

Credit Hours: 3

Contact Hours: This is a 3-credit course, offered in accelerated format. This means that 16 weeks of material is covered in 8 weeks. The exact number of hours per week that you can expect to spend on each course will vary based upon the weekly coursework, as well as your study style and preferences. You should plan to spend 14-20 hours per week in each course reading material, interacting on the discussion boards, writing papers, completing projects, and doing research.

Faculty Information: Faculty contact information and office hours can be found on the faculty profile page.

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OUTCOMES

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

In this course, students examine major areas of interest shared by psychology and law, including the use of psychological assessments in court, issues of criminal responsibility, criminal profiling, and the use of psychological knowledge in prisons. Students apply knowledge of human behavior and through processes to a variety of legal contexts covered in this course.

COURSE OVERVIEW:

In this course, students will examine the relationship among psychology, law and criminal justice exploring issues such as the death penalty, child abuse, sexual harassment, and rape. Students will also examine investigative techniques and criminal justice policy and procedure, and how forensic psychology can inform best practices.

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES:

1. Assess the complex interrelationships between psychology, law, and criminal justice.
2. Describe the various roles, activities, and responsibilities of a forensic psychologist in the criminal justice system.
3. Discuss the ethical dilemmas that psychologists working in the criminal justice system are faced with.
4. Evaluate the impact of the empirical research by psychologists on the outcome of criminal and civil cases.
5. Analyze current research in the field of forensic psychology.
6. Evaluate the psychology of law enforcement personnel, witnesses of crime, victims, and offenders.

PARTICIPATION & ATTENDANCE

Prompt and consistent attendance in your online courses is essential for your success at CSU-Global Campus. Failure to verify your attendance within the first 7 days of this course may result in your withdrawal. If for some reason you would like to drop a course, please contact your advisor.

Online classes have deadlines, assignments, and participation requirements just like on-campus classes. Budget your time carefully and keep an open line of communication with your instructor. If you are having technical problems, problems with your assignments, or other problems that are impeding your progress, let your instructor know as soon as possible.

COURSE MATERIALS

Required:

Green, E & Helibrun, K (2019). *Wrightsman's psychology and the legal system*. (9th ed.). Boston, MA: Cengage Learning ISBN: 978-1-337-57087-9

NOTE: All non-textbook required readings and materials necessary to complete assignments, discussions, and/or supplemental or required exercises are provided within the course itself. Please read through each course module carefully.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Due Dates

The Academic Week at CSU-Global begins on Monday and ends the following Sunday.

- **Discussion Boards:** The original post must be completed by Thursday at 11:59 p.m. MT and peer responses posted by Sunday 11:59 p.m. MT. Late posts may not be awarded points.
- **Opening Exercises:** Take the Opening Exercise before reading each week's content to see which areas you will need to focus on. You may take these exercises as many times as you need. The Opening Exercises will not affect your final grade.
- **Mastery Exercises:** Students may access and retake Mastery Exercises through the last day of class until they achieve the scores they desire.
- **Critical Thinking:** Assignments are due Sunday at 11:59 p.m. MT.

WEEKLY READING AND ASSIGNMENT DETAILS

MODULE 1

Readings

- Chapters 1 & 2 in *Wrightsman's Psychology and the Legal System*
- Bond, C., Murphy, K., & Porter, L. (2015). Procedural justice in policing: the first phase of an Australian longitudinal study of officer attitudes and intentions. *Crime, Law & Social Change*, 64(4/5), 229-245. doi:10.1007/s10611-015-9587-1

Opening Exercise (0 points)

Discussion (25 points)

Mastery Exercise (10 points)

Critical Thinking (90 points)

Choose one of the following two assignments to complete this week. Do not do both assignments. Identify your assignment choice in the title of your submission.

Option #1: Adversarial System of Justice vs. Inquisitorial System of Justice

Compare and contrast the adversarial and the inquisitorial systems of justice. Describe how they are similar as well as different. Choose which system of justice you think is a better approach and support your stance with relevant research.

