

Course Overview

Intrigued by TV shows about profiling criminal behavior? Curious about whether mental illness is associated with criminal behavior? TV sensationalizes criminal behavior. This course will help separate fiction from fact. Students will become familiar with the principal theories, concepts, and methods of understanding the field of Forensic Psychology. The material covers major topics related to how Psychology and the Legal system intersect: police selection and investigations, eyewitness testimony, jury composition, sentencing, assessment, criminal behavior and intimate partner violence. In addition, students should develop an understanding of careers in forensic psychology.

Text and Materials

Greene, E., & Heilbun, K. (2019). *Wrightsman's Psychology and the legal system*, 9th ed. United States of America : Cengage.

Additional readings will be made available on Moodle.

Course Goals:

In this course we will work to develop knowledge and skills in the following areas as they apply to the topic area of Psychology and the Law:

Writing Skills

*Adheres to APA style

*Applies understanding of intellectual property and plagiarism in the correct citation of sources

*Writes effectively using appropriate grammar, spelling, punctuation, sentence structure and organization of ideas; presents written products in neat, professional manner.

Oral Communication Skills

*Effectively engages in informal settings, including articulate expression of ideas, expressing one's opinion, and asking relevant questions

General Knowledge and Application of Psychology

*Masters key theories and concepts in Psychology and uses them effectively in papers and projects

*Uses psychological concepts to explain current events.

*Demonstrates knowledge and skill in applied setting.

Course Dates for Session II:

Week 1: 10/11 – 10/17

Week 2: 10/18 – 10/24

Week 3: 10/25 – 10/31

Week 4: 11/01 – 11/07 (midterm week)

Week 5: 11/08 – 11/14

Week 6: 11/15 – 11/21

*****Week of Thanksgiving*****

Week 7: 11/29 – 12/4 (final exam week) Session ends on a Saturday, not Sunday.

Course Set-up:

All online courses in the School of Professional Studies are fully online and require the use of Moodle. Weekly readings, activities, and assignments will be listed in Moodle. You should expect to spend on average 10-15 hours per week on an individual 3-credit course. This includes all the readings, posts, and assignments, as well as being actively engaged in the discussions on the message boards. You should expect to log into the course daily, or at least 4-5 times per week. If you have any problems accessing Moodle please contact Dr. Lori McClaren, Director of Online Learning at 919-508-2367.

Assessment & Grading

Final grades will be calculated using the total number of points accumulated from discussion board posts, assignments, and tests. These are summarized below.

Assignment	Points
Papers	75
Discussion Boards	100
Current Events	100
Midterm Exam	100
Final Exam	100
Total possible points	475

Grades will be based on the following scale:

A – 90% of points

B – 80-89.9% of points

C – 70-79.9% of points

D – 60-69.9% of points

F – below 60% of points

Projected Topics & Assignments

Week	Dates	Topic	Reading/ Assignments/ Exams
1	October 11 – October 17	Intro & Police Psychology	Ch1 & 2 Current Event 1 Due
2	October 18 – October 24	Investigations & Deception	Ch 3 & 4 Current Event 2 Due
3	October 25 – October 31	Eyewitness Testimony Adults & Children	Ch 5 & 6 Paper Due
4	November 1 – November 7	Juries & Sentencing	Ch 7 Midterm Exam
5	November 8 – November 14	Mental Illness & Risk Assessment	Ch 8, 9, 12, & 13 Current Event 3 Due
6	November 15 – November 21	Psychopathy & Treatment of Inmates	Ch 10 & 11 Current Event 4 Due
7	November 29 – December 4	Partner Violence & Sexual & Homicidal Offenders	Ch 14 & 15 Final Exam Week

Discussion Board Posts and Responses

Each week, discussion prompts will be posted based on reading material or assigned online multimedia link. Students will be required to post a response to discussion board questions **by Thursday of the given week** and give at least **two** responses to other students' posts per week (15 points per week) by Sunday evening (except for week 1 when assignments will be due on Monday, July 5). The expectation is that you read **ALL** posts.

Discussion board posts and replies are graded on a 1 | 3 | 5 scale (graded for comprehensiveness, reflection, links to additional content). See grading rubric under Course Documents for more detail. **Posts are due by Thursday at midnight; replies are due by Sunday at midnight each week.** Late posts will NOT be graded.

Current Events Assignments

Current Events Assignments are due by Sunday at midnight at the end of Weeks 1, 2 & 5. Dates are on the syllabus above. The purpose of these assignments is to increase knowledge of current topics in social issues and apply and integrate class reading to these topics. Topics may relate to local, national or international news.

1. Please include your full name and article name in the top line of your **1 – 2 page paper**.
2. Please cite your article using APA style. Please include a hyperlink.
3. In your own words, briefly summarize article content in 4-6 sentences.
Spend the majority of your efforts here. Analyze how this article relates back to topics discussed in class.
4. **Please cite in APA style, a particular chapter or class reading, or bring in another reading if needed.**
5. Reflect on your own perspective on this article and topic. You may choose to include how this topic affects you, why this topic is significant to our city, country or world, or how you feel about this issue.

The assignment should be completed using correct sentence structure, spelling, punctuation and in your own words. The paper should be 1 -2 pages in length. Each assignment is worth 25 points.

