
PSYC 380-DL1 – Introduction to Forensic Psychology

Spring 2018

This syllabus may change.

This syllabus has been updated as of 1/16/2018

Instructor: Jenn Loya
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Skype Name: Jenn Loya

Office: DK 2007
Office Hours: Mondays 2 to 3 PM, or by appointment
** Please be sure to email me ahead of time
if you plan to attend office hours **

Required Texts

- Huss, M. T. (2014). *Forensic Psychology: Research, Clinical Practice, and Applications* (2nd edition). Hoboken, NJ: John Wiley and Sons, Inc.
- Hare, R. D. (1999). *Without Conscience: The Disturbing World of the Psychopaths Among Us*. New York: Guilford Press.

Provided Readings (these will be provided on BlackBoard):

1. Heilbrun, K., Kelley, S. M., Koller, J. P., Giallella, C., & Peterson, L. (2013). The role of university-based forensic clinics. *International journal of law and psychiatry*, 36(3), 195-200.
2. Pinizzotto, A. J., Davis, E. F., & Miller, C. E. (2006). Suicide by cop. *Violent Encounters: Felonious Assaults on America's Law Enforcement Officers*, U.S. Department of Justice, FBI Publication #0383.
3. James, D. J. & Glaze, L. E. (2006). Mental health problems of prison and jail inmates. *Bureau of Justice Statistics Special Report*. NCJ213600.
4. Homant, R. J. & Kennedy, D. B. (1998). Psychological aspects of crime scene profiling. *Criminal Justice and Behavior*, 25, 319-343.

Course Description

Explores the differing, yet varied facets of the field of forensic psychology. The course will cover landmark legal cases relevant to the field of forensic psychology, potential careers in forensic psychology, police psychology, expert testimony, legal consultation, forensic assessment in the justice system, psychological constructs of particular importance to forensic psychology, ethics, correctional psychology, and issues in working in the juvenile justice system.

Learning Objectives

As the course instructor, I have several goals for each student to work toward during this semester:

1. Define and analyze landmark case law on the profession of forensic psychology.
2. Explore the varied roles forensic mental health professionals occupy within mental health, correctional, law enforcement, and legal systems.
3. Understand specific ethical principles as they apply to the practice of forensic psychology.
4. Define psychological constructs of primary interest to the field of forensic psychology.
5. Describe key processes and players within the legal system.

Course Format

This course will be held entirely online. Each week a new topic will be covered. Information will be presented in videos, articles, book chapters, and additional information presented by the instructor via PowerPoint with audio and supplemental materials. The articles, PowerPoint, and supplemental material can all be accessed through BlackBoard. Students are responsible for understanding all of the information presented. For each of the course topics, students must complete either a discussion post and discussion response or quiz. These assignments are designed to ensure that students have an understanding of the core course content, as well as an ability to participate in classroom discussions in order to enrich their overall understanding of forensic psychology. These assignments will be due at specific dates throughout the semester (see Course Schedule at bottom of syllabus for a list of due dates). Students will also complete two exams and a final (see below for more information regarding these assignments).

***All assignments are due by 9:00 PM on the day they are due.**

If a task is due on 1/20/18, it MUST be submitted before 9:00 PM on 1/20/18 in order to be graded.

Lectures

This course will deliver lecture content via PowerPoints slides with audio components, as well as through additional supplemental materials (e.g., online video, PDF, articles). These lectures will be posted on BlackBoard at the beginning of the semester. PowerPoints will include key terminology, important concepts, and detailed information. Some of this information will be provided in text on the slides, but some information may also be presented through voice recordings. Students are responsible for understanding all of the audio and visual-based information presented in these slides.

Students should use the articles to supplement their knowledge and understanding of the information presented in these slides. If students are unsure about a specific concept, they should first consult the articles for more information regarding this topic. If they are still unsure about a topic, they may email the instructor.

Attendance

You are expected to complete all work for the week within the allotted time. You may attend at your own pace, within the confines of the weekly course structure.

Discussion Posts

Each week, students must also post and respond to a post on the BlackBoard Discussion board. Students must post a reflection on the accompanying course material, based on the discussion questions provided. These posts should answer each question fully (i.e., do not limit yourself to a finite number of sentences). The goal of these posts is to spur discussion among classmates, so they should be as thought-provoking and engaging as possible in order to encourage other students to read and respond. I encourage healthy discussions and debates through these discussion threads. These **“original posts” are due by 9:00 PM on Thursday**; the due date of each original post is listed on page 7 of the syllabus.

Students must also read and respond to a discussion post of at least two other classmates. These responses should include overall thoughts/ideas spurred by the post, other reasons *why* the post was interesting (in other words, please do not simply state that the original post was “interesting” without providing an explanation as to why you think the response was interesting), other ways that the post was relevant to topics outlined within the course, aspects of the post that the student may agree or disagree

with (again, please remember to explain *why* you agree or disagree with the post), and/or any other observations that the student would like to make about the post. These responses should also be at least three sentences, and **please remember to be respectful and polite regarding other students' opinions when posting these responses**. These corresponding **responses are due by 9:00 PM the following Sunday**. For example, if an original post is due on Thursday, 1/25, both corresponding responses are due by 9:00 PM on Sunday, 1/28; if an original post is due on Tuesday, 2/1, both responses are due by 9:00 PM on Sunday, 2/4; etc.

