

# **PSY 383: Psychology & The Law Summer 2008**

**Instructor:** Dr. Jeffrey S. Anastasi  
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**Class Time:** Daily 8:00-9:50 AM  
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## **Course Overview:**

This course will provide each student with a general understanding of the role of psychological research and processes in the legal system. The recognition of the importance of psychology in the legal system has led legal professionals to become increasingly interested in psychology as a science as well as its potential applications for the legal system. This course should provide students with a basic understanding of theoretical explanations of psychological processes, the importance of empirical evidence, and gain an appreciation of the practical applications of psychological research as they can be applied to forensic areas.

We will be discussing a vast amount of information in this course which cannot possibly be covered solely by lecture within a single semester. Therefore, it is important to recognize that you will be tested on information from both lectures and the textbook *which may not overlap*. In other words, you will not be “spoon fed” the information from the textbook. It is important that you **study** your reading assignment **PRIOR** to coming to class each day as this will help you in many ways such as aiding note taking, understanding lecture material, participating in class, and doing well on the exams, unannounced quizzes, and in-class exercises. I expect you to complete the assigned work in a conscientious manner and you should expect to receive the grade that you earn.

## **Grading:**

Mastery of the lecture and text materials will be evaluated using 2 in-class examinations. Each exam will make up 40% of your grade. The remaining 20% of your grade in this class will be based on periodic, unannounced quizzes, homework, and in-class assignments. Although class participation is not part of your grade, I expect each student to participate in class discussions by asking relevant questions or engaging in debates/discussions. My goal is for you to help guide the specific issues that we discuss in class.

Grades in this class will be based on the following scale:

<b>Class Average:</b>	Above 89.4	89.4 - 79.5	79.4 - 69.5	69.4 - 59.5	Below 59.5
<b>Grade:</b>	A	B	C	D	F

## **Required Textbook:**

- Greene, Heilbrun, Fortune, & Nietzel. (2007). *Wrightsmen's Psychology and the Legal System* (6<sup>th</sup> Ed.). Belmont, CA: Thomson Higher Education.

**Attendance Policy:**

Regular and punctual attendance is expected for this course. Although no course points are linked to class attendance, you must be in attendance to hand in assignments, participate in in-class assignments, or take exams. In-class activities are *only* provided during class, and thus *cannot* be made up at a later time. Although you will not automatically fail this course due to excessive absences nor will you be automatically dropped for excessive absences, failure to attend class will decrease your grade for each assignment missed. Further, information covered in class will be included in exams. Poor attendance often highly correlated with lower grades, so you are strongly encouraged to attend class regularly. If you must be absent, **be sure to arrange for a peer to obtain handouts and/or notes for you.** They will not be available from me except on the date initially provided.

**Academic Dishonesty:**

All students are expected to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action (Code of Student Conduct and Discipline, Section 5.3, as printed in Student Guidelines). The university and its official representatives, acting in accordance with Subsection 5.32, may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work which is to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of resource materials.

- **Cheating** includes:
  - Copying from another student's exam, assignment, or computer files, data listings, and/or programs.
  - Using materials not authorized by the instructor during an exam or other assignment.
  - Collaborating with another student for any assignment or exam without authorization from the instructor.
  - Using, transporting, or possessing, in whole or in part, contents of an unadministered test.
  - Substituting for another student, or permitting another student to substitute for oneself, to take an exam or complete any assignment.
  - Submitting as one's own work any assignment prepared by another individual or firm.
- **Plagiarism** means the appropriation of another's work or idea and the unacknowledged incorporation of that work or idea into one's own work offered for credit. If you would like to use someone else's ideas, summarize their work *USING YOUR OWN WORDS* and then *CITE THEIR WORK* using the accepted American Psychological Association's (APA) Guidelines.
- **Collusion** means the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing work offered for credit.

**Classroom Rules of Conduct:**

According to Section 5 of the Student Handbook, students are expected to assist in maintaining a classroom environment that is conducive to learning. Disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. Students who are disruptive to the class may be dismissed from the classroom for inappropriate behavior and will not be allowed to hand in any assignments due for the remainder of that class. Additionally, students may be withdrawn from the course for repeated disruptive behavior.

**Religious Holy Days:**

Students have the responsibility of notifying the professor of each scheduled class day that the student will be absent due to a religious holy day. Students who are absent from class for observance of a religious holy day will be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment scheduled for that day within one week of returning to class. However, any in-class assignments cannot be made up, but will not count against their other assignment average since the one lowest assignment grade will be dropped.

**Notice to Persons with Disabilities:**

It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that no individuals otherwise qualified shall, solely by reason of their disability, be excluded from the participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any academic program activity. Students with a disability that may affect their academic performance are expected to arrange for a conference with the instructor as soon as possible. This is done so that appropriate strategies can be considered to ensure participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired since there will be no retroactive accommodation. Furthermore, accommodations will be made only to those people who have documented the disability with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Office in the Student Counseling Center (phone: 936-294-1720).

## Class Schedule

<u>Class Date:</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Reading Assignment</u>
7/8 (Tues.)	.....Introduction to the Course .....	<i>none</i>
7/9 (Wed.)	.....Psychology & The Law .....	Chapter 1
7/10 (Thurs.)	.....The Legal System and Its Players.....	Chapter 2
7/11 (Fri.)	.....Psychology of Crime.....	Chapter 3
7/14 (Mon.)	.....Psychology of Police .....	Chapter 4
7/15 (Tues.)	.....Crime Investigation: Witnesses .....	Chapter 5
7/16 (Wed.)	.....Crime Investigation: Witnesses .....	Chapter 5
7/17 (Thurs.)	.....Crime Investigation: Witnesses .....	Chapter 5
7/18 (Fri.)	.....Crime Investigation: Witnesses .....	Chapter 5
7/21 (Mon.)	.....Crime Investigation: Witnesses .....	Chapter 5
7/22 (Tues.)	.....Identification and Evaluation of Criminal Suspects .....	Chapter 6
7/23 (Wed.)	.....Identification and Evaluation of Criminal Suspects .....	Chapter 6
7/24 (Thurs.)	..... <b>EXAM #1</b>	
7/25 (Fri.)	..... <b>NO CLASS</b>	
7/28 (Mon.)	.....Children, Adolescents, and the Law .....	Chapter 14
7/29 (Tues.)	.....Children, Adolescents, and the Law .....	Chapter 14
7/30 (Wed.)	.....Forensic Assessment in Criminal Cases .....	Chapter 8
7/31 (Thurs.)	.....Forensic Assessment in Civil Cases .....	Chapter 9
8/1 (Fri.)	..... <b>NO CLASS</b>	
8/4 (Mon.)	.....The Trial Process .....	Chapter 10
8/5 (Tues.)	.....Jury Representativeness and Selection .....	Chapter 11
8/6 (Wed.)	.....Punishment, Sentencing, and Corrections .....	Chapter 15
8/7 (Thurs.)	..... <b>EXAM #2</b>	