

**Course Syllabus – Fall 2008**  
**Psychology 399, Section 3 – Forensic Psychology**  
**White Hall 106--Wednesdays—6:00 PM to 8:40 PM**

**Professor:** Donald Patchell, Psy. D., M.A., Ed.M., M.A.T.  
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**Office:** Adjunct Office, Second Floor of White Hall  
**Office Hours:** 5:30 Every Wednesday or By Appointment  
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**Text:** Fredella, 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.

| <u>Week</u> | <u>Date</u> | <u>Topic</u>                                 | <u>Assignment</u> |
|-------------|-------------|--|-------------------|
| 1           | W 8/20      | Course Introduction/Overview                 | Chapter 1         |
| 2           | W 8/27      | Law, Social Control, Deviance Medicalization | Chapter 2         |
| 3           | W 9/3       | Assessment                                   | Chapter 3         |
| 4           | W 9/10      | Competency to Stand Trial                    | Chapter 4         |
| 5           | W 9/17      | Other Competencies                           | Chapter 5         |
| 6           | W 9/24      | Insanity Defense                             | Chapter 6         |
| 7           | W 10/1      | Diminished Capacity                          | Chapter 7         |
| 8           | W 10/8      | Civil Commitment                             | Chapter 8         |
| 9           | W 10/15     | Civil Competencies                           | Chapter 9         |
| 10          | W 10/22     | Legal Rights and Responsibilities            | Chapter 10        |
| 11          | W 10/29     | Police Psychology                            | Chapter 11        |
| 12          | W 11/5      | Identification/Eyewitness Testimony          | Chapter 12        |
| 13          | W 11/12     | Psychology and Juries                        | Chapter 13        |
| 14          | W 11/19     | The Psychology of Sentencing                 | Chapter 14        |

| <u>Week</u> | <u>Date</u> | <u>Topic</u>            | <u>Assignment</u> |
|-------------|-------------|-------------------------|-------------------|
| 15          | W 11/26     | Thanksgiving Break      |                   |
| 16          | W 12/3      | Correctional Psychology | Chapter 15        |
| 17          | W 12/10     | Cumulative Final Exam   | All Chapters      |

**Chapters and dates listed above are subject to change at the discretion of the instructor.**

**WEB CONTENT:** There will be essential course material posted on the university's Sakai CLE website. Students are required to read this material. There will be quiz and exam questions based in whole or in part on the material. These materials can be accessed at: <http://courses.shepherd.edu/xsl-portal>.

**OFFICE HOURS:** My ability to provide traditional office hours are limited, and competing professional responsibilities restrict my ability to be on campus outside of class night. I will try to get to campus at or before 5:30 and we can meet in the adjunct cubicle area. With enough notice, we can try to arrange something more private, such as a meeting room in the library. You may also feel free to contact me by email or telephone. If you do email me, please be sure to email me from a Shepherd account. That way I can be sure I am communicating with you and not someone pretending to be you. If you call me at home, please be sure to call me before 8:30 PM as I have small children.

**GRADES:** Course grades will be based on weekly quizzes, a presentation, class attendance and participation, and a cumulative final exam. Presentations will be worth 25% of your grade. Individuals maintaining an A average will have the option of not taking the final.

**Quizzes:** Quizzes will cover all materials presented the previous week, including the lecture, lecture powerpoint, textbook, assigned readings, class presentations, and supplemental materials used, if any, such as material from videos and material posted online. Quizzes will mainly be short answer and essay but may involve some multiple-choice and other formats. Class attendance and participation is highly valued and missed quizzes may not be made up without a compellingly good reason.

**Presentations:** Class presentations will be group projects involving three people at the most. Presentations will cover a controversial area of forensic psychology such as sex offender risk assessment or lie detection, and problems inherent in these areas, such as reliability and validity of assessment measures used. More instructions regarding the presentations will be made available early in the course.

**Attendance:** Class attendance will be graded. Poor attendance may result in the final grade being reduced a letter grade, and, as noted previously, weekly quizzes may not be made up without a convincing reason. 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.

**Class Participation:** I have found that most students regard class participation and attendance as the same thing. It is not. I realize that different people have different comfort levels with talking in a class this size. However, class is far more interesting when people do talk. Class participation is important and will factor into your grade in that if you are within a few points of a higher grade at the end of the

semester and I remember your name and that you participated, it may be enough for me to bump your grade up to the next highest grade level. **Texting during class may count against your grade.**

**Final Exam:** The final exam will be cumulative and cover all material presented over the course of the semester. As with the quizzes, the final exam will be mainly comprised of short answer and essay questions but may involve some multiple-choice and other formats.

**QUIZZES MAKE-UPS:** For reasons noted above in office hours, there will be no ability to make up quizzes unless there is some truly exceptional 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, you are expected to contact me by phone or email and inform me of the situation before the 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.

**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.