

CRIME SCENE DO NOT CROSS

# Forensic Psychology

## PSY 380 FORENSIC AND CRIMINAL PSYCHOLOGY (3)

This class provides an overview of forensic, criminal, and legal psychology including such topics as interrogations, lie detection, forensic identification, profiling, jury selection, eyewitness testimony, and the death penalty.

Prerequisite: PSY 153. As needed.

The mission of McKendree University is to provide a high quality educational experience to outstanding students.

~Responsible Citizenship    ~Engagement

~Academic Excellence    ~Lifelong Learning

**COURSE NUMBER AND COURSE TITLE: PSY 380**

**Forensic and Criminal Psychology**



Your Learning  
Detective:

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ONLINE COURSES REQUIRE:  
ORGANIZATION, TIME MANAGEMENT, & RESPONSIBILITY

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### Course Objectives:

1. Critically evaluate information related to forensic psychology by learning and applying psychological concepts
2. Apply psychological theories to current events and real-world examples
3. Synthesize various experiences into a cumulative signature assignment project (journal)
4. Work in teams to synthesize new knowledge
5. Become an engaged thinker, responsible citizen, and lifelong learner.

### Teaching Philosophy:

My goal in every class is to educate, engage, and inspire.

### Misc Info:

- Discussion Boards (DB) are a place for all people to discuss and share. There is an all-class DB and a team/group DB.
- A blog is an individual post but all people can view it.
- The Wiki is a shared page for a group to work on.
- A journal is a private place for just you and the instructor.
- When you take a quiz, shut down all other applications.

## **SELECTED MCKENDREE UNIVERSITY COURSE POLICIES:**



### How to Succeed:

We have various resources to help students succeed at McKendree University, please visit the website or Blackboard for information. .

Read your e-mails!

Don't Procrastinate!

Enjoy yourself!

Work Hard!

Be respectful to your peers!

Set specific times each week to do your work for the class!

'It is an old maxim of mine that when you have excluded the impossible, whatever remains, however improbable, must be the truth.'

Sherlock Holmes Quote

**Academic Honesty:**

Any student detected of cheating or engaging in plagiarism on any exam or paper, or participating in any other form of academic dishonesty, will receive the appropriate sanctions, which can include a failing grade ("F") for the course. Please contact with me regarding any questions. In cases of serious violations, additional sanctions (such as academic probation or suspension) are possible.

**ADA Policy:**

A student requiring assistance with the technical portions of the course should contact the Instructor or the Academic Support Center. Services for Students with disabilities are provided through the McKendree Student Success Center (MSSC) in order to help the student integrate into the entire university experience. MSSC provides coordination and implementation of special accommodations for students with documented disabilities.

**Challenges to Academic Decisions:**

Students who think that their work has been improperly evaluated or who think that they have been unfairly treated in any academic decision may use the grievance procedures found in the catalog.

**Course Deletions/Additions:**

Students may drop or add courses according to the schedules posted by the Office of Academic Records for each semester. Drops and adds are not effective until recorded by the Registrar. A course may not be added after one week from the first class meeting.

**Email:**

Every student is issued a McKendree email account, which is one of the major means of communication from departments such as the Office of Academic Records, Student Affairs and the Business Office. All students are responsible for checking their McKendree email accounts regularly, and are accountable for information disseminated to their email accounts. Failure to read university communications sent to McKendree email accounts does not absolve students from knowing and complying with the content of these communications.

## Learning Opportunities



The instructor reserves the right to make adjustments to the grading criteria. All students will be notified of any changes to the criteria. All assignments must be done on time. A major part of this class is taking responsibility and time management. Any late assignments will lose points. Also, it is advised that you do not work too far ahead.

### 1. Quizzes

**(8 X 10=80 POINTS total)**

You will have eight quizzes, one for each module. You can use your book and any notes, but **you will only have one hour to complete the quiz**. Don't try to take the quiz without first doing the reading, the discussion board, and going through the power points. When you take an online quiz, close all other websites and pages. **Once you start the quiz you can't save and go back, you must complete it all in one setting.**

### 2. BLACKBOARD DISCUSSION BOARDS (DBs)

**(8 X 5=40 POINTS total)**

You will have eight discussion boards. **Your post must include at least two APA style in-text citations, with page numbers, from the book.** Use information from the book, think critically and creatively, and use appropriate grammar and spelling.

