
PSYCHOLOGY AND LAW

Florida State University
CCJ 3286 • Fall 2023

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Course level number: 3000
Mode of delivery: Asynchronous online
Credit hours: 3
Pre/co requisites: None

Course Description

This course explores the intersection of criminal and civil law with psychology. It covers psychological principles in investigations, police interrogations, eyewitness testimony, and jury selection and dynamics. It also covers the roles of psychologically-trained professionals during criminal investigations, as expert witnesses, in child custody and other family law cases, and in conducting assessments. Finally, it covers issues related to mental illness more broadly, such as competency to stand trial and involuntary commitment.

- Upon successfully completing this course, you will be able to:
- Describe the major ways in which psychology and law intersect
- Compare the features of different types of courts, including specialty courts
- Define the different types of criminal profiling
- Compare and contrast the main police interrogation styles, and methods to detect deception
- Apply knowledge related to the reliability of eyewitness accounts and testimony
- Apply knowledge related to jury decision-making to real cases
- Generate measures of competency to stand trial
- Explain issues related to insanity pleas
- Evaluate cases involving patient confidentiality and provider duty-to-warn
- Discuss special issues related to children and the criminal law, divorce and custody cases, and will creation and medical decision-making
- Explain the basics of involuntary mental health treatment
- Describe the basics of psychological assessment

Course Materials

You will need internet access and access to a computer that can stream audio and video.

There is one required textbook:

Bartol, C. R., & A. M. Bartol. *Psychology and Law: Research and Practice* (second edition). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.

This course participates in the Follett Access program. You are automatically enrolled to receive your materials and will be charged through your FSU portal. If you would like to opt out or opt back in to receiving the discounted materials, visit the link below. For more information, click [here](#) or contact the bookstore at follettaccess@fsu.edu
Opt Out/In Portal: <https://ACCESSPortal.follett.com:443/0208>

Please refer to the last page of this syllabus for the course calendar. Each week, I recommend that you first complete the readings, then view the slides and any multimedia components embedded in them, and then complete the week's assignments.

Course Requirements

Due dates and times are in Eastern Time.

First Day Attendance. By the third day of classes, please comment on the first day attendance discussion board post so that we can count you as present. This assignment is mandatory (so that we don't drop you) but ungraded.

Syllabus Quiz. During the first week of classes, please review the syllabus and take the graded syllabus quiz that is available on Canvas. The quiz is not timed, but it must be completed and submitted by its due date and time.

Exams. You will take four multiple choice exams about the readings. These will cover only material from that section of the course; that is, they will not be cumulative. The exams are not timed, but they must be completed and submitted by their due dates and times.

Essays. Six of the weekly course modules will feature supplemental videos. Each is paired with an optional essay assignment; you must complete three of these. Instructions are given in the videos and supplemental slides. Include in-text citations in APA format; a reference list is not needed unless you use outside references. You can choose which three essay options to complete, but we will grade only the first three essays that you submit; please do not go to the trouble of completing more than three in an effort to raise your grade. You are welcome to send the TAs a draft of your essay before you submit it; please do this by the Tuesday of the week in which the essay is due. We do recommend that you take advantage of this option, at least for your first essay. These essays are brief, but they should be high-quality and well-reasoned. Basic summaries that do not rise to the level of an upper-level course, essays that do not demonstrate your familiarity with all of the relevant course materials (please cite liberally!), and essays that only partially address the prompt will not receive full credit.

Second Section Reflection. After the third week of classes, you will have read three chapters of the book, reviewed three sets of slides, taken the first exam, viewed a video, and had the chance

to complete an essay. Prepare a bulleted list of strategies that you can use to have continued success in the course or to improve your performance to your desired level. Aim for 5-10 bullets; make sure they describe specific strategies (think “make flashcards for key terms” rather than “study”). How have you been studying, and what would you like to do the same or differently going forward? How did you approach the essay, and what will you do next time (or how will you approach your first essay if you have not yet completed one)? This is a chance for you to be purposeful in the way that you approach the remaining course requirements. Reflections that are submitted on time and appear thoughtful will receive full credit; reflections that are submitted on time but that contain only a couple of bullets or show little thoughtfulness will receive half credit; and missing or late reflections will receive no credit.