Your paper should be 2-3 pages in length and conform to the CSU-Global Guide to Writing & APA. Include at least three scholarly references in addition to the course textbook. The CSU-Global Library is a good place to find these resources.

Option #2: Justice Models: Distributive, Procedural, and Commonsense

Compare and contrast the distributive, procedural, and commonsense justice models. Describe the similarities and differences among them. Choose which model you think is the best and support your stance with relevant research.

Your paper should be 2-3 pages in length and conform to the CSU-Global Guide to Writing & APA. Include at least three scholarly references in addition to the course textbook. The CSU-Global Library is a good place to find these resources.

MODULE 2

Readings

- Chapters 3 & 4 in *Wrightsmen's Psychology and the Legal System*
- Weld, D., & Roche, S. (2017). A matter of time: A partial test of institutional anomie theory using cross-national time use data. *Journal of Quantitative Criminology*, 33(2), 371-395.
doi:10.1007/s10940-016-9305-x

Opening Exercise (0 points)

Discussion (25 points)

Mastery Exercise (10 points)

Portfolio Milestone (25 points)

Choose one of the following two assignments to complete this week. Do not do both assignments. Identify your assignment choice in the title of your submission.

Option #1: One-Page Portfolio Project Overview

Read the directions for both Portfolio Project options and choose one to complete for this course. Write a one-page paper explaining the reasons for your choice.

Adhere to the following standards:

- Your overview should be 1-2 pages in length, not including the title and references pages.
- Review the grading rubric, which can be accessed from the Module 2 folder. Keep in mind that the more detail you include in your overview now, the easier it will be to write your paper later.

Be sure to follow the CSU-Global Guide to Writing & APA.

Option #2: One-Page Portfolio Project Overview

Read the directions for both Portfolio Project options and choose one to complete for this course. Write a one-page paper explaining the reasons for your choice.

Adhere to the following standards:

- Your overview should be 1-2 pages in length, not including the title and references pages.
- Review the grading rubric, which can be accessed from the Module 2 folder. Keep in mind that the more detail you include in your overview now, the easier it will be to write your paper later.

Be sure to follow the CSU-Global Guide to Writing & APA.

MODULE 3

Readings

- Chapters 5 & 6 in *Wrightsmen's Psychology and the Legal System*
- McNabb, N. S., Farrell, B. R., & Brown, C. R. (2017). Voluntary adoption of evidence-based practices by local law enforcement: Eyewitness identification procedures in Arkansas, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, and Nebraska. *Journal of Gender, Race & Justice*, 20(3), 509-542.

Opening Exercise (0 points)

Discussion (25 points)

Mastery Exercise (10 points)

Critical Thinking (100 points)

Choose one of the following two assignments to complete this week. Do not do both assignments. Identify your assignment choice in the title of your submission.

Option #1: Eyewitness Identification

Read the story below and then answer the questions listed at the end of the story.

Story: Wrongful Conviction of Steven Avery based on Eyewitness Testimony

Some of you may have heard of Steven Avery, as his criminal cases were highlighted in the ten-part Netflix series, *Making a Murderer* (2015). First, here is some background on Avery, and the story of one of his cases will follow. Steven Avery was born in Manitowoc County, Wisconsin, and lived there his entire life. Steven had a few relatively minor run-ins with the law and even served a little time in jail in his late teens and early 20s, although he never committed any violent offenses during his early years. Steven appeared to be settling down; he got married and had several children by 1985. However, Steven's life would dramatically change in the summer of 1985.

