

University of Delaware
PSYC 467 SEMINAR: FORENSIC PSYCHOLOGY
Fall 2016

Instructor:	Steve K. D. Eichel, Ph.D., ABPP, CST
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Office Location:	TBA
Office Hours:	TBA
Class Meetings:	Tue. & Thurs., 11:00 AM – 12:15 PM
Classroom:	Interdis Science Engr Room 205

Syllabus updated on 8/23/16

Course Description

Forensic psychology deals with the application of psychological knowledge and methods to tasks face by the legal system. These tasks include: criminal investigation, assessing defendants for insanity or competency, assessing people for risk of violence, sexual offense or other dangerous behaviors, trial consultation, child-custody evaluations, understanding interrogations, confessions and eyewitness identification, and the selection and training of law enforcement officers. In this seminar we will explore the field of forensic psychology and you will research a forensic psychology topic of your choice in depth by drawing on empirical and theoretical sources. You will prepare both an oral and written presentation on your topic. In addition to learning about forensic psychology, this course is designed to help you develop oral and written communication skills.

Course Objectives

- To examine the role of psychology and psychologists in understanding the origins and dynamics of criminal behavior.
- To examine and understand human behavior related to the legal process.
- To describe the education, training and experience necessary to prepare for the professional practice of psychology within or in consultation with the legal system.
- To understand how developmental psychology, social psychology, clinical psychology, cognitive psychology each contribute to (1) how courts make custody decisions, (2) how coercion and persuasion affect interrogations, (3) how group dynamics influence decisions made by juries, (4) the role of mental illness in criminal behavior, (5) determining competence to stand trial, (6) the prediction of future violence and other criminal acts, and (7) understanding the accuracy of memory and eyewitness testimony.

- To examine the application of psychology to society and institutions in the effort to prevent criminal behavior.

Required Texts

Fulero, S. M. & Wrightsman, L. S. (2009). *Forensic Psychology (3rd Ed.)*. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth.

Additional secondary source readings and media provided throughout the semester.

Required Media

Students will be expected to rent or obtain copies of recommended movies and/or recordings and to watch or listen to these outside the classroom as required, either individually or in small groups.

Course Requirements

<u>Grading:</u>	<u>Component</u>	<u>Points</u>
	Attendance & Participation	20
	Midterm exam	40
	Final exam	40
	TOTAL:	100

Your final letter grade will be determined by the number of points you accumulate. Points translate to the following letter grades:

A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	F
>93	90-92	87-89	83-86	80-82	77-79	73-76	70-72	67-69	63-66	60-62	<59

Participation (20% of final grade): Participation and attendance for this course are required. You are expected to arrive on time for class and to remain for the entirety of the allotted class time. You will be graded according to both consistency of attendance and quality of participation.

Please note that three (3) late arrivals (including coming back late from a class break) will be considered equivalent to one (1) absence.

You are required to turn off all cell phones and other media devices during class. Should you need to keep any media device on during class for any compelling reasons, please consult with the instructor as to how to best do so without disrupting the class. Please do not text in class. ***Attendance and/or participation points will be deducted if you use your cell phone, MP3 player, iPod, iPhone, iPad or other media devices during class.***

In-class Exams: There will be two examinations, which together are worth 70% of your final grade. Examinations may contain multiple choice and short essay questions. If you miss a class, you are still responsible for the work assigned for that class. Make-up tests will only be allowed

in the case of a documented emergency and only when such arrangements have been made in advance of the test date. The make-up test may be an essay test. Assignments may change somewhat as the course progresses, so please pay close attention to any changes or corrections announced in class. There will be no extra credit.

Academic Integrity: Any cases of students violating the code of conduct will be brought to the attention of the Office of Student Conduct for adjudication. I reserve the right to use computer programs to check your paper for plagiarism.

Participation (20% of final grade): Participation and attendance for this course are required. You are expected to arrive on time for class and to remain for the entirety of the allotted class time. You will be graded according to both consistency of attendance and quality of participation. Your grade will be calculated as follows:

- A range = 0-1 absence AND consistent participation in class discussions or role plays
- B range = 2 absences OR occasional participation in class discussions or role plays
- C range = 3 absences OR minimal participation in class discussions or role plays
- D range = 4 absences OR rare participation in class discussions or role plays
- F = 5 or more absences OR no participation in class discussions or role plays

Please note that three (3) late arrivals (including coming back late from a class break) will be considered equivalent to one (1) absence.

It is expected that students will critically evaluate their own experiences and/or exposure to traumatic events in their own lives and/or the lives of clients, friends, family or others. Some degree of self-disclosure is expected (in discussions and/or writing exercises), however the instructor will maintain responsibility for ensuring safety and appropriate professional boundaries between students in the classroom and/or between students and instructor. Students will not be penalized for declining to self-disclose about their own experiences.

