Instructor: Venessa Fegley, Psy.D.
Licensed Psychologist

Contact Information: Cell: 954-801-6235
Email: vfegleyv@gmu.edu

Office Hours: Monday through Friday 6pm-8pm EDT by telephone. Individual video conferencing appointments upon request.

STUDENT SERVICES AT GMU:
Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:
http://accessibility.gmu.edu/studentservices.html
If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations, please see me and contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC) at 703-993-2474. All academic accommodations must be arranged through that office

Online Links of Help/Interest:
Writing Center: http://writingcenter.gmu.edu/
Library: http://library.gmu.edu/

Last day to add:
May 25 (for A session)
June 8 (for B session)
July 7 (for C session)
*Last day to drop:*
June 1 (for A session)
June 15 (for B session)
July 16 (for C session)

Description of Course:
This course provides students with an overview of the areas covered by a broad definition of forensic psychology and will introduce the student to the basic principles of forensic psychology and the discipline’s relationship to the criminal justice system. Topics of exploration for this course include criminal profiling, child custody evaluations, police psychology, psychology in the criminal courts, correctional psychology, victimology, and others. Completion of assignments will expose the student to a broad understanding of the field of forensic psychology.
Learning Objectives:
By the end of this course, you should be able to:

- Explain and apply concepts, distinctions, practices, and procedures related to the field of forensic psychology
- Analyze roles and responsibilities of forensic psychology professionals
- Analyze the impact of diversity and ethics within the field of forensic psychology
- Apply psychological principles and practices to subspecialties within the field of forensic psychology
- Analyze topics, case law, and psychology professionals’ roles and practices, related to subspecialties within the field of forensic psychology
- Analyze controversial issues and challenges within the field of forensic psychology
- Analyze the impact of psychological research on public policy and law

Required Text:

Suggested Text:

**Journal Articles: If a link is not provided you can find the document uploaded under Doc Sharing**


Suggested Web Sites:

- APA Citation Assistance
  http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/
- APA Online: Law and Psychology
APA Online: APA Guidelines for Providers of Psychological Services to Ethnic, Linguistic, and Culturally Diverse Populations
APA Online: Ethical Principles of Psychologists and Code of Ethics
American Psychology-Law Society: Specialty Guidelines for Forensic Psychologists
   http://www.ap-ls.org/links/currentforensicguidelines.pdf
Cornell University Law School: U.S. Code Collection: § 4241. Determination of mental competency to stand trial to undergo postrelease proceedings 1
   http://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/18/4241.html
APA Online: Guidelines for Child Custody Evaluations in Divorce Proceedings
Psychology Information Online: Forensic Psychology - Civil Court
   http://psychologyinfo.com/forensic/civil_court.html
FindLaw: Rights of Inmates
   http://public.findlaw.com/civil-rights/more-civil-rights-topics/institutionalized-persons-discrimination-more/le5_6rights.html
APA Online: An Interesting Career in Psychology: Police Psychology in the Federal Government
APA Online: APA Actions to Implement the Council Resolutions Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman, or Degrading Treatment or Punishment
Geneva Convention relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War
   http://www2.ohchr.org/english/law/prisonerwar.htm

**Class Attendance:** Since this is a short summer session, you will be expected to be active in the online classroom at least 4 out of 7 days each week. You will be required to post discussion questions and responses within that assigned week, and in accordance with due dates, in order for points to be earned. In order to be considered “active” within the classroom, you will need to post a discussion, post substantive responses to fellow classmates, or actively contribute to the discussion thread in some way. On example would be to provide your fellow classmates with an interesting and course relevant journal article, news clip, YouTube video, or the like, with the intent of enhancing the course.

**Plagiarism:** Please review the University Plagiarism policy. Plagiarism will not be tolerated.

**Course Assignments:**

All assignments are due by 11:59pm EDT on the date indicated in order to avoid late penalties.
Discussion Questions and Responses to Others:
Discussion questions are designed to promote the scholarly exchange of ideas between colleagues at the undergraduate level and help facilitate our learning of important topics and theories.

Requirements: As part of the required active participation at least 4 days per week, you are expected to participate in the weekly Discussion area. Discussion topics/questions are provided in the Discussion area under each Weekly Button. Your posts should be scholarly and be reflective of the assigned readings for the week. They should demonstrate your overall understanding of the topic by addressing each element of the question in a clear and concise manner. Discussions should not exceed more than 2 pages of text.

