

SYLLABUS: Psychology & the Law
Faculty: Kyle Myers, MSW
Course Dates: 5/6/19 – 6/23/19

PSY 343 - ON
Summer 2019 – Session 1

Instructor Information

E-mail: kyle.myers@peace.edu
Moodle Chat & Skype by appointment

Course Overview

This course is designed to familiarize students 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

Pozzulo, J., Bennell, C., & Forth, A. (2013). *Forensic Psychology*. Pearson Education: New Jersey.

Additional readings will be made available on Moodle.

Course Dates for Session II:

Week 1: 5/6 – 5/12

Week 2: 5/13 – 5/19

Week 3: 5/20 – 5/26

Week 4: 5/27 – 6/2 (exam week)

Week 5: 6/3 – 6/9

Week 6: 6/10 – 6/16

Week 7: 6/17 - 6/23 (exam week) Ends on a Saturday

Course Set –up:

PSY 343 is a fully online course that requires the use of Moodle. If you have any problems accessing Moodle please contact *Dr. Lori McClaren, Director of Online Learning at 919-508-2367*.

On average, students should expect to spend around **10-15** hours per week on an individual 3-credit course online course. To guide you through successful completion of the course, learning objectives, assigned readings, activities, and assignments and deadline dates will be clearly outlined in Moodle each week. The accelerated structure of this course means that we will be covering a lot of material quickly. There will likely be several concepts which students find challenging. There will be a **Help Forum** posted in Moodle where students can post questions about material that is not fully understood. Students are expected to actively participate in this class. You will benefit greatly by interacting with and learning from each other. Students are expected to check their WPU email and the Moodle course page 4 -5 times a week.

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	100
Discussion Boards	100
Current Events	75

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	May 6 – May 12	Intro & Police Psychology	Ch1 & 2 Current Event 1 Due
2	May 13 – May 19	Investigations & Deception	Ch 3 & 4 Current Event 2 Due
3	May 20 – May 26	Eyewitness Testimony Adults & Children	Ch 5 & 6 Paper 1 Due
4	May 27 – June 2	Juries & Sentencing	Ch 7 & 9 Midterm Exam
5	June 3 – June 9	Mental Illness & Risk Assessment	Ch 8 & 10 Current Event 3 Due
6	June 10 – June 16	Psychopathy & Treatment of Inmates	Ch 11 & 12 Paper 2 Due
7	June 17 – June 23	Partner Violence & Sexual & Homicidal Offenders	Ch 13 & 14 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. 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 syllabus. 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. (2 points)
In your own words, briefly summarize article content in 4-6 sentences.
(6 points)
3. Spend the majority of your efforts here. Analyze how this article relates back to topics discussed in class. **Please cite in APA style, a particular chapter or class reading, or bring in another reading if needed.** (9 points)
4. 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. (8 points)

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.

Papers

During the course you will receive two papers, each worth 50 points. These assignments will relate to course material discussed in class. Each assignment will result in a 3-4 page paper. Information regarding assignments will be posted on Moodle. Papers will be due by Sunday at midnight of Weeks 3 & 6.

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

All online courses at William Peace University require two (2) proctored exams or activities. Any student who fails BOTH proctored exams/activities will receive an automatic failing grade in the course, regardless of any other grades received. For more information on proctoring options, please see: http://www.peace.edu/wp-content/uploads/Proctoring-Options-for-Online-Students_2016.pdf.

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 Midterm exam must be completed during Week 4.

The Final exam must be completed during Week 7.

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 Ms. Myers 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. There will be no make-ups on the Midterm or Final exam. 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 with me **early and often**. Leaving it until the end of the semester 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).**

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

All students in this class will be held to the William Peace University 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".

Plagiarism Policy

Plagiarism is theft; it is the *deliberate or accidental* use of a source’s words, interpretation, or information *without properly quoting or paraphrasing and acknowledging that use.*

In both the professional world and the academic world, plagiarism is punished. In the professional world, charges of plagiarism, when proven, carry potentially enormous financial penalties. In the academic world, universities and colleges punish plagiarism with varying degrees of severity, with the penalties ranging all the way from expulsion from the school, to automatic ‘F’ in the course, down to automatic ‘F’ on the particular project or paper.

There are only two ways to avoid plagiarism:

1. **Quote and Citation:** Use the source’s *exact* words, place quotation marks at the beginning and end of them, and insert a citation immediately at the end of the quotation according to the standards of the discipline.
2. **Paraphrase and Citation:** Transform (paraphrase) the source’s words and information *entirely* into your own style of writing, and insert a citation at the end of this paraphrase. If what you write still echoes the source’s *words and style*, you have plagiarized. If you fail to insert a citation, you have plagiarized.