and terminology about which psychologists are expected to testify and/or make statements of interpretation and validation;
5. To demonstrate the manner in which psychological research helps to provide insight regarding the legal system;
6. To analyze/interpret/write critically about psychological research that impacts the legal system

Schedule By Week:

WEEK DATES

LECTURE/READING/ASSIGNMENTS

1 09/07-09/12
Forensic Psychology;

Introduction to class; Definitions of

Decision-making Model

Reading Assignments:

Introduction to Forensic

Psychology: Chapter 1

Current Perspectives: Chapter 1

Written Assignments (all due by 5 p.m.

PST on 09/12) :

1. Autobiography (10 points)

2. Individual Research Task (16 points)

3. Fieldwork Observation Task (16

points)

2 09/13-09/19

Police Psychology; Preemployment

Evaluation;

Chapter 2
and 7

PST on 09/19):
Johnson) (62 points)
points)

3 09/20-09/26
*Profiling, Polygraph and
Forensic Hypnosis*

Chapter 3
and 6

PST on 09/26):
Johnson) (48 points)
points)

Fitness-For-Duty Evaluation

Reading Assignments:

Introduction to Forensic Psychology:

Current Perspectives: Chapters 3

Written Assignments (each due by 5 p.m.

1. Day in the Life Vignette (Dr. S.
2. Fieldwork Observation Task (36

*Investigative Psychology: Criminal
other Lie Detection Techniques,*

Reading Assignments:

Introduction to Forensic Psychology:

Current Perspectives: Chapters 4, 5,

Written Assignments (each due by 5 p.m.

1. Day in the Life Vignette (Dr. S.
2. Fieldwork Observation Task (48

4 **09/27-10/03**
Behavior; Developmental
Role of

Psychological Aspects of Criminal
Factors Related to Crime and Delinquency;

Psychopathy in Criminal Behavior
Reading Assignments:

Introduction to Forensic Psychology:

Chapters 7, 8, and 9

Current Perspectives: Chapter 8

Written Assignments (each due by 5 p.m.

PST on 10/03):

Johnson) (56 points)
points)

1. Day in the Life Vignette (Dr. S.

2. Fieldwork Observation Task (48

5 **10/04-10/10**
Criminal Responsibility

Competency to Stand Trial (CST);

Reading Assignments:

Introduction to Forensic Psychology:

Chapters 4, 5, and 6

Written Assignments (each due by 5

p.m. PST on 10/10):

points)

1. Fieldwork Observation Task (52

2. Individual Research Task (48 points)

6 **10/11-10/17**

Victims of Crimes; Legal Rights of

Victims; Psychological and

Behavioral Responses of Victims

Reading Assignments:

Introduction to Forensic Psychology:

Chapters 10 and 11

Current Perspectives: Chapters 13, 15,

16, and 19

Written Assignment (due by 5 p.m. PST

on 10/17):

1. Fieldwork Observation Task (48

points)

7 10/18-10/24
and Rehabilitation

Correctional Psychology; Treatment

Reading Assignments:

Introduction to Forensic Psychology:

Chapters 12 and 13

Current Perspectives: Chapters 22, 24,

and 25

Written Assignment (due by 5 p.m.

PST on 10/24):

1. Individual Research Task (48

points)

8 10/25-10/27

Course Reflection and Wrap-Up

Written Assignment (due by 5 p.m.

PST on 10/27):

1. Fieldwork Observation Task (52

points)

Evaluation Methods: (735 points total for the course)

1. Attendance/Participation: 20% (147 points total)

Participation in discussions is crucial due to the nature of this online course, and students are expected to complete the required reading assignments in a timely manner. On-line lectures will be posted by Monday evenings at 7 p.m. (PST) of each week for that particular week's topic. Several weeks of this course will include discussion questions or topics, to which students will be expected to respond by 5 p.m. on the Sunday of that particular week. These formal discussion questions are actually included in the 588 points under "written assignments" below; however, your *comments to the responses of other students* will be expected, and this is what this category's 147 points will be based upon.

Whenever we have a course discussion question for a particular week, the expectation is that each student will make *at least 2 well thought out comments* to the responses of other students in this course for that particular week.