Course Grades

Syllabus quiz: 1 @ 5 points.....	5
Exams: 4 @ 12 points each.....	48
Essays: 3 @ 15 points each.....	45
Second section reflection.....	2

Total 100 points (%)

Grading scale

94%-100%	A	80%-83%	B-	70%-73%	C-
90%-93%	A-	77%-79%	C+	60%-69%	D
87%-89%	B+	74%-76%	C	Below 60%	F
84%-86%	B				

I round according to conventional mathematical rules.

Course Communication

How we will contact you. You can check Canvas for course announcements and changes. Please adjust your Canvas settings to ensure that you receive course announcements via email.

How you should contact us. Please email us with any questions about the course material, requirements, or policies. See the rest of this syllabus for topics that warrant contacting the TA rather than the instructor. Monday through Friday, we will respond to your email within 24 hours. We will try to respond promptly to emails sent on weekends, but may not be able to respond until Monday.

Course Policies

Missing and late work. With one exception (described below), missing or late assignments, quizzes, and exams will receive 0s unless (1) you are unable to complete or submit the item due to an excused absence (per the University attendance policy below) and (2) notify the TA within 48 hours of the due date. When you email the TA, please include documentation of your absence

(e.g., a doctor's note, a jury duty summons). Forgetting about the assignment/quiz/post, needing to work late, being unable to get to a computer, and having an undocumented illness will not qualify as excused absences, so please plan accordingly and do not procrastinate.

The University attendance policy is as follows: Excused absences include documented illness, deaths in the family and other documented crises, call to active military duty or jury duty, religious holy days, and official University activities. These absences will be accommodated in a way that does not arbitrarily penalize students who have a valid excuse. Consideration will also be given to students whose dependent children experience serious illness.

You are allowed ONE undocumented absence in this course. Contact the TAs within 48 hours of the requirement's due date to receive a one-week extension on the assignment or exam.

Technology. When you submit an assignment or exam, it is your responsibility to ensure that the submission was successful. If you experience internet or Canvas problems while you are submitting an assignment or exam, please email the TAs immediately. If the trouble relates to a written assignment, please attach your assignment. It is important that you contact us before the due date and time so that we know you did the work on time. You have a one hour grace period to contact the TAs about technology-related problems. If you do not successfully submit an assignment or exam by the due date and time and we do not hear from you within an hour of that date and time, that assignment or exam will receive a 0.

TurnItIn. This course will use Canvas's TurnItIn anti-plagiarism tool. Assignments receiving high similarity scores will be investigated according to College procedures.

Academic Success. Your academic success is a top priority for Florida State University. University resources to help you succeed include tutoring centers, computer labs, counseling and health services, and services for designated groups, such as veterans and students with disabilities. The following information is not exhaustive, so please check with your advisor or the Dean of Students office to learn more.

Americans with Disabilities Act. Florida State University (FSU) values diversity and inclusion; we are committed to a climate of mutual respect and full participation. Our goal is to create learning environments that are usable, equitable, inclusive, and welcoming. FSU is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for all persons with disabilities in a manner that is consistent with academic standards of the course while empowering the student to meet integral requirements of the course.

To receive academic accommodations, a student:

(1) must register with and provide documentation to the Office of Accessibility Services (OAS);
(2) must provide a letter from OAS to the instructor indicating the need for accommodation and what type; and,

(3) should communicate with the instructor, as needed, to discuss recommended accommodations. A request for a meeting may be initiated by the student or the instructor.

Please note that instructors are not allowed to provide classroom accommodations to a student until appropriate verification from the Office of Accessibility Services has been provided.

This syllabus and other class materials are available in alternative format upon request.

For more information about services available to FSU students with disabilities, contact the Office of Accessibility Services
874 Traditions Way
108 Student Services Building
Florida State University
Tallahassee, FL 32306-4167
(850) 644-9566 (voice)
(850) 644-8504 (TDD)
oas@fsu.edu
<https://dsst.fsu.edu/oas>

Academic Honor Policy. The Florida State University Academic Honor Policy outlines the University's expectations for the integrity of students' academic work, the procedures for resolving alleged violations of those expectations, and the rights and responsibilities of students and faculty members throughout the process. Students are responsible for reading the Academic Honor Policy and for living up to their pledge to "...be honest and truthful and...[to] strive for personal and institutional integrity at Florida State University." (Florida State University Academic Honor Policy, found at <http://fda.fsu.edu/Academics/Academic-Honor-Policy>) I expect you to uphold this pledge. *All work that you submit for this class must be your own.* Do not cheat (use unauthorized material or study aids in any exercise), plagiarize (knowingly represent someone else's words or ideas as your own), fabricate (invent the information you submit), or assist in anyone else's academic dishonesty.