On a warm July day in 1985, Penny Beernsten, also from Manitowoc County, was with her husband and daughter at Lake Michigan having a picnic. Penny decided to take a jog along the beach. As she was jogging, she reached a part of the beach where it seemed no one was around, and then she came across a male who was dressed in black pants and long sleeves. Penny recalled thinking to herself that it was odd that the man was dressed like this on such a warm day. As Penny passed by him, he stated, "Nice day for a jog." On her way back, she saw the same man, and he was now directly in her path. Penny attempted to go around him, but he suddenly attacked her. He pulled her behind the sand dunes and

brutally raped and beat her. Penny was and left for dead, but fortunately, she was found by some people passing by and received medical attention. Penny sustained severe injuries to her face and eyes, and her ability to see was significantly diminished in the weeks after the attack. Penny was also suffering from severe psychological trauma. The law enforcement officers who responded and investigated the crime suspected that Steven Avery was involved and placed him in a line-up. Penny picked Steven Avery out of the line-up. Penny later recalled being very emotional at the time and wanted to be able to identify her attacker. Although several people placed Avery many miles away at the time of the attack, and even in the company of other people, the prosecution was able to successfully convict Steven solely based on Penny Beernsten's eyewitness testimony. Steven Avery served nearly 20 years in prison before being released when the case was reopened, at which time DNA from the scene was linked to Gregory Allen. Unfortunately, Gregory Allen committed several other sexually violent crimes after raping and beating Penny Beernsten.

Part I – Reflection (1-2 pages)

1. Imagine that you are Penny Beernsten. What factors (physical and psychological) might have influenced the incorrect identification of Steven Avery?
2. Imagine that you are a juror in the case involving Steven Avery and Penny Beernsten.
 1. What are some reasons why you would be likely to believe Penny Beernsten (even though it was the only evidence in the case)?
 2. Imagine that you are Steven Avery. How would you feel after serving nearly 20 years for crimes you did not commit?
 3. Who else was impacted by this wrongful conviction?

Part II – Application (2 pages)

1. What are some reasons why people are inaccurate eyewitnesses?
2. What are some investigative steps that law enforcement can take to minimize false identifications?

Your paper should be 3-4 pages in length and conform to the CSU-Global Guide to Writing & APA. Include at least three scholarly references in addition to the course textbook. The CSU-Global Library is a good place to find these resources.

Option #2: Psychological Considerations for Crime Victims

Read the story below and then answer the questions listed at the end of the story.

Story: Human Trafficking Survivor Raped 43,200 Times

That is not a typo in the title. Human trafficking victim Karla Jacinto estimates that she was raped 43,200 times. Jacinto was abducted by human traffickers in Mexico and indicated that, over a period of four years, she was raped daily by up to 30 men. Yes, each day, and for four years.

Karla Jacinto grew up in the small town of Tenancingo, which is southeast of Mexico City. Despite being a small town of only 13,000 people, Tenancingo has a shocking reputation for prostitution. In an interview, Karla recalls being mistreated by her parents at the age of 5, as well as being sexually abused by a relative as early as age 5. Karla was targeted by a 22-year-old trafficker at the age of 12 and initially went with him willingly because of how her family continually mistreated her. Karla was almost immediately forced into sexual slavery, traveling to different cities and being forced to engage in all forms of sexual activity. In addition to the sexual victimization, Karla was beaten by her pimp with chains, burned with an iron, kicked, and punched. About a year into this horrible ordeal, the police came to a hotel where Karla and several other girls were being victimized. Karla thought she would finally be

freed. Much to her dismay, the police, approximately 30 of them, went around to the different rooms taking pictures and shooting video of the victims in sexual positions. Karla recalled that some of the victims there were as young as age 10. The police then left without doing anything. Karla would eventually be rescued after four long years of extreme sexual, physical, and psychological abuse.

Part I – Reflection (1-2 pages)

1. Imagine that you are Karla Jacinto. What emotions do you think she experienced growing up in a home where she was neglected and sexually abused, and then when she was kidnapped into sexual slavery?
2. Imagine the role of the pimp. The pimp is the person who controls the sex slave. How do you think the pimp rationalizes their awful behavior? What are they motivated by? What should their punishment be?
3. Imagine the role of the men who rape these sex slaves. How do you think they rationalize their despicable behavior? What are they motivated by? What should their punishment be?

Part II – Application (2 pages)

1. What psychological impacts are likely for Karla Jacinto and other victims of human trafficking?
2. What psychological treatments/interventions would be helpful for Karla Jacinto?
3. Discuss some of the myths about rape, the facts about rape, and how rape can be prevented.

