**UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING**

**PSYC 4730/CRMJ 4730**

**Psychology and Law, 3 credits**

**Fall 2020**

**Instructor Contact Information**: Cassandra Flick

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Biological Sciences 124

**Office Hours**: Thursday 10am-12pm, or by appointment

Office hours will be held via Zoom. If you cannot make my regularly scheduled office hours, please feel free to email me to set up an appointment. I am flexible and will accommodate all requests to meet. I look forward to meeting with you!

**Email Policy:** On weekdays, I will do my best to respond to emails within 24 hours. On weekends, I try to maintain my status as “best dog mom” to my pup, so I will likely not respond until Monday. If the topic is particularly urgent, please indicate the importance when sending and I will respond as quickly as possible.

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

**Text and Readings:** There is **no required textbook** for this course but there will be supplemental readings, which will be provided to you in PDF form on WyoCourses. Additionally, there **is a** **required book** called *Picking Cotton*:

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.

**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 this is a 4000 level course. As such, the course will be intensive. It is expected that you keep up with the lectures and be prepared to take a quiz every week. Quizzes are based on lectures and any supplemental material for that week (e.g. short videos, readings, etc.). Classes will consist of lecture videos, supplemental videos or readings, and discussions designed to expand on the material.

**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 of how science and data can inform legal procedures and policy

## General Requirements and Expectations for the Course:

1. Lectures/Modules – The Modules tab on WyoCourses is where you will find the majority of course materials. Each Module has all requirements for that week, which will include: introduction information, recorded lectures, supplemental materials (video clips, readings, etc.), a quiz, and sometimes a discussion.
2. Quizzes– There will be 12 quizzes (worth 24 points each), one for each topic in the Modules & the required book, *Picking Cotton*. **One quiz grade (your lowest score) will be dropped.** If you fail to do a quiz, that grade will be dropped.
3. Discussions – 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 two lowest grades 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 discussion are available on the assignments tab.

Discussions 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 not just your opinion. You do not have to cite information that you learned in lectures.

1. Two Writing Assignments:

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 (2-3 pages) can be turned in anytime during the semester. But keep in mind that it must be turned in by the due date. Grading rubric can be found in the assignment on the Assignments tab. **Due: 12/4**

Editorial (Worth 50 points) – Write a brief 2-3 page editorial on any class topic. Editorials give you the opportunity to reply to class materials, topics in the news related to psychology and law, lecture, or anything else that pertains to the class. Editorials should show evidence of critical thinking, application of course material, and raise thought-provoking ideas/questions. Grading rubric can be found in the assignment on the Assignments tab. **Due: 11/20**

**Grading Scale and Components:**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Assignment** | **Total** | **# Graded** | **Points Each** | **Total Points** | **% of Grade** |
| **Quizzes** | 12 | 11 | 24 | 264 | 64% |
| **Discussions** | 8 | 6 | 10 | 60 | 14% |
| **Current Event** | 1 | 1 | 30 | 40 | 10% |
| **Editorial** | 1 | 1 | 40 | 50 | 12% |
| **TOTAL** |  |  |  | **414** | **100%** |

**Grading Policy:**

 GRADES

            A                                           371-414                                          90-100%

            B                                           330-370                                            80-89%

            C                                          288-329                                            70-79%

            D                                           247-287                                           60-69%

            F                                                <247                                            below 60%