0 = No Post

1=Post but did not use book or any critical or creative thinking (late)

2=Post, did not respond to others

3=Average post, with average responses to at least 2 other students

4=Good post, used book, good responses

5=Excellent post and excellent, insightful responses

### 3. Individual Journal (50 points)

The Blackboard Journal in this class is a cumulative project

## Grading Criteria

80 (8 X 10 pts for each quiz)

+ 40 (Blackboard discussion board and participation)

+ 50 (Journal Project)

+ 20 (Current Event Blog)

+ 40 (Team Wiki)

+20 (Professionalism, attendance, timeliness, participation, helpfulness, attitude, engaged with the class)

Total = 250

PLEASE NOTE: SIMPLY DOING THE MINIMUM WILL NOT GET YOU FULL POINTS. It is completion AND quality for grades.

Grades will be determined on a straight percentage. If you get an 89.5% that is a B+, I do not round up.

**A 94-100%**

**A- 90-93%**

**B+ 87-89%**

**B 83-86%**

**B- 80-82%**

**C+ 75-79%**

**C 70-74%**

**C- 65-69%**

**D 50-64%**

**F Below 50%**

that includes four main components. You will work on this project during the entire class. Just doing the journal is not enough to get the full points, you must put effort and thought into the journal. **I STRONGLY SUGGEST YOU WRITE YOUR JOURNALS IN WORD AND THEN COPY THEM INTO THE JOURNALS.** Please don't attach, but rather copy and paste.

For the Blackboard Journals you must have the following:

- a.)A table of contents (TOC) so I can quickly see what you have included
- b.)Four individual entries. Each entry should be approximately four paragraphs (about two pages).

You should include a summary of what you did, what you learned, and your reaction. **Each entry must include at least two in-text citations from the book and at least two in-text citations from sources other than the book (e.g., another book, article, or a website).** In addition to providing in-text citations, include your references at the bottom of your entry. Use APA style. If you are using in-text citations from a book, page numbers need to be included.

For example: In the movie Shrek, it shows stereotypes. According to Smith (2007) on the website [www.stereotypes.com](http://www.stereotypes.com), approximately 85% of people clearly hold stereotypes.

References

Smith, T.P (2007). Stereotype Perception. [www.stereotypes.com](http://www.stereotypes.com) Retrieved  
January 5, 2016.

c.)A conclusion entry of what you learned and how the things all integrate. Prove to me that you learned something valuable in the class and in your journal and also try to synthesize your knowledge. You will end up with six journal entries (four entries, the conclusion, and TOC). The TOC should be added last so it will show up at the top (or first).

**You will have one journal due roughly every two weeks. You have to have four entries and can select from the options below.**

#### **i. Movie Summary (2 max)**

Write a summary paper and reaction post to a crime/legal movie. **Include two in-text citations (with page numbers from the textbook) and two additional in-text citations (journal or website)** that relates to each of the videos. References need to be provided at the bottom of your entry. Use APA style. I would you like to analyze a movie from a psychological perspective. I encourage you to watch a classic movie and not just a really popular movie. Some good crime movies include: Silence of the Lambs, Deadman Walking, Memento, Gone Girl, Girl on a Train, Taxi Driver, Insomnia, Rear Window, Prisoners, Shawshank Redemption, Zodiac, 12 Angry Men, and the Pledge. Use the discussion board to get other movies approved.

#### **ii. Observation (1 max)**

Many of us, fortunately, have never visited a court room. Here is your chance. Investigate how you could visit a courtroom and see what really happens live and in person in our criminal system. Even if you have previously been in court or on a jury, this observation has to happen during this class. Please note this assignment will take a bit of investigation and planning to be able to go and watch. Be prepared to follow a

variety of rules (e.g., no cell phones). Write a summary paper and reaction post to the event, **include two in-text citations from the textbook (with page numbers) and two additional in-text citations (journal or website) that relates to what you saw. List your references at the end of your post. Use APA style.**

**iii. “AHA” Critical incident moment reflection and additional research paper (1 max)**

Hopefully there will be moments in the class where you will learn something particularly exciting, surprising, or personally relevant. Do some more research on this topic, write a paper, include **two in-text citations from the textbook (with page numbers) and two additional in-text citations (journal or website). List your references at the end of your post. Use APA style.** This can basically be on any topic that peaks your interest but there is limited information in the book.

