

Psy 3860
Law and Psychological Science
Fall 2017

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Course Description

This course surveys the interaction of law and psychology as it occurs across the justice system. The role of psychologists in the legal system and the impact of psychological research on important legal questions, procedures, and assumptions are reviewed. Supreme Court cases that involve psychological issues, or make use of psychological research, are also reviewed.

Required Text (available in electronic and hard copy):

Greene, E. & Heilbrun, K. (2014). *Wrightsmen's Psychology and the Legal System (8th edition)*. Belmont, Ca: Wadsworth/Thomson Learning.

Other Readings:

In addition to the text, several articles/cases will be discussed over the course of the semester. These will be made available at the course site on Canvas.

Course Schedule:

Wk	Date	Topic	Readings
1	8/22	Introduction	
	8/24	Psychology and the Law	Chapter 1 Fiske S.T. et al., <i>American Psychologist</i> .
2	8/29	In Class Movie	
	8/31	Debate 1 – Therapists and Confidentiality	<i>Tarasoff v. Regents of the U. of California</i> . Finish Chapter 1
3	9/5	The Legal System	Chapter 2
	9/7	Debate 2 – Drug Crime Psychology of Crime	Chapter 3

4	9/12	Psychology of Crime	Finish Chapter 3
	9/14	Psychology of Police	Chapter 4 <i>Tennessee v. Garner</i>
5	9/19	Debate 3: Eyewitness testimony Witnesses	Chapter 5
	9/21	Witnesses (cont) and Exam Review	
6	9/26	Exam 1	
	9/28	Victims	Chapter 6
7	10/3	Debate 4: Polygraph Testing Evaluating Suspects	Chapter 7 <i>Daubert v. Merrell Dow</i>
	10/5	Evaluating Suspects	Chapter 7
8	10/10	Traditional Prosecutions	Chapter 8
	10/12	Alternatives to Traditional Prosecutions	Chapter 9
9	10/17	Introduction to Assessment Forensic Assessment: Criminal & Juvenile	Chapter 10
	10/19	Debate 5: Insanity Defense Forensic Assessment: Criminal & Juvenile	Finish Chapter 10 <i>Ford v. Wainwright</i>
10	10/24	Forensic Assessment: Civil Cases	Chapter 11
	10/26	Civil cases (cont) and Exam Review	
11	10/31	Exam 2	
	11/2	Preparing for Trials	Chapter 12
12	11/7	Debate 6: Jury Nullification Jurors and Juries	Chapter 13
	11/9	Juries (continued)	Finish Chapter 13
13	11/14	Punishment and Sentencing	Chapter 14
	11/16	Debate 7: Death penalty Punishment and Sentencing	Finish Chapter 14
14	11/21	THANKSGIVING BREAK	
	11/23	NO CLASS	
15	11/28	Juvenile & Adult Corrections	Chapter 15
	11/30	Debate 8: Familial DNA searches Juvenile & Adult Corrections	Finish Chapter 15
16	12/5	Catch-up and Exam Review	
	12/7	Exam 3	

Please note:

This schedule is preliminary. Changes may be made to the lecture schedule if some sections require more time or discussion. However, this flexibility does NOT apply to the debates or to the exam. They will be held at the scheduled times to allow students to prepare/plan.

Attendance Policy:

You are strongly encouraged to attend all lectures. There will often be information presented in class that is not included in the text or the power point slides, and will be included on the tests. **It will be difficult to do well on exams without attending almost all classes.**

In addition, attendance at all debates is **required**. I consider it a question of courtesy to your fellow classmates that you are in class and on time when they will present their debate. Attendance will be taken these days, and arriving more than 5 minutes late will be counted as an absence. Students missing a debate without a documented emergency will lose points equivalent to 1 letter grade from their own debate score (10 pts).

Exams:

We will have 3 exams for the course. The exams are NOT cumulative. Your grade will be based largely on exam scores (30% per exam), as well as your debate participation and position paper (10%).

In Class Debates:

In class debates will be held on topics of particular interest or controversy. There will be a total of 8 of these debates during the course of the semester. Each debate will be for 30 minutes during class time according to the schedule listed above.

