**UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING**

**PSYC 4730/CRMJ 4730**

**Psychology and Law 3 credits**

**AG 1030**

**Fall 2019**

**MWF 11:00- 11:50**

**Instructor contact information**: Narina Nuñez

BS 126

Phone: 307-314-2066

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**Office hours and/or open door policy**: I have an open door policy. Stop by when you need to talk with me. If I’m busy we can set up an appointment. Also, you can e-mail me to set up a time to meet.

**Course prerequisites**: A grade of C or better in 6 hours of psychology.

**Course Description**: The interface between psychological principles and our legal system will be explored.  Topics include but are not be limited to:

            a. Theories of criminal behavior

            b. Eyewitness identification and accuracy

            c. Competency to stand trial

            d. The insanity defense

            e. Analysis of victims and perpetrators

 It is important that you remember that this is a 4000 level course. As such, the course will be intense. It is expected that you keep up with any readings and come to class fully prepared to discuss the relevant issues. Classes will consist of lectures, videos, and discussions designed to expand on the material covered in the readings. Regular class attendance and participation is expected.

**Student Learning Outcomes**: Students in this course will:

1. Acquire basic knowledge of how our legal system works, and the major players in our legal system.
2. Understand how research in the field of psychology has contributed to our understanding of:
   1. Eyewitness identification and line-up procedures
   2. Victimology
   3. Interrogations, confessions, and false confessions
   4. Children involved with the legal system
   5. Jurors and juries
   6. Capital trials, punishment, and sentencing
3. Gain an understanding how science and data can inform legal procedures and policy.

**Required texts, readings, and special tools or materials:**

There is no required text. There may be readings for some topics but the pdfs for the readings will be found in the class “Files.”

Thomsen-Cannino, J., Cotton, R. & Torneo, E. (2009). Picking Cotton. New York, NY: St. Martins press. This book is available as a hard copy (~$10), e-book (~$10), or audio book (~$15). You can get it at Amazon, Barnes & Noble, or any one of your favorite book sellers.

## General requirements and expectations for the course:

Exams and Quizzes

1. There will be three non-cumulative exams, worth 100 points each.
2. There will be one quiz on the Picking Cotton reading, worth 50 points

Class Assignments

1. *Discussion assignments (*Online discussion assignments- 20 points each)- There will be 6 different online discussion assignment that will correspond with topics covered in class.  Descriptions are provided by clicking on the Assignments Tab on the left side of the page in Canvas or by looking for Discussions in the Modules tab. You will be graded on your contributions to an online discussion board. Grading rubrics for each assignment is available on the assignments tab.  There are 6 assignment topics but you choose only 3. Assignments have specific due dates that are listed on the class schedule. You must participate in the discussion on the week that each assignment is open. It is VERY important that you cite information that is not your own thought. This includes, but is not limited to quotations. Make it clear where you have gotten the information from if you are citing something that is no just you opinion. You do not have to cite information that you learned in lectures.
2. *Editorial* (Worth 50 points) Write one brief editorial (about 2-3 pages double-spaced) on ANY class topic. This would be like an editorial that you read in the newspaper. Editorials provide you with the opportunity to privately (in absence of your peers) reply to class materials, topics in the news relating to psychology and law, lecture, or anything else that pertains to the class.  I hope that you will feel safe to write an editorial in which you can freely state your ideas and opinions, although please be discrete in personal details if your editorial relates to a personal potential legal issue (i.e. sexual assault, illegal behavior, etc.). In the editorial, you should feel free to state your opinions but make sure your opinions are based in fact.

**Final Examination:** The Final Exam is optional. In the event that you miss an exam or do poorly on one of the exams, you can take the optional Final Exam to replace your lowest or missing test grade. The Final Exam (December 16, 10:15) is completely optional and it cannot hurt your grade. If your final exam grade ends up being your lowest grade, it will be dropped.

**Grading Scale and Grading Policies:**

*Points                                    Percentage of grade*

            Exams                                         300                                                    63

Quiz                         50                                                    10.5

Editorial                         50                                                    10.5

            Class Discussions                     75                                                    16

             TOTAL                                         410                                               100%

 GRADES

            A                                           369-400                                          90-100%

            B                                           328-368                                            80-90%

            C                                           287-327                                            70-80%

            D                                           246-286                                            60-70%

            F                                                <246                                            below 60%

IMPORTANT GRADING POLICY- If you are on the borderline between two grades, do not ask me to bump your grade (even if you are ½ of a percent away from a higher grade). After the entire class is done (including the final) we may bump a particular grade but only if you’ve done everything possible to get the higher grade. This includes having taken the final exam.