**iv. Interview a Family Member (1 max)**

Pick one family member who has an interesting story to tell about the law, crime, jury duty, being in jail, etc. Of course, make sure to pick a family member who is willing to talk about what could be a difficult topic. Interview the person and ask questions about their experience, what it was like, what they learned, etc. You can include the actual questions and answers or just a summary. In your paper make sure to consider confidentiality (e.g., you can just say you interviewed your 35 year-old uncle and he had a friend and you will call him T. J.). **Include two in-text citations from the textbook (with page numbers) and two additional in-text citations (journal or website). List your references at the end of your post. Use APA style.**

**v. McKendree Event (1 max)**

There may be events happening at McKendree that may relate to the content of this course. If you are able to attend these events at the Lebanon campus, **you can write a two page paper on the event. Include two in-text citations from the textbook (with page numbers) and two additional in-text citations (journal or website). List your references at the end of your post.** Use APA style. I realize some people cannot travel to campus, but if you are able, I want this to be an opportunity. More information TBA.

**vi. The law and you (1 max).**

This project is one of the most important assignments of this course. This project, if done correctly, will take a little bit of time, effort, and thinking, but it would be rewarding. If you read the assigned book and think about it, you may see the importance of having a will, having child custody information, etc. Regardless of age or current life circumstances, it is a good idea to review these sorts of information and start working on some documents. For instance, if you have a complicated relationship situation and many financial resources, perhaps you could retain a lawyer. You could also create some of these documents yourself and get them notarized. For this project, you should create a list of important legal documents in a table and then include if you have them, where they are at, and maybe some things you plan to do in the future. Include two additional outside references that you used to learn more. I hope this starter checklist is something you can truly use for the rest of your life!

This is a very good and detailed website <https://pubs.ext.vt.edu/354/354-141/354-141.html>

**vii. Other (1 max)**

Have another idea of something that would relate to our class and help you learn, please post that in the questions to the instructor on the discussion board. For example, perhaps you want to volunteer a juvenile delinquency center, perhaps your work is offering some training on workplace harassment, etc.



#### **4.) CURRENT EVENT BLOG!**

**Law, Crime, Forensics in the NEWS!** On our shared class Blog, each student will post a summary overview and reaction post about something that is currently happening in the news (and something that is “big” enough that most people have heard about it). **Include two in-text citations from the textbook (with page numbers) and two additional in-text citations (journal or website). List your references at the end of your assignment.** Use APA style. **Each student must also comment to at least five other Blogs.** Once one person posts on a current event, you can’t also do that event unless something significant and new happens. In other words, each Blog post will be about something unique. The current events have to happen after the start of the class. In the title of your blog include the date and brief news story (e.g., April 15 Famous Athlete convicted of sexual violence). This should be a news story not just a research study or something that pops up on MSN (e.g., tips to stay safe while shopping). **Do not plagiarize and simply copy from a website, you must write in your own words!**

#### **5.) TEAM PROJECT/TEAM WIKI**

You will be put into teams and over the semester you will complete a group project. Your team will be assigned a chapter. Your team should select a team captain will be selected for the project and the winning team captain will get up to five extra credit points, they can't lose anything. The team captain will keep things going, edit, etc.

A wiki is just a shared space where you can create a document. You will create your short research wiki using the Blackboard Wiki and create the following headings: You all should work on one page (each person should not make their own page). Think of this as you all are working on one shared paper or one shared webpage. Think of a long Wikipedia style page. You can add photos, links, etc. to a wiki.