Paper

During the course you will complete one paper, worth 75 points. This assignment will relate to course material discussed in class. This assignment will result in a 3-4 page paper. Information regarding assignments will be posted on Moodle. Your paper will be due by Sunday at midnight of Week 3.

It is expected that you will complete your paper in APA style with a cover with running head, in-text citations and a reference page with peer reviewed sources. A brief explanation of APA style is posted under course documents and purdueowl.com is a recommended source for APA style as well.

Exams

Midterm – will occur online through Moodle and will be timed.

Final – must be proctored re: William Peace University policy:

“All online courses at William Peace University require one (1) proctored exams or activities during the final week of the course. For more information on proctoring options, please see: http://www.peace.edu/wp-content/uploads/Proctoring-Options-for-Online-Students_2016.pdf”.

The Midterm exam must be completed during Week 4 and will be done via Moodle.

The Final exam must be completed during Week 7 and must be proctored using Proctortrack.

Make-up or Late Exams & Assignments

In cases of emergency or other urgent extenuating circumstances, students may be allowed to make-up or submit an assignment late for full credit **as long as you contact Dr. Baker within 24 hours**. Cases will be judged individually and you must have very good justification. Make-up assignments may differ in content/form to the original assessment and may contain more challenging material. For unexcused late assignments, the following penalties will apply:

- 1 day late: 10% reduction
- 2 days late: 20% reduction
- 3 days or more late: A zero (0%) will be given

Problems During the Class

I strongly invite and encourage you to contact me **early and often**. Leaving a problem until the end of the course to address problems will not aid your learning or your progress in this course. Even if you do not experience problems in the class, I encourage you to contact me to discuss any questions that you have about the material. **Please feel free to email me with any questions or concerns – I usually respond to student emails within a few hours (and almost always within 24 hours, excluding weekends/holidays).**

TO CONTACT ME IMMEDIATELY, PLEASE EMAIL ME at drbakernc@gmail.com

William Peace University Policies

Disability Services

Services are available for students who require reasonable accommodations due to any cognitive, physical, or psychological disability, in order to provide equal access to the educational environment. Students will need to be registered with the office and provide appropriate documentation, in accordance with local, state, and federal laws, in order to receive an Academic Accommodation Plan. For more information or to register, contact *Nicole Davis, Director of Counseling and Disability Services at (919) 508-2163 or Nicole.Davis@peace.edu*. The Disability Services office is located on the 2nd Floor of Joyner House.

Honor Code

William Peace University seeks to develop both the intellect and character of its students. All members of the University are expected to promote a culture of academic integrity, and all students are expected to inform themselves of the University's policies and procedures related to the Honor Code.

The William Peace University Honor code is as follows:

On my honor as a William Peace University student, I will not lie, cheat, or steal; nor will I condone the actions of those who do.

Assigning an "Incomplete" Grade

An Incomplete is appropriate for a student that has been making steady, successful progress in a course and has an unexpected, verifiable mitigating circumstance at the end of the semester which precludes them from completing the last assignment or exam. Poor time management is not an appropriate reason to request an Incomplete. All incomplete grade requests must be approved first by the Instructor, and then by the Director of Online Programs. If the Incomplete is approved the student will have up to six additional weeks to complete the work, as determined by the Instructor. If the student does not complete the final work, the Instructor will assign the appropriate letter grade for work completed or the grade will revert to an "F".

Academic Integrity

William Peace University seeks to develop both the intellect and character of its students. All members of the University are expected to promote a culture of academic integrity, and all students are expected to inform themselves of the University's policies and procedures related to the Honor Code.

All forms of academic misconduct are violations of the University's Honor Code. These include, but are not limited to:

- Cheating: Using or attempting to use unauthorized materials, information, or study aids in academic work or in working with others on academic requirements (tests, assignments, etc.)
- Plagiarism: Representing the words or ideas of another as one's own in any academic work, whether intentional or not
- Falsification: Falsifying or inventing any information or citation in academic work
- Facilitating academic dishonesty: Helping or attempting to help another student to commit an act of academic dishonesty
- Lying: Misrepresenting information that is relevant to the classroom or academic performance

If a faculty member suspects academic misconduct has taken place, s/he will complete an Honor Code Violation Report and meet with the student to discuss. A student may accept or decline to accept responsibility. If a student accepts responsibility, s/he will be subject to the penalty determined by the faculty member. If a student declines to admit responsibility, the case will be turned over the Honor Board for adjudication. A complete summary of the Honor Code and Honor Board policy can be found in the *2017-2018 Academic Catalog*.

Tutorial Services

Peer Tutoring is available for all WPU students free of charge. Support is offered in many subjects, including anthropology, biology, business, chemistry, criminal justice, history, math, political science, psychology, simulation and game design, and writing. Free workshops on study skills and documentation styles like MLA and APA are also offered each semester. Tutorial Services also has many resources on studying, citation, grammar, and other academic topics. Students can sign up for individual appointments using WPUConnect or in person at the Center for Student Success, located in the 2nd floor of Finch Library. For more information, contact Dr. Deanna Rogers, Director of Academic Support (drrogers@peace.edu or 919-508-2080).