Students will sign up for debate “teams” the first week of classes. Each team will consist of 5 or 6 members for each side (total of 10-12 students each debate). Although each team member is NOT required to speak during the debates, effort should be made to distribute speaking and preparation responsibilities. It is up to each debate team to alert me (privately) in the event a team member does not contribute to their team’s debate.

Position Papers:

In addition, each team member is required to turn in a 2 page typewritten position paper the class after their debate. This paper should briefly lay out a thoughtful position on the debate topic. Team members should feel free to take a position differing from that expressed during the debate. However, position papers should demonstrate the knowledge of the topic the student gained from preparing for the debate.

Grading:

There will be three exams, each worth 30% of your grade. Exams will be during class time. The exams are NOT cumulative.

Students are required to participate in 1 debate and to do a position paper on the debate topic. Full points for the debate and paper (100 total or 10% of your grade) are awarded to all students who complete their debate and turn in a (reasonable) paper on time.

Students will lose points from their debate total only if they fail to meet debate requirements. Reasons for losing debate points include (but are not limited to):

- 1) Not contributing to your team debate (missing team meetings, not contributing research)
- 2) Not turning in a paper or turning one in late
- 3) Unexcused absences from other debates.

Point Distribution:

Total possible points: 1000

Exam 1: 300 points (30%)

Exam 2: 300 points (30%)

Exam 3: 300 points (30%)

Debate Participation and Position Paper: 100 points (10%)

Final grades will be computed as a percentage of the possible points earned:

A	93% or more	930-1000
A-	90-92.9%	900-929
B+	87-89.9%	870-899
B	83-86.9%	830-869
B-	80-82.9%	800-829
C+	77-79.9%	770-799
C	73-76.9%	730-769
C-	70-72.9%	700-729
D+	67-69.9%	670-699
D	60-66.9%	600-669
F	59.9% or less	599 points or less

Missed Exam/Assignment:

Make up exams are only permitted in the case of documented emergencies. Please notify me as soon as possible in person, by phone or by email. Late paper assignments will be penalized 10 points, except in cases of documented emergencies.

Academic dishonesty:

Academic integrity is fundamental to the activities and principles of a university. All members of the academic community must be confident that each person's work has been responsibly and honorably acquired, developed, and presented. Any effort to gain an advantage not given to all students is dishonest whether or not the effort is successful. The academic community regards breaches of the academic integrity rules as extremely serious matters. Sanctions for such a breach may include academic sanctions from the instructor, including failing the course for any violation, to disciplinary sanctions ranging from probation to expulsion. When in doubt about plagiarism, paraphrasing, quoting, collaboration, or any other form of cheating, consult the course instructor.

Note to Students with Disabilities:

If you anticipate barriers related to the format or requirements of this course, if you have emergency medical information to share with me, or if you need to make arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please let me know as soon as possible.

If disability related accommodations are necessary (for example, a note taker, extended time on exams, captioning), please register with the Disability Center (<http://disabilitycenter.missouri.edu>), S5 Memorial Union, 573-882-4696, and then notify me of your eligibility for reasonable accommodations. For other MU resources for persons with disabilities, click on "Disability Resources" on the MU homepage.

Intellectual Pluralism:

The University community welcomes intellectual diversity and respects student rights. Students who have questions or concerns regarding the atmosphere in this class (including respect for diverse opinions) may contact the departmental chair or divisional director; the director of the [Office of Students Rights and Responsibilities](#); the [MU Equity Office](#), or equity@missouri.edu.

All students will have the opportunity to submit an anonymous evaluation of the instructor(s) at the end of the course.

Recordings

University of Missouri System Executive Order No. 38 lays out principles regarding the sanctity of classroom discussions at the university. The policy is described fully in Section 200.015 of the Collected Rules and Regulations. In this class, students may make audio or video recordings of course activity unless specifically prohibited by the faculty member. However, the redistribution of audio or video recordings of statements or comments from the course to individuals who are not students in the course is prohibited without the express permission of the faculty member and of any students who are recorded. Students found to have violated this policy are subject to discipline in accordance with provisions of [section 200.020](#) of the Collected Rules and Regulations of the University of Missouri pertaining to student conduct matters.