**Module/Lecture Schedule** *(subject to change)*

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Module** | **Dates** | **Topics** | **Graded Assignments** | **Due Date** |
| Week 1 | 8/24 - 8/31 | Legal Study | Quiz & Discussion | 8/31 |
| Week 2 | 8/31 - 9/7 | Psychologists & Attorneys | Quiz & Discussion | 9/7 |
| Week 3 | 9/7 - 9/14 | Police & Forensic Evidence | Quiz | 9/14 |
| Week 4 | 9/14 - 9/21 | Theories of Criminality | Quiz & Discussion | 9/21 |
| Week 5 | 9/21 - 9/28 | Memory and the Legal System 1 | *Picking Cotton* Quiz | 9/28 |
| Week 6 | 9/28 - 10/5 | Memory and the Legal System 2 | Quiz & Discussion | 10/5 |
| Weeks 7 & 8 | 10/5 - 10/19 | Lie Detection, Interrogation, and Confessions | Quiz & Discussion | 10/19 |
| Week 9 | 10/19 - 10/26 | Legal Competence and NGRI | Quiz & Discussion | 10/26 |
| Week 10 | 10/26 - 11/2 | Juries | Quiz | 11/2 |
| Week 11 | 11/2 - 11/9 | Psychology of Victims | Quiz & Discussion | 11/9 |
| Week 12 | 11/9 - 11/16 | Children in the Courtroom | Quiz | 11/16 |
| Weeks 13 & 14 | 11/16 - 11/30 | Punishment & Sentencing | Quiz & Discussion | 11/30 |

**Late Policy:** Generally, late quizzes and discussion posts **will not** be accepted past the due date. In order to accommodate for unforeseen circumstances that may prevent you from completing a quiz or discussion post on time, I will **drop your lowest quiz grade and your two lowest discussion grades.** Late writing assignments (Current Event & Editorial) will received a 5-point deduction per class period.

**Course COVID19 Policy:** Given the global pandemic, there will be some leniency with the late policy described above. Throughout the course of the semester, if you are personally impacted by COVID19 (you get sick, a family member gets sick, family illness interferes with job demands, etc.), please reach out to me to discuss solutions. I am here to help, and I will do everything I can to ensure that you have adequate time to complete assignments.

**University COVID-19 Policies**: During this pandemic, you must abide by all UW policies and public health rules put forward by the City of Laramie (or by Natrona County if at UW-Casper), the University of Wyoming and the State of Wyoming to promote the health and well-being of fellow students and your own personal self-care. Please review our [current policy.](https://www.uwyo.edu/alerts/campus-return/index.html)

As with other disruptive behaviors, we have the right to dismiss you from the classroom (Zoom and physical), or other class activities if you fail to abide by these COVID-19 policies. These behaviors will be referred to the Dean of Students Office using the [UWYO Cares Reporting Form for Student Code of Conduct processes.](https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?UnivofWyoming&amp;layout_id=5)

**HyFlex, Zoom, and WyoCourses expectations:** As with all UW coursework, this course will be educational and useful to you. I will respond to questions, concerns, and feedback in a timely manner.

Your responsibilities:

• Give and receive feedback from me and your classmates respectfully and constructively in all interactions. This includes in Zoom chats, on WyoCourses boards, and within physical classroom spaces.

• Actively engage in civil discourse in a respectful manner. Use professional language in all course related forums.

• Communicate professionally. Whenever you send class-related email or messages, please include a clear, specific subject line and use the body of the email or message to explain the purpose for the email and any attached materials. Conduct yourself professionally.

• Meet assignment deadlines. We expect that you're interacting with course material multiple times during the week.

• Ask for help when you need it. For academic assistance for this course please contact me for available resources. Visit our [Dean of Students online student resources page](https://www.uwyo.edu/dos/student-resources/covid-19-student-resources.html) for assistance.

• Please let us know if you notice another student who needs help in our (anonymous) [WyoCares referral option.](https://www.uwyo.edu/dos/students-concern/index.html)

**COVID-19 Student Health Information** can be found [here.](https://www.uwyo.edu/shser/corona-virus.html)

**Substantive changes to syllabus**: All deadlines, requirements, and course structure are 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.

**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. 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%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank)

**Information Technology (IT):** If you have any IT related challenges, please contact the [UWIT Service Center.](https://uwyo.teamdynamix.com/TDClient/1940/Portal/Requests/ServiceDet?ID=8890)

**Additional Student/Campus Resources:**

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

*COUNSELING CENTER:* *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**, 766-3296, 128 Knight Hall,* [*www.uwyo.edu/dos*](http://www.uwyo.edu/dos)

*UW POLICE DEPARTMENT:* *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)