2. Written Assignments: 80% (588 points total)

There are several types of Written Assignments in this course: autobiography, individual research tasks, fieldwork observation tasks, and day-in-the-life vignettes. Each of these Written Assignments has been assigned an individual point value, the sum of which for all Written Assignments is 588 points. **Written Assignments that are completed and given to the professor after the Sunday 5 p.m. (PST) deadline of each week will NOT be accepted or graded.**

The grading of each written assignment will be based upon the following:

- degree to which student addressed the given topic**
- clarity of content**
- following of APA style in writing/formatting/citing/referencing**
- grammar/punctuation/syntax/spelling**

Written Assignments and the course Final Grade will be graded upon a scale comprised of the following percentages:

93-100 =	A
90-92 =	A-
88-89 =	B+
83-87 =	B
80-82 =	B-
70-79 =	C
60-69 =	D
Below 59 =	F

***Please Note: All writing for this course must adhere to the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, 5th Edition* (2001). This includes in-text citations, references, gender-neutral writing, etc. Additionally, the quality of student writing will be closely monitored with regard to grading decisions—please pay particular attention to grammar, syntax, and spelling, as errors in any of these areas may reduce a grade on any assignment.**

ADA Accommodations:

It is AU/San Francisco Bay Area Campus policy not to discriminate against qualified students with a documented disability in its educational programming. If any student has a disability-related need for accommodations in this course, please contact the Campus

**Director of Student Services at
510/215-0277.**

Course Syllabus Subject to Change with Notification:

This course syllabus may be subject to change due to extenuating circumstances. If any such circumstances should occur, students will be notified as soon as possible with a revised syllabus and instructions regarding changes in assignments/course content. This course follows AU's policies regarding such changes as are references in the AU Catalog. Students are welcomed and encouraged to contact the professor with questions and comments regarding course content and/or assignments.

AU's Plagiarism Policy:

Argosy University seeks to foster a spirit of honesty and integrity, and therefore any and all work submitted by a student must represent original work produced by that student. Any source used by a student must be documented through normal scholarly references and citations, and the extent to which any sources have been used must be apparent to the reader. Argosy University further considers resubmission of a work produced for one course in a subsequent course or the submission of work done partially or entirely by another student or person to be academic dishonesty. It is the student's responsibility to seek clarification from the course instructor about the extent to which help may be received in completing an assignment or exam or project and what sources may be used. Students found guilty of academic dishonesty or plagiarism shall be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal from Argosy University.

Students may be asked to submit coursework through "Turnitin," (www.turnitin.com), an online resource established to help educators develop writing/research skills and to detect potential cases of academic dishonesty. Turnitin compares submitted papers

to billions of pages of content and provides a comparison report a course's instructor(s). This comparison detects papers that share common information and duplicative language.

MACP APA Style Requirements

Minimum required elements of APA style for written assignments in first year courses include the following:

- **Cover page that meets APA style requirements of elements and formatting (i.e., title of paper, name, course number/course name, Argosy University, semester or term and year, running head in left header, and page number in right header)**
- **Body of paper with critical voice (e.g., synthesis of opinions/comments) supported by paraphrasing of credible sources using the two styles of APA citing (out-of-text and in-text) with correct punctuation; avoid use of 1st person singular “I” (except personal reflection papers) and 2nd person singular “you;” use of third person plural “we” acceptable to reflect universal human experience**
- **Quoted passages to include author, year, and page number; emphasis on paraphrasing with minimal use of quotations to support critical voice**
- **Reference page that meets APA style requirements to include appropriate sources (e.g., no Wikipedia), references that match citations (e.g., no references listed that are not also cited), and correct formatting/punctuation**
- **APA style formatting to include 1” margins, running head in left header, page number in right header, Times New Roman**

12 point font, left justification of all passages, indentation of 5 spaces for new paragraphs, 1 ½ line spacing and double sided pages (modified APA in spirit of promoting “green” for MACP program)

- **Grammatical and punctuation errors edited to address incomplete sentences, run-on sentences, awkward sentences, inconsistent verb tense, inconsistent pronoun use, redundancy of ideas/words, use of extremes or superlatives (e.g., “always,” “never,” “very,”) and conversational or idiomatic language.**