**UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING**

**PSYC 4730/CRMJ 4730**

**Psychology and Law 3 credits**

**Fall 2019**

**Instructor contact information**: Narina Nuñez

BS 126

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**Office hours**: E-mail me to set up an appointment. We can meet in person if you are in town or we can Skype.

**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 the lectures and be prepared to take a quiz every week. Classes will consist of lecture videos, and discussions designed to expand on the material covered in the readings.

**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:

1. There will be 13 quizzes (one for each topic in the Modules). One quiz grade (your lowest score) will be dropped. If you fail to do a quiz, that grade will be dropped.
2. There are 8 discussions (worth 10 points each). You have to contribute to 6 out of the 8 Discussions. If you contribute to all 8 discussions, your lowest grade will be dropped. Descriptions are provided 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.

Assignments have specific due dates that are listed on the Modules. 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.

1. *Current Event* (Worth 40 points) – Find a current news event that pertains to some aspect of what we have covered in class. Describe the event and explain how it pertains to psychology and law. Then apply something that you have learned in the class to the news event. This assignment can be turned in anytime during the semester. But keep in mind there it must be turned in by the due date (Dec 8).

**Grading Scale and Grading Policies:**

*Points each                                    Percentage of grade*

12 Quizzes            24                                                    74

6 Class Discussions                     10                                                    16

1 Current Event 40 10

             TOTAL                                         388                                               100%

 GRADES

            A                                           349-388                                          90-100%

            B                                           310-348                                            80-90%

            C                                           272-309                                            70-80%

            D                                           233-271                                            60-70%

            F                                                <233                                            below 60%

**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.

**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)