Please turn off all cell phones and other media devices during class. Should you need to keep any media device on during class for any compelling reasons, please consult with the instructor as to how to best do so without disrupting the class.

Guidelines for all written assignments: Three points will be deducted for each day a paper is handed in late. No papers will be accepted if more than one week late. No extensions or rewriting of papers and exams will be allowed, except in the most unusual circumstances (e.g., death of a family member, visit to the emergency room) and with appropriate documentation.

All papers must be fully written by the student, and, therefore, they may NOT include any direct quotes. However, students must appropriately reference all of the sources they have used. All references (both within the text and in the reference page) as well as the format of the paper must be in APA style. Further, the final paper should be written in 12-point Times New Roman (as well as double-spaced and with 1-inch margin on all sides, as indicated by APA style). Note that the reference page, the cover page, and the abstract are NOT part of the page count.

If you are not familiar with APA style, there is an External Link to an APA Style Guide on Bb and there are copies of the 5th Edition of the APA Publication Manual in the library. You may also enlist the assistance of tutors at the Writing Center.

The instructor reserves the right to have your written products analyzed by a plagiarism detection program. You will be required to turn in all of your papers in Word (.doc or .docx format), in addition to bringing a hard copy of them in class (please, do NOT submit drafts!). Both the hard and electronic copies are due on the same date.

Studying time: It is expected that students spend at least 5 hrs a week reading and/or studying for this course. In the process of developing the skills needed for all of these activities, students are strongly encouraged to consult with the instructor and/or regularly meet with a librarian and tutors through the University Writing Centers (<http://www.cas.udel.edu/writing-center/Pages/default.aspx>). Should you be unable to locate a resource that you need to succeed in this course, please feel free to consult with your advisor about it.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

The Americans with Disabilities Act is a series of laws designed to protect individuals with disabilities in the workplace and within educational environments. The University must make a reasonable effort to accommodate your disability. ADA includes not only physical disabilities, but also learning disabilities, mental health disabilities, and disabilities related to HIV/AIDS. Students are responsible for initiating all services.

To receive classroom accommodations or any other special services or consideration due to a disability, students should consult the Office of Disability Support Services within the first two weeks of classes. For more information go to <http://sites.udel.edu/dss/>.

Academic Conduct

This course adheres to the University of Delaware Student Code of Conduct as delineated in the Student Guide to University Policies. You can access the Guide at: <http://www1.udel.edu/stuguide/16-17/Student%20Guide%202016-17.pdf>:

Notice

The syllabus and course schedule are subject to change. Any changes to the syllabus or course schedule will be announced by the instructor in class or through Bb.

Course Schedule and Readings

<i>Week</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Readings</i>	<i>Topic</i>
1	Aug. 30 Sept. 1		Introduction & overview. Why forensic psychology?
2	Sept. 6 Sept. 8	Chs. 1 & 2	Science vs. Legal precedent What is a forensic expert?
3	Sept. 13 Sept. 15		Basics of forensic psychological evaluation & assessment
4	Sept. 20 Sept. 22	Ch. 3	No class (Dr. Eichel at NAFC) Psychology and Law Enforcement

5	Sept. 27 Sept. 29	Ch. 4	Techniques of Criminal investigation: Profiling, Psychological Autopsies, Lie Detection
6	Oct. 4 Oct. 6	Ch. 4	Hypnosis (Background) Hypnosis (Forensic).
7	Oct. 11 Oct. 13	Ch. 5	Spill over and/or review MIDTERM
8	Oct. 18 Oct. 20		Insanity and Competency No class (Dr. Eichel at AAP)
9	Oct. 25 Oct. 27	Ch. 8 Supplemental	Child abuse (physical/mental/sexual) Sex offending
10	Nov. 1 Nov. 3	Ch. 8 & 6	Sex offending, cont. From Dangerousness to Risk Assessment: Violence, IPV, Suicide.
11	Nov. 8 Nov. 10	Ch. 6 & 7	From Dangerousness to Risk, cont. “Syndrome” Evidence
12	Nov. 15 Nov. 17	Ch. 9	Child Custody and Related Decisions Child Custody and Related Decisions
13	Nov. 22	Ch. 10	Improving Eyewitness Identification Procedures
	Nov. 24		Thanksgiving
14	Nov. 29 Dec. 1	Ch. 11 Ch. 13	Interrogations and Confessions Discrimination
15	Dec. 6 Dec. 8	Ch. 14 Ch. 15	Sexual Harrassment Death penalty
16	TBA		FINAL EXAM