**Attendance and Absence policies**. I do not take attendance but expect you attend class regularly. University policies on excused absences are outlined in [UW Regulation 2-108 (Student Attendance Policy)](http://www.uwyo.edu/regs-policies/_files/docs/regulations-2018/uw_reg_2-108_approved_7-12-18.pdf).

**Classroom Behavior Policy:** In your CANVAS shell, click on the “Classroom Climate & Conduct” tab (on the left side of the page) to learn about the class behavior policy, commitment to diversity, duty to report Title IX violations, and the policy on Academic Dishonesty.

**Disability Support**: The University of Wyoming is committed to providing equitable access to learning opportunities for all students. If you have a disability, including but not limited to physical, learning, sensory or psychological disabilities, and would like to request accommodations in this course due to your disability, , please register with and provide documentation of your disability as soon as possible to Disability Support Services (DSS), Room 128 Knight Hall. You may also contact DSS at (307) 766-3073 or [udss@uwyo.edu.](mailto:udss@uwyo.edu) It is in the student’s best interest to request accommodations within the first week of classes, understanding that accommodations are not retroactive. Visit the DSS website for more information at: [www.uwyo.edu/udss](http://www.uwyo.edu/udss)

**Substantive changes to syllabus**: All deadlines, requirements, and course structure is subject to change if deemed necessary by the instructor. Students will be notified verbally in class, on our WyoCourses page announcement, and via email of these changes.

**Schedule of topics, activities, and graded work**:

Date Topic Assignment

Sep 4 Introduction

Section 1

6 Legal Study

9 Legal Dilemmas

11 Legal Dilemmas

13 Psychologists in the Legal System

16 Psychologists in the Legal System

18 The Court System

20 The Court System

23 Attorneys

25 Police

27 Police

30 Forensic evidence

Oct 2 Theories of criminality

4 Theories of criminality

7 Exam #1

Section 2

9 Eyewitness memory

11 Eyewitness memory

14 Eyewitness memory

16 Repressed Memories

18 Repressed Memories

21 Interrogations and confessions

23 Interrogations and confessions

25 Lie Detection

28 Competence in the legal system

30 NGRI

Nov 1 NGRI

Section 3

4 NGRI

6 Exam #2

8 Juries

11 Juries

13 Juries

15 Special populations

18 Special populations

20 Victims

22 Victims

25 Victims

27 NO CLASS

29 NO CLASS

Dec 2 Thirteenth

4 Thirteenth

6 Punishment and Sentencing

9 Punishment and Sentencing

11 Punishment and Sentencing

13 Exam #3

**Student Resources:**

***Example: CAMPUS RESOURCES***

*DISABILITY SUPPORT SERVICES:* [*udss@uwyo.edu*](mailto:udss@uwyo.edu)*, 766-3073, 128 Knight Hall,* [*www.uwyo.edu/udss*](http://www.uwyo.edu/udss)

*COUNSELING CENTER:* [*uccstaff@uwyo.edu*](mailto:uccstaff@uwyo.edu)*, 766-2187, 766-8989 (After hours), 341 Knight Hall,* [*www.uwyo.edu/ucc*](http://www.uwyo.edu/ucc)

*ACADEMIC AFFAIRS: 766-4286, 312 Old Main,* [*www.uwyo.edu/acadaffairs*](http://www.uwyo.edu/acadaffairs)

*DEAN OF STUDENTS OFFICE:* [*dos@uwyo.edu*](mailto:dos@uwyo.edu)*, 766-3296, 128 Knight Hall,* [*www.uwyo.edu/dos*](http://www.uwyo.edu/dos)

*UW POLICE DEPARTMENT:* [*uwpd@uwyo.edu*](mailto:uwpd@uwyo.edu)*, 766-5179, 1426 E Flint St,* [*www.uwyo.edu/uwpd*](http://www.uwyo.edu/uwpd)

*STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT WEBSITE:* [*www.uwyo.edu/dos/conduct*](http://www.uwyo.edu/dos/conduct)