Your team will have a discussion board where you can select a captain and divide up the work. Each student should work on one part, but the entire team should edit and offer advice. For example, two people may want to work on the important take-aways because those are harder sections. So don’t just divide the work and call it done, divide it, but also edit and give advice. It is a team project and you all can edit the Wiki to make it the best project! You should also make the wiki look attractive with fonts, colors, photos, etc.

#### **WIKI:**

##### **1.) OUTLINE THE CHAPTER**

- 2.) Why is the topic important?
- 3.) Find a YouTube video that is related to the topic, link the video and describe the video
- 4.) Include one topic from the chapter that is a bit controversial related to the topic and a pro/con for both sides
- 5.) Create a list of the top 5-10 key take-aways or most important things from this chapter
- 6.) Find a famous example that is not already included in the chapter that relates to one part of the chapter (e.g., Brad and Angelina are currently fighting over child custody.) Explain that example and how it relates to the chapter.
- 7.) Conclusion, What did you learn?
- 8.) References (at least five, APA style)

### CHAPTERS THAT TEAMS WILL WORK ON:

Chapter 11: Battered Woman Syndrome, Rape Trauma Syndrome, and Posttraumatic Stress Disorder

Chapter 6: Child Sexual Abuse: Interviewing Children and Assessing the Recovered Memories of Adults

Chapter 13: Child Custody Disputes

Chapter 15: Predicting Violent Behavior: The Psychology of Risk Assessment

Chapter 14: Workplace Law: Harassment, Discrimination, and Fairness



### TEAMS/GROUPS/COLLABORATION

#### Tips for the GROUP WIKI project:

Yes, I know that working in groups is challenging. But it is also really important to learn to work in groups, especially in a psychology class. Here are some tips to help your groups succeed.

One person should become the team captain.

1. There are about six jobs depending on how you count them. Depending on how big your group is you will have different number of jobs to do. Some jobs are harder than others. And you can get feedback and edit your group work.

2. Go to the group button (group for wiki and group db) and go to the group discussion board and say what parts/jobs you will do.
3. Then go to the group button and click on the "Wiki" link and you can go post on that page. It is just a shared page that you can add everything you need. The neat thing is everybody can edit it. A Wiki is just a shared page (Think Wikipedia).
4. For the final Wiki make sure you have all of the parts included, but you can also be a little creative and change colors, fonts, etc. I don't have any notion of exactly how long or if it is written in complete sentences, it could be bullets. Think of it almost like you are designing a webpage

**6. Professionalism, Attendance, and Participation:**

Students should complete work on time, participate in the discussion boards, and be engaged, responsible team members. Your team will have the opportunity to evaluate your work. If you turn in late work, if you are not a good team member, etc., you will lose significant points.

<b>Module Week Dates</b>	<b><u>Chapter</u></b>	<b><u>DB</u> All DB Posts by Thurs and 2 Responses by Sunday @ MIDNIGHT</b>	<b><u>Quiz</u>  All Quizzes due by Sunday</b>	<b><u>Journal</u>  One journal due every 2 weeks on SUN (Can work ahead!)</b>	<b><u>Blog</u> One Blog and 5 responses due before Week 7</b>	<b><u>Group Wiki</u> One group wiki due by end of Week 6</b>
1:	Chapter 1 Introduction	Intro DB & DB 1	Q1			
2:	Chapter 2 Interrogations & Confessions	DB 2	Q2	Journal # 1		Go to TEAM, Team DB
3:	Chapter 3 Lie Detection	DB 3	Q3			Pick Captain & Divide up work
4:	Chapter 4 Forensic ID	DB 4	Q4	Journal # 2		Work on Wiki
5:	Chapter 5 Profiling	DB 5	Q5			Work on Wiki
6:	Chapter 7 & 9 Eyewitness Testimony  Jury Selection	DB 6	Q6	Journal # 3		GROUP WIKI IS DUE!
7:	Chapter 8 & 10 Competency  Insanity	DB 7	Q7		BLOG & responses due!	Team Eval.
8:	Chap 16 & 17	DB 8	Q8	Journal # 4 TOC &		Course

	<b>Corrections</b>			<b>Conclusion</b>		<b>Eval.</b>
	<b>Death Penalty</b>					