Additionally, you are expected to respond to your fellow students' postings in a substantive manner. In order for a response post to be considered substantive in nature the response needs to be no less than 3-4 full sentences in length and no longer than 2 paragraphs. The response also needs to refer to the week’s readings, relevant issues in the news, information obtained from other sources, and/or ideas expressed in other class members’ postings. Where appropriate, you should use references to support your position. Simply stating, “That was a good post. I like your ideas. I agree with you.” will not be considered substantive and will not earn full credit.

For EACH discussion question, you will be required to provide at least 2 (two) substantive responses to fellow classmates. Due dates for the Discussion post and for the responses to others will be clearly indicated under each assignment in your syllabus.

Brochure Assignment (Due June 15, 2012):
The completed brochure should be uploaded to the dropbox by June 15, 2012 by 11:59 p.m. EDT.

You will be required to submit a Brochure designed to assist victims of violent crimes. Choose a particular type of victim population to target specifically with your brochure. Clearly indicate the target population by explaining what it means to be a victim of the indicated crime. Use the internet to explore victim laws and rights within your HOME state/country and include this information in your brochure. Include no less than 5 community resources that the victim can reach out to for help. Be sure to include the services offered by the community resources, the address, phone, and website. Be sure to include additional information that you believe might be beneficial for the victim, such as support groups specifically aimed at that victim population. You may include graphics but limit this to include NO MORE than 3 in your brochure.

Create your brochure as a two- to three-page Word document or use the formatting tools to create a tri-folded document, just like an actual brochure.
Final Project (Due June 20, 2012):
The completed Final Project should be submitted to the Dropbox by June 20, 2012 by 11:59pm EDT.

FINAL PROJECT REQUIREMENTS: The paper should be NO LONGER than 10 pages, which includes the title page, Abstract, and reference page. In addition to your textbook, you should incorporate and cite approximately 6-8 additional scholarly references in your final paper. Scholarly references include journals, books, and textbooks. You may cite NO MORE THAN ONE website. Websites should be limited to those ending in .gov, .edu, and .org. Be sure to adhere to 6th Edition APA Guidelines for report writing. Please note that use Wikipedia as a cited reference is NOT permitted.

Grading Criteria

Discussion Question and Responses Grading Rubric:

There are 13 total discussion questions. Each is worth a total of 20 points, with 8 points earned for providing substantive responses to at least 2 fellow classmates for EACH discussion question. The 12 points allocated for your discussion post can be earned by meeting the following criteria:

- Responsiveness to the Discussion Question 3
- Content Knowledge 3
- Writing Quality 3
- Contribution Made to the Discussion 3

3= Exceeds Expectations
2= Meets Expectations
1= Does Not Meet Expectations

Brochure Grading Rubric:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Clearly Identified a Victim type for the brochure</th>
<th>Maximum Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Accurately identified your state’s victim’s rights in your brochure</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provided at least five (5) community resources offering help for the victim type you’ve chosen and</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
presented the information in a clear and easy to understand language.

Included contact information for the resources listed
Such as websites, email addresses, contact numbers 5

Provided a maximum of three (3) graphics in the brochure 5

Wrote in a clear and professional manner; demonstrated
Ethical scholarship, displayed accurate spelling, grammar,
And punctuation 6

Total = 40

**Final Project Grading Rubric:**

Your Final Project is graded on a 100-point scale and is worth 25% of your final grade. There will be four categories considered when grading your paper:

1. Scholarly Content and Responsiveness to the Posed Question.
2. Content Knowledge: Does the content demonstrate an understanding of the pertinent facts and issues.
3. Writing Quality: Does the writing demonstrate college-level writing expectations? Does it exceed expectations or does the writing fall below expectation? Does the paper demonstrate strong writing mechanics?
4. Professional Style, Research, and Scholarship: Is the research current (within the last 5 years)? Is APA form and style consistently used correctly?