Your paper should be 3-4 pages in length and conform to the CSU-Global Guide to Writing & APA. Include at least three scholarly references in addition to the course textbook. The CSU-Global Library is a good place to find these resources.

MODULE 4

Readings

- Chapters 7, 8, & 9 in *Wrightsman's Psychology and the Legal System*
- Kocsis, R. N. (2015). The name of the rose and criminal profiling: The benefits of ViCAP and ViCLAS. *Journal of Forensic Psychology Practice, 15*(1), 58-79. doi:10.1080/15228932.2014.986706

Opening Exercise (0 points)

Discussion (25 points)

Mastery Exercise (10 points)

Critical Thinking (90 points)

Choose one of the following two assignments to complete this week. Do not do both assignments. Identify your assignment choice in the title of your submission.

Option #1: Criminal Profiling

Describe criminal profiling and explain what is involved in the process. Discuss the skills and abilities that a profiler should possess. Identify a case in which a criminal profile helped to solve the crime and apprehend the criminal. Conclude with your thoughts on criminal profiling and whether it is a viable investigative tool.

Your paper should be 2-3 pages in length and conform to the CSU-Global Guide to Writing & APA. Include at least three scholarly references in addition to the course textbook. The CSU-Global Library is a good place to find these resources.

Option #2: Criminal Confessions

Identify and describe the three types of false confessions. Discuss some of the reasons why a person would confess to a crime that they did not commit. Explain some ways in which false confessions can be prevented.

Your paper should be 2-3 pages in length and conform to the CSU-Global Guide to Writing & APA. Include at least three scholarly references in addition to the course textbook. The CSU-Global Library is a good place to find these resources.

PORTFOLIO PROJECT MILESTONE (25 points)

Choose one of the following two assignments to complete this week. Do not do both assignments. Identify your assignment choice in the title of your submission.

Option #1: Portfolio Project Outline

Create an outline for your Portfolio Project, adhering to the following standards:

- Your outline should be 1-2 pages in length, not including the title and references pages.
- It can be either a topic or sentence outline, and it should include information from at least three scholarly references. (A total of at least eight references are required for the final paper.)
- Include subtopics that will be covered under each main topic identified in the assignment directions.
- Review the grading rubric, which can be accessed from in Module 4. Keep in mind that the more detail you include in your outline now, the easier it will be to write your paper based on this outline.

Be sure to follow the CSU-Global Guide to Writing & APA.

Option #2: Portfolio Project Outline

Create an outline for your Portfolio Project, adhering to the following standards:

- Your outline should be 1-2 pages in length, not including the title and references pages.
- It can be either a topic or sentence outline, and it should include information from at least three scholarly references. (A total of at least eight references are required for the final paper.)
- Include subtopics that will be covered under each main topic identified in the assignment directions.
- Review the grading rubric, which can be accessed in Module 4. Keep in mind that the more detail you include in your outline now, the easier it will be to write your paper based on this outline.

Be sure to follow the CSU-Global Guide to Writing & APA.

MODULE 5**Readings**

- Chapters 10 & 11 in *Wrightsmen's Psychology and the Legal System*
- Acklin, M. W., & Fuger, K. (2016). Assessing field reliability of forensic decision making in criminal court. *Journal of Forensic Psychology Practice, 16*(2), 74-93. doi:10.1080/15228932.2016.1148452

Opening Exercise (0 points)

Discussion (25 points)

Mastery Exercise (10 points)

Critical Thinking (90 points)

Choose one of the following two assignments to complete this week. Do not do both assignments. Identify your assignment choice in the title of your submission.

Option #1: The Insanity Defense

Describe the insanity defense in a criminal case and explain the various insanity defense rules. Conclude with your assessment of the various rules and determine which should be used. Support your stance with relevant research.

Your paper should be 2-3 pages in length and conform to the CSU-Global Guide to Writing & APA. Include at least three scholarly references in addition to the course textbook. The CSU-Global Library is a good place to find these resources.

