

CJ 694: Special Topics—Law & Psychology



Summer Session II, 2008

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**Mon., Wed. 6:00p-10:00p TUC
213**

I. Office

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II. Course Description

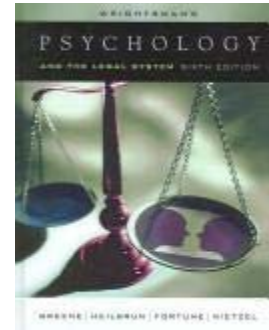
We will a selection of the more salient issues that lie at the intersection of social science in law more generally and psychology and the criminal justice system more specifically.

A. Course Objectives

1. The student will gain an understanding of the tensions between legal and tensions between legal and social scientific epistemologies and methodologies.
2. The student will gain a general understanding of the key issues at the junction of psychology and the criminal justice system.
3. The student will be able to analyze the relative contribution of social scientific findings to the legal system.

B. Required Readings:

Greene, E., Heilbrun, K., Fortune, W. J., & Nietzel, M. T. (2007). Wrightsman's Psychology and the Legal System (6th ed.). Belmont, CA: Thomson/Wadsworth.



III. Expectations of Students

A. Attendance

The attendance policy for this and other courses is described in the Graduate Catalogue. Excessive absences (more than two class periods) or tardies may result in a reduction of the final grade.

1. Absence on Religious Holy Days Policy

Students will be excused from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. A student whose absence is excused under this policy will not be penalized for the absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence.

A student desiring to absent himself/herself from a scheduled class in order to observe (a) religious holy day(s) shall present to each instructor involved a written statement concerning the religious holy day(s). The request must be made in the first fifteen days of the semester or the first seven days of a summer session in which the absence(s) will occur. The instructor will complete a form notifying the student of a reasonable timeframe in which the missed assignments and/or examinations are to be completed.

B. Readings

Students are expected to have read the assigned readings prior to each class.

C. Class participation

Students will be called on in class to provide feedback regarding topics under consideration.

D. Academic honesty

The faculty of the College of Criminal Justice expect students to conduct their academic work with integrity and honesty. Acts of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated and can result in the failure of a course and dismissal from the University.

Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating on a test, plagiarism, collusion--the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing work offered for credit, the abuse of resource materials, and misrepresentation of credentials or accomplishments as a member of the college.

The University's policy on academic policy and appeal procedures can be found in § 5.3 of the *Student Guidelines*, distributed by the Division of Student Services.

E. Miscellaneous

Students should keep distractions to a minimum (e.g., cell phones and pagers on vibrate mode, avoid noisy food, etc.).

F. Policy for Students with Disabilities

It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that no otherwise qualified student with a disability shall, solely by reason of that disability, be excluded from the participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any academic program or activity. Students with a disability which affects their academic performance are expected to arrange for a conference with the instructor in order that appropriate strategies can be considered to ensure that participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired. A listing of services available to such students can be found on the web at: <http://www.shsu.edu/~counsel/sswd.html>

IV. Student Evaluations

Three products will count equally toward your final grade, namely, two exams (short answer, and essay; make ups for the first two will be offered during final exam week) and a group presentation. The group presentations will be organized thematically around: (a) juries, (b) youthful offenders and the law, and (c) punishment, sentencing, and corrections. The group presentations should cover the material from the chapters and go into more detail on specific topics agreed to in advance.

Tentative Class Schedule

<u>CLASS</u>	<u>READING</u>	<u>TOPIC</u>
7-9	None	Introduction/Course Overview
7-14	Chapters 1, 3, and 6	Psychological approaches to crime and the identification of criminals
7-16	Chapters 2, 7, 10, and 15	The contribution of social science throughout the criminal process
7-21	Chapters 8, 9, & 13	Forensic assessment of parties in dispute
7-23	Chapters 4 & 5	Forensic assessment of other parties
7-28	None	<u>Exam I</u>
7-30	None	Capstone presentation/Group pres. prep.
8-4	None	Group Presentations
8-6	None	Catch up/wrap up/ <u>Final Exam</u>