Each category will be evaluated as:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Score</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exceeds Expectations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meets the Standard Expectation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Falls Below Expectation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Falls Far Below Expectations</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Categories 1, 2 and 3 above can earn 20 points each. The category for Professional Style, Research, and Scholarship, is worth 40 points and will be evaluated as:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exceeds Expectations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meets the Standard Expectation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Falls Below Expectation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Falls Far Below Expectations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assignment</td>
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<tr>
<td>---------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation in Weekly Discussions (13 questions total--20 pts total: 12 for discussion post and 8 for responses to others)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brochure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Project</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total:</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Course Grading Scale**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Points Earned</th>
<th>Percentage Grade</th>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>380-400</td>
<td>95-100%</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>360-379</td>
<td>90-94%</td>
<td>A-</td>
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<tr>
<td>348-359</td>
<td>87-89%</td>
<td>B+</td>
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<tr>
<td>332-347</td>
<td>83-86%</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>320-331</td>
<td>80-82%</td>
<td>B-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>308-319</td>
<td>77-79%</td>
<td>C+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>292-307</td>
<td>73-76%</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>280-291</td>
<td>70-72%</td>
<td>C-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>240-279</td>
<td>60-69%</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt;239</td>
<td>≤59%</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
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**Feedback Schedule:**

The Instructor will log into the course Daily to evaluate and respond to class Discussions. Unless there is a specific question, your Instructor will not respond to every posting from each student; however, the expectation is that the Instructor will respond individually to at least two-thirds of the students each week. The Instructor will read every posting and expects all students to read every posting, including the Instructor’s postings and classmates’ postings. Frequently, the Instructor will choose to respond to a particular posting because that posting covers important issues.

The Instructor will respond to any specific course-related questions or concerns within 48 hours of receiving them in an e-mail or in a course posting. Questions related to the course and assignments should be posted in the **Questions for the Instructor** area so that all class members benefit from the Instructor’s response. If the question is of a more personal nature, please email me directly at the email address provided above.
Grades will be posted by Wednesday of the following week. Any delays in returning grades will be noted in the Course Announcements. The grades for the Final Project will be posted within 1 week of the final day of session.

**Preferred Methods for Delivering Assignments**

**Submitting Course Postings to the Weekly Discussion Areas:**
Be sure that you post to the correct Discussion area in each assigned week. Do not e-mail postings to the Instructor. For all initial Discussion postings, make sure that the first sentence of your posting reads “Main Question Post.” For your responses to others’ response postings, make sure that the first sentence of your response reads “Response.” These actions will ensure easily identifiable subject lines for your postings and responses. Be sure to copy and paste your work directly into the discussion box. **Do not provide a link only to your document.**

**Submitting the Week 3 Brochure Assignment:**
In Week 4 on June 15, 2012, you will be required to submit a Brochure aimed at assisting victims of violent crimes. See further assignment requirements listed under Week 4. You will need to submit the completed brochure to the Dropbox. Be sure to name the assignment “Brochure + last name + first initial.” For example, Jane Smith’s Brochure assignment would be named “BrochureSmithJ.” Please be sure that the Brochure is saved and submitted as “.doc”, “.docx”, or “.rtf” files.

**Submitting the Final Project:**
The Final Project is submitted to the Dropbox. Submit your Final Project to the Dropbox by June 20, 2012 by 11:59pm EDT. Save your Final Project as a “.doc”, “.docx” or “.rtf” file with the filename **Final + last name + your first initial.** For example, Jane Smith’s Final project filename would be “FinalSmithJ”.

**E-Mailing Your Instructor**
When e-mailing the Instructor, please use the following heading for your e-mail subject line: **last name + your first initial.** This will help to ensure speedy response to your email.

**Late Penalty**
**Discussion Postings:**
No credit will be given for Discussion postings made after the week in which they are due unless prior arrangements are made with the Instructor. Exceptions will be made only for those rare situations that legitimately prevent a student from posting on time. Not having computer access will not be considered a legitimate excuse.

Two points will be deducted for **each day** the discussion post is late.

**Brochure Assignment:**
A late penalty of 2 points per day will be applied to the Brochure assignment.
Final Project:
The Final Project must have a time stamp no later than 11:59 p.m. EDT on June 20, 2012. Failure to meet the deadline without prior approval will result in a 3-point deduction per day. Any Final Project submitted after June 22, 2012 (the final day of the course) will receive 0 points. No Final Project will be accepted after the last day of the session unless prior approval is obtained. Requests for extensions MUST be made in writing no later than June 10, 2012.

