

**Psychology and Law
PSYC 401
Preliminary Syllabus
Fall 2018**

Instructors:

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Office Hours:

Ms. Marshall:
Fridays 10:00am to 11:15 am
or by appointment
Ms. Hazen: By appointment

When sending emails:

Always put PSYC 401 in the subject line (or email through Canvas) if you want a prompt response. Every effort will be made to make email replies within 24 hours of receipt (Monday through Friday).

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 (9th ed., 2018) by Greene and Heilbrun, other materials will be provided through Canvas.

Attendance Policy:

Class participation and attendance are strongly encouraged. You are responsible for all material covered in class and assignments due during class. If you miss a class, you should meet with another student to get the notes. The instructors do not make their Powerpoints available online or otherwise.

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 instructors 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.

Exam policies:

- Material for the exams is not limited to topics discussed in class. Students are responsible for assigned readings.
- No make-up exams will be given without a valid, documented excuse and notification to the instructor before the scheduled exam. For example, if you are ill on a particular exam day, you will need to call the instructor's office or email before missing the exam and obtain written proof of your condition from a physician. The instructor reserves the right to administer oral make-up examinations.

Late work policies:

If for some reason you are unable to complete any of the course materials by the deadline, you will receive a 10% penalty if you turn in the assignment within five days (including weekends) of the due date. If you turn in an assignment after that first week, but before the last day of class (December 8, 2018), you will receive a 50% penalty on your grade for that assignment. Course materials turned in after the end of the course will not be accepted. Please try to turn your work in on time, as it will make everything easier for the both of us.

Extra Credit:

The only opportunity for extra credit is by participating in research studies. Each research credit you earn for participating in research will replace 1 question on the exam (with a maximum of 3 credits per exam). The maximum you may earn for the class is 6 credits. You must complete the credits before the exam for them to count for that exam.

Grading:

Additional details about individual assignments and allocation of points for those assignments will be provided in separate documents at the end of the first week of classes.

Personal information card	50 points	Due August 22, 2018 during class
Paper	150 points	November 16, 2018
Exam 1	250 points	October 5, 2018
Exam 2	250 points	December 11, 2018 at 10:00 am
Poster	200 points	December 5, 2018
In-class Activities	100 points	Throughout the semester
TOTAL	1000 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	B: 83-86	D: 60-69
A: 93-96	B-: 80-82	
A-: 90-92	C+: 77-79	
B+: 87-89	C: 70-76	

Course Schedule:

A more detailed course schedule will be available online at the end of this week/beginning of next once the class has made their selections from the topic choices available and the student survey results are tabulated.

Important dates

Wednesday, August 22 in class	Turn in completed personal information and survey.
Friday, October 5th in class	Exam 1
Tuesday, December 11 th at 10:00	Exam 2
Friday, November 16 th	Paper due
Wednesday, December 5 th	Poster session

Course Schedule:

Week	Class	Topic	Assigned Readings
1	8/20	Unit 1: Foundations Welcome to Psychology and Law!	Education article posted on Canvas
	8/22	Introduction to Psychology and Law continued	Chapter 1
	8/24	Introduction to Psychology and Law con't and Activity	
2	8/26	Foundations: Uses of Social Science Example	How to read a legal opinion; Brown v. Board of Education
	8/29	Foundations: The Legal System: Issues, Structures, & Players	Chapter 2
	8/31	The Legal System con't	
3	9/3	LABOR DAY – No class	
	9/5	Foundations: Traditional Prosecutions: Arrests, Bail, Plea Bargain and Settlement, and Trial	Chapter 8
	9/7	Traditional Prosecutions con't	
4	9/10	Unit 2: Evidentiary Issues: Eyewitnesses	Chapter 5
	9/12	Eyewitness, con't	Reading posted on Canvas
	9/14	Eyewitness, con't	
5	9/17	Evidentiary Issues: Forensic Assessment	Chapter 10
	9/19	Evidentiary Issues: Confessions and Interrogations	pp. 162-179

	9/21	Confessions, con't	Kassin, 2012 posted on Canvas
6	9/24	Evidentiary Issues: Special Topics: Search and Seizure	Reading posted on Canvas
	9/26	Evidentiary Issues: Wrap-up 4 th Amendment and talk about exam	
	9/28	Evidentiary Issues: Psychology of Survivors of Crime	Chapter 6
7	10/1	Survivors con't	
	10/3	Review Day for Exam 1	
	10/5	Exam 1	Exam 1
8	10/8	Unit 2: Decision-Making: Psychology of Crime	Chapter 3
	10/10	Poster Workshop Day 1 (no class)	
	10/12	Poster Workshop Day 2 (no class)	
9	10/15	FALL BREAK! (no class)	
	10/17	Exam review day; Unit 2: Decision-Making: Psychology of Crime	Chapter 3
	10/19	Crime, con't	
10	10/22	Decision-Making: Policing	Chapter 4
	10/24	Policing con't	Reading posted on Canvas
	10/26	Policing and Procedural Justice	Tyler, Fagan, & Gellar 2014 article posted on Canvas
11	10/29	Decision-Making: Prosecutorial Decision-Making	
	10/31	Alternatives to Traditional Litigation	Chapter 9; PDF of Paper article due at 11:59 pm
	11/2	Alternatives, con't	
12	11/5	Decision-Making: Judges and Juries	Chapter 12
	11/7	Jurors and Juries	
	11/9	Juries, con't	Chapter 13

13	11/12	Jury Activity!	
	11/14	Decision-Making: Sentencing and Punishments	Chapter 14; Paper Due at 11:30 am
	11/16	Sentencing con't	Group poster article due at 11:30
14	11/19	Special Topics: Bail	
	11/21	Thanksgiving Break – No Class	
	11/23	Thanksgiving Break – No Class	
15	11/26	Unit 3: Special Topics: Juvenile and Adult Corrections	
	11/28	Corrections, con't	
	11/30	Civil committment	
16	12/3	TBD	
	12/5	Poster session	Poster Due
	12/7	Review Day for Exam 2	
	12/11	Exam 2 at 10:00am	