There will be NO exceptions for late work; any posts submitted after the due dates will not be graded. After dropping the lowest discussion post grade, this component of the course will account for 40% of a student's overall final grade in the course.

Exams

There are two multiple choice exams. The first exam covers material for the first half of the semester, and the second exam covers material from the second half of the semester. Both exams will be timed and can be located on BlackBoard. Student should spend ample time studying all of the materials from each of the course topics before embarking on the exams. Students will only have one opportunity to complete this exam, and once they submit their answers, their grades will be posted automatically to BlackBoard. To ensure that students do not cheat, students will be given a limited amount of time to complete this exam and each student will be presented with a different set of questions.

Students must complete each exam by 9:00 PM on the due date assigned to receive credit for the exam. Students who fail to complete this exam by the appropriate time will automatically receive a grade of 0%. There will be NO exceptions. Each exam will account for 20% of a student's overall grade in the course.

Grade Breakdown

Discussion Board Participation (including 1 quiz)	40%
Exam 1	20%
Exam 2	20%
Paper	20%

Total 100%

Grading Scale:

A+	98 - 100%
A	93 - 97%
A-	90 - 92%
B+	87 - 89%
B	83 - 86%

B-	80 - 82%
C+	77 - 79%
C	73 - 76%
C-	70 - 72%
D	60 - 69%
F	Less than 60%

Late Work Policy: Late work will not be accepted except in the case of a documented, personal emergency or under special circumstances. You will not be allowed to make up assignments (discussion posts [i.e., original posts and responses] and the paper) unless you provide the documentation of the emergency (e.g., a doctor's note); regarding special circumstances, prior approval should be obtained if these circumstances allow. **Technology failures, work-related absences, work in other classes, oversleeping, or meeting with other instructors are not considered personal emergencies.**

Make-up Policy Regarding Exams: Make-up exams will only be administered in special circumstances. Prior approval should be obtained if circumstances allow. The exam period expires on Sunday of that week. If you do not complete the exam on time, you will not be allowed to make it up. Please let me know as soon as possible if you are unable to take an exam at the scheduled time, although I do not foresee this being an issue since the course is largely self-paced.

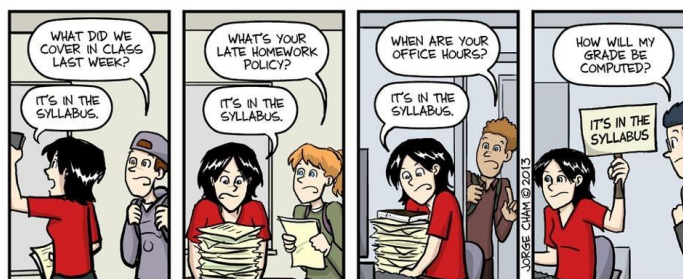
Additional Information

Email Policies

When emailing me about questions, etc. regarding the class,
you **MUST** include **PSYC 380** in the title of the email.
This ensures that I can easily identify course-related emails and respond in a timely manner.
If I do not respond to your email within 48 hours,
you are welcome to send me a follow-up email.

For questions regarding course content, please email the instructor – jloya2@gmu.edu

Please make sure you re-read the syllabus before asking questions about the policies, procedures, or format of the course.



IT'S IN THE SYLLABUS

This message brought to you by every instructor that ever lived.
WWW.PHDCOMICS.COM

Official Communications via GMU E-mail: Mason uses electronic mail to provide official information to students. Examples include communications from course instructors; notices from the library, notices about academic standing, financial aid information, class materials, assignments, questions, and instructor feedback. Students are responsible for the content of university communication sent to their mason e-mail account, and are required to activate that account and check it regularly. I can only respond to gmu.edu email addresses, so please only use your Mason email in correspondence with me.

Privacy and Communication: Student privacy is governed by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). As a result, students must use their MasonLive email account to receive important information about this class, including any communication with the professor via digital communication. Please allow 48 hours (72 hours on weekends) for a response to email messages.

BlackBoard: I will post notes, resources, grades, and announcements on BlackBoard. You should frequently check BlackBoard because you will be responsible for the material posted. Additionally, all assignments will be turned in through Blackboard. To use BlackBoard you will need to go to <https://mymasonportal.gmu.edu>.

Honor Code: Coursework is expected to be the student's own original work. Students may use books, notes, and other sources to prepare assignments. Under no circumstances are students to collectively

write papers with another student, turn in work previously submitted, or use material from other sources (textbook, websites, journal articles etc.) without proper citation (APA style). This will be considered plagiarism and will not be tolerated. All George Mason University students have agreed to abide by the letter and the spirit of the Honor Code. You can find a copy of the Honor Code at academicintegrity.gmu.edu. All violations of the Honor Code *will be reported* to the Honor Committee for review. I reserve the right to enter a failing grade for any student found guilty of an honor code violation.