Weekly Course Schedule

Week 1:

Assigned Readings:

- Chapter 1 from Bartol & Bartol

Due Date: May 21, 2012:

**Assignment #1: Personal Autobiography:** Please introduce yourself to the class. Indicate your hometown, major, career goals, and current year in school. 
*This assignment is required but is not included in the grading scale.*

Due Date: May 22, 2012: Responses to others due by May 24, 2012:

**Assignment #2: Discussion Question A:** Briefly describe an important event in the history of forensic psychology and explain how that event contributed to the evolving field of forensic psychology. Be specific and provide examples.

Due Date: May 23, 2012: Responses to others due by May 25, 2012:
Assignment #3: Discussion Question B: Review the links provided above pertaining to APA Guidelines. Post a description of an ethical conflict or dilemma that relates to the ethical code/guidelines for psychologists and forensic psychology professionals. Explain the ethical conflict and how it might be resolved. Be specific and provide examples. Be sure to note which code(s) or guideline(s) pertains to your conflict/dilemma.

Due Date May 25, 2012: Responses to others due by May 26, 2012:

Assignment #4: Discussion Question C: Take another look at the Section in Chapter 1 on Careers in Psychology and the educational and training requirements in Forensic Psychology. Discuss the challenges you can foresee in the future should you decide to pursue a career in this field. Knowing these challenges exist, what kinds of steps can you possibly take to help minimize potential issues along the way?

Week 2:

Assign Readings:

- Chapter 3 of Bartol and Bartol (2008)
- Chapter 4 of Bartol & Bartol (2008) pages 142-147 on The Assessment of Risk

Due Date: May 28, 2012: Responses to others due by May 30, 2012:

Assignment #1: Discussion Question A: Briefly discuss a few of the common controversies surrounding criminal profiling? Why is validity of the information/research on which the criminal profile is based important? What are the positives/benefits of criminal profiling as a tool in forensic psychology? Also, discuss the limitations and possible liabilities when using criminal profiling as a tool? Consider the strengths and weaknesses you noted in your discussion. Do you think that, given these factors, criminal profiling should be considered for use in the field of forensic psychology? Why or why not?

Due Date: May 30, 2012: Responses to others due by June 1, 2012:
Assignment #2: Discussion Question B1: Briefly discuss the concept of psychological autopsies. What are the basic types of psychological autopsies? In what ways are the psychological autopsy different from the criminal profile?

Due Date May 31, 2012: Responses to others due by June 2, 2012:

Assignment #3: Discussion Question C: Briefly discuss the pros and cons associated with using actuarial instruments in forensic assessment.

Week 3:

Assigned Readings:

- FindLaw: Rights of Inmates
  http://public.findlaw.com/civil-rights/more-civil-rights-topics/institutionalized-persons-discrimination-more/le5_6rights.html

- Chapter 4 Bartol & Bartol on Expert Testimony pgs 132-141

- Chapter 5 Bartol & Bartol pgs 150-175

- Chapter 12 Bartol & Bartol


Due Date June 5, 2012: Responses to others due by June 7, 2012:

Assignment #1: Discussion Question A: Briefly discuss the significance of FOUR (4) of the following landmark cases on Forensic Psychology: Daubert v. Merrill Dow Pharmaceuticals; Jenkins v. United States; Frye v. U.S.; Jaffe v. Redmond; Tarasoff; Barefoot v. Estelle; Kumho Tire Co. v. Carmichael; U.S. v Salerno; Jackson, v. Indiana; Sell, v. U.S.; Lockett v. Ohio; Roper v. Simmons; Ford, v. Wainwright; Furman v. Georgia; In re Gault.

Due Date June 7, 2012: Responses to others due by June 8, 2012:

Assignment #2: Discussion Question B: Briefly discuss each of the following terms: Competency, Insanity, and Guilty But Mentally Ill. Note similarities and differences. What role does the forensic psychology professional play in the evaluation of each?

Due Date June 8, 2012: Responses to others due by June 10, 2012:
Assignment #3: Discussion Question C: Post your thoughts about whether you think inmates should have the legal rights they are granted and whether they deserve ethical treatment as defined in the American Association for Correctional and Forensic Psychology (AACFP) standards and the Specialty Guidelines for Forensic Psychologists and why or why not. Justify your position referencing the legal rights and ethical standards.