Option #2: Criminal Competence

Describe the concept of competence to stand trial and explain how competence is determined. Discuss why determining competence is an important issue. Support your stance with relevant research.

Your paper should be 2-3 pages in length and conform to the CSU-Global Guide to Writing & APA. Include at least three scholarly references in addition to the course textbook. The CSU-Global Library is a good place to find these resources.

MODULE 6

Readings

- Chapters 12 & 13 in *Wrightsmen's Psychology and the Legal System*
- O'brien, B., Grosso, C. M., & Taylor, A. P. (2017). Examining jurors: Applying conversation analysis to voir dire in capital cases, a first look. *Journal of Criminal Law & Criminology*, 107(4), 687-732.

Opening Exercise (0 points)

Discussion (25 points)

Mastery Exercise (10 points)

Portfolio Milestone (25 points)

Choose one of the following two assignments to complete this week. Do not do both assignments. Identify your assignment choice in the title of your submission.

Option #1: Portfolio Project Annotated Bibliography

Create an annotated bibliography for your Portfolio Project, adhering to the following standards:

- Your Annotated Bibliography should include information from at least four of the eight required resources, which must be peer-reviewed sources. Your annotation (description) for each resource should be between 100 and 150 words in length and explain how the resource will inform your presentation.

- Review the grading rubric, which can be accessed in Module 6. Keep in mind that the more detail you include in your bibliography now, the easier it will be to incorporate information from these sources into your final paper.

Be sure to follow the CSU-Global Guide to Writing & APA for your citations.

Option #2: Portfolio Project Annotated Bibliography

Create an annotated bibliography for your Portfolio Project, adhering to the following standards:

- Your Annotated Bibliography should include information from at least four of the eight required resources, which must be peer-reviewed sources. Your annotation (description) for each resource should be between 100 and 150 words in length and explain how the resource will inform your presentation.
- Review the grading rubric, which can be accessed in Module 6. Keep in mind that the more detail you include in your bibliography now, the easier it will be to incorporate information from these sources into your final paper.

Be sure to follow the CSU-Global Guide to Writing & APA for your citations.

MODULE 7

Readings

- Chapter 14 in *Wrightsman's Psychology and the Legal System*
- Hodgson, J., & Soubise, L. (2016). Understanding the sentencing process in France. *Crime & Justice, 45*(1), 221-265.

Opening Exercise (0 points)

Discussion (25 points)

Mastery Exercise (10 points)

MODULE 8

Readings

- Chapter 15 in *Wrightsman's Psychology and the Legal System*
- Bourgon, G., Mugford, R., Hanson, R. K., & Coligado, M. (2018). Offender risk assessment practices vary across Canada. *Canadian Journal of Criminology & Criminal Justice, 60*(2), 167-205.
doi:10.3138/cjccj.2016-0024

Opening Exercise (0 points)

Discussion (25 points)

Mastery Exercise (10 points)

Portfolio Project (275 points)

Choose one of the following two assignments to complete this week. Do not do both assignments. Identify your assignment choice in the title of your submission.

Option #1: Impact of Forensic Psychology on Selected Topics

During this course, you have learned about forensic psychology and how it is applied in various areas of the criminal justice system. As a final project for CRJ325, prepare a persuasive presentation that discusses how forensic psychology has improved the criminal justice system in each of the following areas:

1. Psychology of Crime (Chapter 3)
2. Psychology of Police (Chapter 4)
3. Eyewitnesses to Crimes and Accidents (Chapter 5)
4. Psychology of Victims of Crime and Violence (Chapter 6)
5. Evaluating Criminal Suspects (Chapter 7)

Your presentation should follow these guidelines:

- Include 20-25 slides (not counting the required title and references slides).
- Include speaker's notes, containing 75-100 words per slide, which elaborate on the visual/textual content of each slide.
- Include graphics, multi-media, and other visual elements to enhance the presentation delivery.
- Cite a minimum of eight current and credible sources, four of which must be peer-reviewed journal articles. Sources should provide substance and perspectives on the issue. The CSU-Global Library is a great place to find these resources.

