
COURSE SYLLABUS

Course Information:

Title: Forensic Psychology, 4372.001

Location: CRA Building 12.120

Class Times: Monday 4:00 p.m. – 6:45 p.m.

Spring 2017

Instructor Contact Information:

Name: Kristi Compton, Ph.D.

Phone: 214-999-0011

Fax: 877-747-2080

E-mail: forensicpsychoffice@gmail.com

Office Hours: Monday (after class by appointment)

Course Description: The forensic psychology course will explore the application of psychological science to legal matters. Special attention will be given to developing an understanding of the most prevalent mental disorders that are encountered in forensic evaluations and how forensic psychologists assist judges and juries in determining criminal responsibility and punishment. Students will learn about the insanity defense, capital murder and the death penalty, and competency to stand trial. Additional topics to be covered include the psychological underpinnings and motivations for sexual offenses, murder, and repeated criminal behavior.

Student Learning Objectives:

1. Students will identify the major mental illnesses encountered in forensic psychology and apply this knowledge to case analyses.
 2. Students will learn basic case and statutory law related to forensic psychology.
 3. Students will be able to identify causes of criminality.
 4. Student will learn criminal and civil applications of forensic psychology.
-

Required Reading Materials:

Title: **Forensic Psychology/Edition 2**

Author: Matthew T. Huss

Publisher: Wiley, John, & Sons

ISBN 978-1-118-55413-5

Assignments and Academic Calendar

Date	Class Instruction & Assignment
01-9-2017	Introduction to Forensic Psychology Mental Illness in Forensic Contexts Reading Assignment: Chapter 1: Huss
01-16-2017	No Class MLK, Jr. Remembrance
01-23-2017	Mental Illness in Forensic Contexts Psychopathy Reading Assignment: Chapter 4: Huss
01-30-2017	Psychopathy Continued Serial Killers Reading Assignment: Chapter 8: Huss
02-06-2017	Serial Killers Continued Competency to Stand Trial Reading Assignment: Chapter 9: Huss
02-13-2017	Competency to Execute Competency to Plead Competency to Waive Miranda Rights Violence Risk Assessment Reading Assignment: E-Learning: Case Folder Aileen Wournos Reading Assignment: Chapter 5: Huss
02-20-2017	Competency to Stand Trial Analysis Due In-Class Study Review for 1 st Exam False Convictions/False Confessions Police Interrogations Reading Assignment: E-Learning: Case Folder False Confessions (will not be included on the 1 st exam)
02-27-2017	Exam I: 4:00 to 5:30 False Convictions/False Confessions: 5:30 to 6:45
03-06-2017	Mental State at Time of Offense Reading Assignment: Chapter 7: Huss
03-13-2017	Spring Break!!!
03-20-2017	Diminished Capacity Evaluations Intoxication Insanity Sudden Passion Evaluations Automatism Malingering Assessment Reading Assignment: E-Learning Case Folder Malingering

03-27-2017	Mental State at Time of Offense Analysis Due Psychology of Murder Criminal Profiling Intimate Partner Violence and Stalking Reading Assignment: Chapter 10: Huss
04-03-2017	Exam 2: 4:00 to 5:30 Capital Murder Mitigation Capital Murder Mitigation Case Analysis Reading Assignment: E-Learning Case Folder: Tyrone Cade
04-10-2017	Causes of Crime Sex Offenders Reading Assignment: Chapter 6: Huss
04-17-2017	False Memories Eye Witness Testimony Juvenile Delinquency In class review for 3 rd exam
04-24-2017	Exam 3

Course Requirements and Grading Policies:

A student's final grade will be an average of the following:

1. 1st Exam (20%)
2. 2nd Exam (20%)
3. 3rd Exam (20%)
4. Competency Analysis (20%)
5. Insanity Analysis (20%)

Exams are composed of true/false questions, multiple choice questions, and brief essays. Exams questions are derived from lectures, class presentations, and reading material. Not all reading assignments will be covered during lectures. The quizzes will serve as a study guide.

Written Competency and Insanity Analyses: A type-written double spaced one to two-page analysis of a competency and insanity case. You will describe why or why not the specific case meets legal criteria for a finding of incompetency and insanity. The cases will be on E-Learning. Grammar is important and will be reflected in your grade. Please proof read. Late papers will be accepted for one week post the due date and one grade level will be deducted.

Final Grades will be scored on a standard metric:

1. 98% to 100% = A+
2. 97% to 93% = A
3. 92% to 90% = A-
4. 87% to 89% = B+
5. 86% to 83% = B
6. 82% to 80% = B-
7. 77% to 79% = C+

- | | |
|----------------|------|
| 8. 76% to 73% | = C |
| 9. 72% to 70% | = C- |
| 10. 60 to 69% | = D |
| 11. Below 60 % | = F |
-

Course & Instructor Policies:

Make up exams will be allowed only on an emergency basis. Proof of the emergency must be provided (e.g., physician's note, police report, etc.).

No electronic devices are allowed during exams.

Cell phones should be silenced and put away during class.

UT Dallas Policies and Procedures

The information contained in the following line constitutes the University's policies and procedures segment of the course syllabus.

Please go to: <http://go.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies> for these policies.

Please carefully read the policies regarding academic honesty. Any signs of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated and will result in expulsion from the class and possible expulsion from the university.

Instructor Absence: Students will be notified either during a class period or by e-mail in the event that the instructor is not able to attend class due to a trial. If this occurs, students are expected to view a film in lieu of attending lecture. Links for the films can be found on e-learning. **Questions about the videos will be included on exams.**

Mind of a Killer

Bellevue Hospital Documentary

The descriptions and timelines contained in this syllabus are subject to change at the discretion of the instructor.