Week 4: Brochure

Assigned Readings:

- Chapters 10 & 11 in Bartol & Bartol (2008)
- HERS; Speaking of the Unspeakable
  
Due Date: June 12, 2012: Responses to others due by June 14, 2012:

Assignment #1: Discussion Question A: Read the article, “HERS; Speaking of the unspeakable,” written by Alice Sebold. The citation and link are provided under the list of articles near the beginning of your syllabus. The article provides a vivid account of a woman who was sexually assaulted and the impact the event had on her life. I ask that you read this article with caution, as some of the details are graphic, and that you do so with respect and professionalism.

After reading the article, please post a discussion of your reflections on this article. Be sure to remark on at least 2 examples of ignorance about rape, as defined by the author. Consider and discuss how you have experienced specific examples in the media. Explore examples of how the media has both positively and negatively contributed societies understanding of rape and victims of rape. **Be sure to remove your own personal biases during the discussion.

Due Date June 14, 2012: Responses to others due by June 16, 2012:

Assignment #2: Discussion Question B: Choose ONE (1) of the following questions to discuss in the classroom:

2.) List and discuss four (4) rights granted to victims as a result of the victim’s rights movement.
3.) List and discuss at least three (3) common psychological effects/symptoms of crime on victims and how they may impact lifestyle.
4.) What role(s) do forensic psychologists play in treating or dealing with victims of (a) adult sexual assault; (b) child sexual abuse/child abuse; and (c) criminal homicide?
5.) Why is the term battered woman syndrome controversial?
6.) List and three (3) psychological assessment tools used to assess symptoms of PTSD. Note reliability, validity, strengths and weaknesses.
7.) What are the key psychological features of Munchausen’s syndrome by proxy?
8.) Briefly describe maternal infanticide. Consider the Andrea Yates case as one example. There are many other famous examples for you to explore. Present ONE famous (or not so famous) example.

***When providing feedback to your fellow classmates, respond back to someone who chose a different question than you did. In other words, do not respond to someone who picked the same question to discuss as you did.

Due Date: June 15, 2012:

**Brochure:** You will be required to submit a Brochure aimed at assisting victims of violent crimes. Choose a particular type of victim population to target specifically with your brochure. Clearly indicate the target population by explaining what it means to be a victim of the indicated crime. Use the internet to explore victim laws and rights within your HOME state/country and include this information in your brochure. Include no less than 5 community resources that the victim can reach out to for help. Be sure to include the services offered by the community resources, the address, phone, and website. Be sure to include additional information that you believe might be beneficial for the victim, such as support groups specifically aimed at that victim population. You may include graphics but limit this to include NO MORE than 3 in your brochure.

Create your brochure as a two- to three-page Word document or use the formatting tools to create a tri-folded document, just like an actual brochure.

**Week 5: Final Project**

**Assigned Readings:**

- Chapters 6 and 13 Bartol & Bartol

Due Date June 18, 2012: Responses to others due by June 21, 2012: Chose ONE of the following Questions to Discuss

**Assignment #1: Discussion Question A1:** Consider the role of Forensic Psychology professionals in custody evaluations. Identify at least three (3) findings noted in the literature on custody evaluations and the effects of custody arrangements on juveniles.

OR

**Discussion Question A2:** Compare and contrast the information provided in the assigned reading on Homebuilders, FFT, Paint Creek, ART, and MST. Consider target population, treatment modalities (approaches), and evaluations.
Due Date June 20, 2012: Assignment #2: FINAL PROJECT:

Final Project: Your textbook identifies five (5) subspecialties in Forensic Psychology. Choose ONE subspecialty of interest to discuss in greater detail and demonstrate your knowledge of the concept in a research paper. The paper should be NO LONGER than 10 pages, which includes the title page, Abstract, and reference page. In addition to your textbook, you should incorporate and cite approximately 6-8 additional scholarly references in your final paper. Scholarly references include journals, books, and text books. You may cite NO MORE THAN ONE website. Websites should be limited to those ending in .gov, .edu, and .org. Be sure to adhere to 6th Edition APA Guidelines for report writing. Please note that use Wikipedia as a cited reference is NOT permitted.

Due Date: June 21, 2012: Responses to others due June 22, 2012:

Assignment #3: Discussion Question B: Briefly tell your fellow classmates (1-2 pages TOPS) about your final paper topic. Discuss why you chose the topic you did and tell us about one fact or concept that you found to be particularly interesting.