Review the grading rubric, which can be accessed in Module 8, and be sure to follow the CSU-Global Guide to Writing & APA.

Option #2: Impact of Forensic Psychology on Selected Topics

During this course, you have learned about forensic psychology and how it is applied in various areas of the criminal justice system. As a final project for CRJ325, prepare and a persuasive presentation that discusses how forensic psychology has improved the criminal justice system in each of the following areas:

1. Forensic Assessment in Juvenile and Criminal Cases (Chapter 10)
2. Forensic Assessment in Civil Cases (Chapter 11)
3. Trial Preparation and Juries (Chapters 12 &13)
4. Punishment and Sentencing (Chapter 14)
5. Juvenile and Adult Corrections (Chapter 15)

Your presentation should follow these guidelines:

- Include 20-25 slides (not counting the required title and references slides).
- Include speaker's notes, containing 75-100 words per slide, which elaborate on the visual/textual content of each slide.
- Include graphics, multi-media, and other visual elements to enhance the presentation delivery.
- Cite a minimum of eight current and credible sources, four of which must be peer-reviewed journal articles. Sources should provide substance and perspectives on the issue. The CSU-Global Library is a great place to find these resources.

Review the grading rubric, which can be accessed from the Module 8 folder, and be sure to follow the CSU-Global Guide to Writing & APA.

COURSE POLICIES

Course Grading

20% Discussion Participation
0% Opening Exercises
8% Mastery Exercises
37% Critical Thinking Assignments
35% Final Portfolio Project

Grading Scale	
A	95.0 – 100
A-	90.0 – 94.9
B+	86.7 – 89.9
B	83.3 – 86.6
B-	80.0 – 83.2
C+	75.0 – 79.9
C	70.0 – 74.9
D	60.0 – 69.9
F	59.9 or below

IN-CLASSROOM POLICIES

For information on late work and incomplete grade policies, please refer to our [In-Classroom Student Policies and Guidelines](#) or the Academic Catalog for comprehensive documentation of CSU-Global institutional policies.

Academic Integrity

Students must assume responsibility for maintaining honesty in all work submitted for credit and in any other work designated by the instructor of the course. Academic dishonesty includes cheating, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, plagiarism, reusing /repurposing your own work (see *CSU-Global Guide to Writing and APA Requirements* for percentage of repurposed work that can be used in an assignment), unauthorized possession of academic materials, and unauthorized collaboration. The CSU-Global Library provides information on how students can avoid plagiarism by understanding what it is and how to use the Library and Internet resources.

Citing Sources with APA Style

All students are expected to follow the *CSU-Global Guide to Writing and APA Requirements* when citing in APA (based on the APA Style Manual, 6th edition) for all assignments. For details on CSU-Global APA style, please review the APA resources within the CSU-Global Library under the “APA Guide & Resources” link. A link to this document should also be provided within most assignment descriptions in your course.

Disability Services Statement

CSU-Global is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for all persons with disabilities. Any student with a documented disability requesting academic accommodations should contact the Disability Resource Coordinator at 720-279-0650 and/or email ada@CSUGlobal.edu for additional information to coordinate reasonable accommodations for students with documented disabilities.

Netiquette

Respect the diversity of opinions among the instructor and classmates and engage with them in a courteous, respectful, and professional manner. All posts and classroom communication must be conducted in accordance with the student code of conduct. Think before you push the Send button. Did you say just what you meant? How will the person on the other end read the words?

Maintain an environment free of harassment, stalking, threats, abuse, insults, or humiliation toward the instructor and classmates. This includes, but is not limited to, demeaning written or oral comments of an ethnic, religious, age, disability, sexist (or sexual orientation), or racist nature; and the unwanted sexual advances or intimidations by email, or on discussion boards and other postings within or connected to the online classroom. If you have concerns about something that has been said, please let your instructor know.