Confidential Campus Resources. Various centers and programs are available to assist students with navigating stressors that might impact academic success. These include the following:

Victim Advocate Program
University Center A, Rm.
4100
(850) 644-7161
Available 24/7/365
Office Hours: M-F 8-5
<https://dsst.fsu.edu/vap>

University Counseling
Center
Askew Student Life
Center, 2nd floor
942 Learning Way
(850) 644-8255
<https://counseling.fsu.edu/>

University Health Services
Health and Wellness
Center
(850) 644-6230
<https://uhs.fsu.edu/>

Syllabus Change Policy. Except for changes that substantially affect implementation of the evaluation (grading) statement, this syllabus is a guide for the course and is subject to change with advance notice.

Frequently Asked Questions

My assignment is shorter/longer than the length requirements. Is that okay? We are fine with discussion board posts that are 5-10 words too short or long and with essays that are 100 words too short or long. But please, for the sake of your grader, don't write a post or essay that is double the requested length. Also, please don't submit papers that are ½ page or more too short (with normal spacing and margins). This last guideline is to protect you; if your assignment is markedly too short, you are probably missing key content.

Why did I lose points on my assignment? If you'd like more detailed feedback on your grade, please contact your grader. The most common reasons that people lose points are not answering the question(s) in full and not incorporating enough course material. See the assignment instructions for guidance on how much space should be devoted to the various sources.

Can I submit more than three essays and keep the three highest grades? No, we will grade only the first three essays that you submit.

I got stuck at work/my car broke down/my loved one is ill and I missed the assignment deadline. What do I do? You get one free extension in the course. To use it, simply email the TAs to let them know that you will be turning your assignment in late. You will receive a one week extension. After you use this freebie, to gain extensions on additional assignments, you will need documentation that those absences were excused under the policy described above.

I am having trouble with Canvas and can't submit my assignment! Or, I swear I submitted it but it is not showing up! Help! If it's before the deadline or within the grace period, please email it to us! If you believe that you submitted it but we have no record of that, contact Canvas Support at (850) 644-8004 and tell them that your instructor needs a log of your Canvas activity on the date that you submitted the assignment. Also, make sure that you can provide us with a version of your assignment that was last saved before the assignment deadline. Then contact us to discuss this further.

What is my current grade? Can I still earn a __ in this class? To calculate your current percentage grade, add up the total number of points you have earned so far, and divide that by the total number of possible points so far. To determine how many more points you must earn to achieve a target final grade, look at the grading scale to see how many points you must earn to make that grade, and then subtract your total points earned from that number. If the result is less than the number of points remaining, then yes, you can still earn that grade!

Can I complete an extra credit assignment to boost my grade? Sorry, but there is no extra credit in this course. Your best bets for maximizing your grade are ensuring that you have fully and thoroughly answered the essay prompts, and contacting us early to ask any questions that you have about the material or assignments.

Course Calendar

Week (Module Opens)	Chapter	Assignments
1 (8/28)	1	First day attendance post; syllabus quiz
2 (9/2)	2	
3 (9/9)	3, plus video	
4 (9/16)	None; chance to ask questions about the exam and assignment, get feedback on a draft (submit draft by Tuesday)	Exam 1; option to submit essay 1*
5 (9/23)	4, plus video	Second section reflection; option to submit essay 2*
6 (9/30)	5	
7 (10/7)	6, plus video	
8 (10/14)	None; chance to ask questions about the exam and assignment, get feedback on a draft	Exam 2; option to submit essay 3*
9 (10/21)	7, plus video	Option to submit essay 4*
10 (10/28)	8, plus video	Option to submit essay 5*
11 (11/4)	9	Exam 3
12 (11/11)	10, plus video	Option to submit essay 6*
13 (11/18)	None; catch up on any missed readings and videos	None
14 (11/25)	11	
15 (12/2)	12	Exam 4

*You must submit 3 of the 6 possible essays