

**Shepherd University**  
**Psychology 399, Section 1: Forensic Psychology**

Spring, 2010  
White Hall, Room 306  
Wednesday, 6:00-8:40

Instructor: Scott Carter, M.S. Adjunct Office, Second Floor of White Hall  
Office Hours: 5:30-6:00 before class, or by appointment

Grading: 2 Quizzes, 20 points each  
1 Mid Term, 50 points  
1 Final, 50 points  
1 Group Presentation, 60 points  
1 Group Paper, 30 points  
Class Participation 20 points  
TOTAL = 250 points

A = 90%, B = 80 %, C = 70 %, D = 60 %

**Required Text:**

Fradella, H.F. (2008). *Forensic Psychology*: Mason, Ohio: Cengage Learning .

**Course Objectives:**

This course is designed to a) increase students' knowledge and understanding of the interaction of law and the study and practice of psychology b) to show students how their knowledge of psychology and the law can be applied to their daily lives and experiences and their understanding of themselves and others; c) to help students develop critical thinking skills as well as improve their reading, writing and presentation skills.

**Format and Procedures:**

Each class will include a lecture and a group exercise. Time during each class will be devoted to clarifying any concerns students may have regarding course material or assignments. Student participation will be appreciated and expected.

**Course Requirements:**

**1.** Class attendance and participation policy: Class attendance will be tracked throughout the semester. Poor attendance will affect a student's grade as it will significantly reduce credit for class participation.

Quizzes or exams may not be made up without a very dire circumstance (i.e., a death in the *immediate* family). If make ups do occur, they will occur in my presence or in the presence of another faculty or staff person. In the case that you do need to miss a quiz or exam, you are expected to contact me by phone or email and inform me of the situation before the day of the quiz/exam. If you do not do so, you will not be able to make up the exam. This policy applies to illness also. If you cannot contact me yourself, have a roommate or family member do so.

Additionally, I will require documentation that you visited the student health center, your doctor, or the emergency room.

Should a student miss a class for any reason, excused or unexcused, he or she is responsible for the materials used during that class, including announcements and assignments. Students should contact another student or the instructor to determine what materials were missed.

## 2. Course readings:

Each student is responsible for reading the relevant material from the text prior to the class during which it is to be discussed. Class discussions will include material covered in the text. Both quizzes will be based solely on the text.

## 3. Assignments:

- 2 Quizzes consisting of 20 multiple choice questions based on the material covered in the text
- One mid term exam consisting of a combination of multiple choice and short answer questions; this exam will cover material included in both the text and lecture.
- One group presentation to cover an area of forensic psychology that interests you. More instructions regarding the presentations will be made available early in the course.
- One research paper, 6-8 pages each, will be turned-in by each group. The topic of the paper will be based upon the topic that your group chose for your presentation; ***it must be submitted in proper APA format and must include citations.*** Again, more information regarding the paper will be provided early on in the course.
- The final exam will consist of a combination of multiple choice and short answer questions, and will include material covered from the mid-term until the end of the course.

## Academic Integrity

Each student in this course is expected to abide by the Shepherd University Code of Academic Integrity Procedures found in the Shepherd University Student Handbook. Any work submitted by a student in this course for academic credit will be the student's own work, with notable exceptions for collaborative work pertaining to the group presentations and group paper

You are encouraged to study together and to discuss information and concepts covered in lecture and the sections with other students. You can give "consulting" help to or receive "consulting" help from such students. However, this permissible cooperation should never involve one student having possession of a copy of all or part of work done by someone else, in the form of an e mail, an e mail attachment file, thumb drive, or a hard copy.

Should copying occur, both the student who copied work from another student and the student who gave material to be copied will both automatically receive a zero for the assignment. Penalty for violation of this Code can also be extended to include failure of the course and University disciplinary action.

During examinations, you must do your own work. Talking or discussion is not permitted during the examinations, nor may you compare papers, copy from others, or collaborate in any way. Any collaborative behavior during the examinations will result in failure of the exam, and may lead to failure of the course and University disciplinary action.

**Late Assignments Policy:**

Late assignments will not be accepted unless the student can provide documentation of an emergency preventing them from submitting work on time. The instructor will reserve the right to deny the request.

**Shepherd Plagiarism Policy:**

Any sources utilized in-part or in their entirety during the process of completing course assignments must be cited; plagiarism will not be tolerated. Please refer to the “Academic Procedures” in the Academic Freedom and Responsibility section of *The Student Handbook* for further information.

**Shepherd Athlete Policy:**

Students must contact the instructor with intent to miss the class no later than 24 hours before the appointed weekly class time; or within 24 hours after the missed class in order for a makeup exam to be applicable.

**Accommodations for students with disabilities**

If you are a student with a documented disability, requests for academic accommodation are to be made within the first three weeks of the semester, except for unusual circumstances, so arrangements can be made. Students are encouraged to register with Disability Support Services to verify their eligibility for appropriate accommodations.

**Tentative Course Schedule**

Topics/Assignments Due	Readings for next class
<b>January 13</b> Course Introduction	Fradella, Chapters 1 and 2
<b>January 20</b> Law, Social Control and the Medicalization of Deviance	Fradella, Chapter 3
<b>January 27</b> Forensic Clinical Assessment	Fradella, Chapter 4
<b>February 3</b> Competency to Stand Trial <i>First Quiz, In Class</i>	Fradella, Chapters 5
<b>February 10</b> Other Criminal Competencies	Fradella, Chapter 6
<b>February 17</b> Insanity Defense	Fradella, Chapter 7
<b>February 24</b> Diminished Capacity, etc.	Fradella, Chapter 8
<b>March 3</b> Civil Commitment <i>Mid Term Exam In Class</i>	Fradella, Chapter 9

<b>March 10</b> Civil Competencies	Fradella, Chapter 10
<b>March 24</b> Legal Rights and Responsibilities in Forensic Psychology	Fradella, Chapter 12
<b>March 31</b> Interrogations and Confessions	Fradella, Chapter 14
<b>April 7</b> The Psychology of Sentencing <i>Second Quiz In Class</i>	Fradella, Chapter 15
<b>April 14</b> Correctional Psychology	Prep for Group Presentations
<b>April 21</b> Group Presentations	
<b>April 28</b> Group Presentations	
<b>May 5</b> <i>Final Exam, In Class</i> <i>Group Papers Due</i>	

**CONDUCT & INTEGRITY:** Students and the instructor are expected to interact with each other maturely and respectfully. Students are expected to do their own work (i.e. no sharing written assignments, cheating during quizzes and exams, turning in work that is not their own, etc.) and follow university policies and procedures regarding academic integrity. Students who do not do their own work will fail the course if they are caught and can be subject to more severe university discipline including expulsion.

**FINAL PROVISIO:** Dates and policies are subject to change by the instructor. Changes will be announced in class.