NOTE: I am allowing you to reference your notes during quizzes and exams. All assignments for this class are open-note. However, quizzes and the final are timed and will automatically submit when the time is up.

Disability Accommodations: If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations, please contact me and the Disability Resource Center (DRC) (Sub 1, Rm. 4205) at (703) 993-2474. All academic accommodations must be arranged through that office.

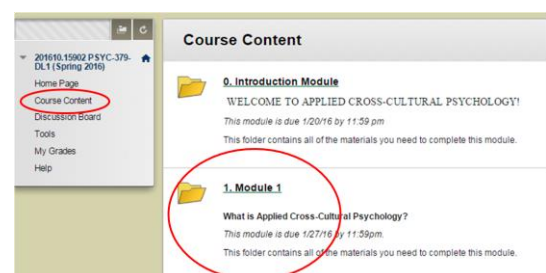
Diversity: An emphasis on diversity and inclusion is essential to achieve our goals as a campus community. Diversity is broadly defined to include such characteristics as, but not limited to, race, ethnicity, gender, religion, age, disability, and sexual orientation. Diversity also entails different viewpoints, philosophies, and perspectives. Attention to these aspects of diversity will help promote a culture of inclusion and belonging, and an environment where diverse opinions, backgrounds, and practices have to opportunity to be heard and respected. This commitment to diversity is included in all University settings. GMU promotes continuous monitoring and self-assessment with respect to diversity and seeks to incorporate diversity and inclusion within the philosophies and actions of the individual, group, and organization to make improvements as needed. If you feel, in any way, that any aspect of your personal characteristics, viewpoints, or perspectives are not being respect, please talk to me. I will listen.

Extra-Credit Assignments: There will be no extra credit assignments in this course. Please prepare for the tests and classroom assignments accordingly.

Enrollment: Students are responsible for verifying their enrollment in this class. Schedule adjustments should be made by the deadlines published in the Schedule of Classes (available from the Registrar - registrar.gmu.edu). Please contact the Registrar's Office with any specific questions.

BlackBoard

Materials for each module (e.g., articles, worksheets, links to the discussion board posts) can be found in the "Course Content" folder, and then within the appropriate Module folder. *All module quizzes and worksheets should be submitted through these folders.*



*Discussion board threads can also be accessed by clicking the "Discussion Board" link on the left-hand side of BlackBoard.

The Exams and & Paper can be accessed and submitted in the "Assessments" link.

Course Schedule

Week	Date	Assignment Due	Paper Topic Due	Content	Supplemental Material	
1	1/25/18	Course Begins! Discussion Board, Week 1		Syllabus & Introduction	Heilbrun et al., 2013 Huss, Chapter 1	
2	2/1/18	Discussion Board, Week 2		Police Psychology	Pinizzotto, Davis, & Miller, 2006	
3	2/8/18	Discussion Board, Week 3		Expert Testimony	Huss, Chapter 2	
4	2/15/18	Discussion Board, Week 4		Criminal & Civil Competency	Huss, Chapter 9	
5	2/22/18	Discussion Board, Week 5		Personal Injury & Custody	Huss, Chapters 12 & 13	
6	3/1/18	Discussion Board, Week 6		Criminal Insanity	Huss, Chapter 8	
7	3/8/18	Discussion Board, Week 7		Risk of Violence Assessment	Huss, Chapter 5	
	3/15/18	SPRING BREAK!				
8	3/22/18	Exam 1 Discussion Board, Week 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Right to receive psychiatric treatment • Sexual harassment 	Correctional Psychology		
9	3/29/18	Discussion Board, Week 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Right to refuse psychiatric treatment • Psychology and the death penalty 	Malingering & Lie Detection		
10	4/5/18	Discussion Board, Week 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Informed consent • Diminished capacity 	Sex Offenders	Huss, Chapter 6	
11	4/12/18	Discussion Board, Week 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Domestic violence/Stalking • Civil commitment 	Psychopaths	Hare, Chapters 1 & 2	
12	4/19/18	Discussion Board, Week 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discrimination law • Prisoner's rights 	Homeland Security		
13	4/26/18	Discussion Board, Week 13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Duty to protect • Confidentiality 	Profiling/Investigative Psychology	Homant & Kennedy, 1998	
14	5/3/18	Discussion Board, Week 14		Ethics; Landmark Legal Cases		
	5/10/18	Exam 2				

**** This syllabus is subject to change. Please listen to lectures and monitor the course website regularly to be informed of any changes made to the course. ****

* Last day to add: January 29, 2018

* Last day to drop: February 12, 2018 (with a 33% tuition penalty);

February 23, 2018 (final drop deadline with a 67% tuition penalty)