

**Forensic Psychology
Rutgers University
Summer semester 2020**

Instructor: Dr. Marina Gelfand

gelfanma@scarletmail.rutgers.edu

848-445-1993

Office hours on Zoom by appointment

Materials Required

You will need the following book for this course:

Wrightsman's Psychology and the Legal System, 8th or 9th editions

by Edie Greene and Kirk Heilbrun

SBN-13: 978-1337570879

ISBN-10: 1337570877

There will other articles or book chapters assigned – these links will be posted on Canvas.

Readings and/or videos will be assigned every week. All content, including additional readings and videos, will appear on quizzes and exams.

Prerequisites

General Psychology, 830:101 or equivalent

Course description

This course will explore the interface of psychology and the law, with an emphasis on forensic psychology. Forensic psychologists help courts make informed decisions about cases when some aspect of psychology is involved. Landmark legal cases that pertain to psychology will be discussed. Students will explore the various options for careers in the field of forensic psychology. Specific topics covered include eyewitness and expert testimony, psychopathy, repressed memories, profiling, victimization and trauma, competence, the insanity defense, lie detection, juvenile justice, civil commitment, and custody evaluations.

Course objectives:

- Understand what forensic psychologists do
- Identify the major areas of overlap between psychology and the law
- Identify the landmark legal cases that shaped the field of forensic psychology
- Explore career options in the field of forensic psychology, and the education and training required
- Understand eyewitness and expert testimony, psychopathy, criminal profiling, psychology of victimization and trauma, competence and the insanity defense, juvenile justice, civil commitment, and custody evaluations.

- Comprehend ethical principles and dilemmas that arise in areas that involve law and psychology
- Apply course material to real life experiences, both in one's own life and in a broader context
- Understand how media depictions of forensic psychology are similar to and differ from actual practice

Schedule

We will have multiple live Zoom classes. The schedule is posted on Sakai.

Note that some course material is of a sensitive and/or disturbing nature. If you have concerns, please let me know.

Course Policies

Class engagement: When on Zoom, keep your webcams turned on and your microphone on mute unless you're speaking. Participate in the chat. Do not engage in behavior that is distracting to others (talking on the phone, being visibly involved in other activities, coming off mute and disrupting, etc.).

Recording class: Audio or video recording of any part of our Zoom lectures is not permitted without expressed permission from the instructor.

Exams: There will be two exams, and midterm and a final. They will be time-limited and live online during class time.

Grading

The grading breakdown will be as follows:

Midterm – 30%

Final (non-cumulative) – 35%

Quizzes: 10%

Final Paper: 10%

Discussion Forums: 10%

Attendance and participation – 5%

The following grading scale will be used:

90-100% = A

85-89% = B+

80-84% = B

75-79% = C+

70-74% = C

60-69% = D

below 60% = F

Note that grades will NOT be rounded up under any circumstances. An 89.6 is a B+, not an A. There will also be no changing of grades for any reason other than a calculation error - student requests for grade changes due to scholarships, probation, etc. will not be honored under any circumstances in fairness to all students.

Exams

Due to the hybrid nature of the course, there will also be material on the exam not covered in live classes. Some material will be asynchronous – for example, voice-over Powerpoints. Material can be from book chapters or from articles or videos uploaded to Blackboard. I will provide a review sheet before both exams listing what will be covered.

Extra Credit

Extra credit opportunities will be announced during the semester.

Note that extra credit can bump you to the next grade if you are close to the border. However, you will not be able to bridge a substantial gap by extra credit.

Academic Integrity

The consequences of scholastic dishonesty are very serious. Rutgers' academic integrity policy is at <http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/>. Please familiarize yourself with the policy.

Academic integrity means, among other things:

- Develop and write all of your own assignments.
- Show in detail where the materials you use in your papers come from. Create citations whether you are paraphrasing authors or quoting them directly. Be sure always to show source and page number within the assignment and include a bibliography in the back.
- Do not fabricate information or citations in your work.
- Do not facilitate academic dishonesty for another student by allowing your own work to be submitted by others.

If you are in doubt about any issue related to plagiarism or scholastic dishonesty, please contact me.

Rutgers Academic Support Services

Rutgers has a variety of resources for academic support. For more information, check <http://www.rutgers.edu/academics/academic-support>

Rutgers has Learning Centers on each campus where any student can obtain tutoring and other help. For information, check <http://lrc.rutgers.edu/>

Rutgers also has a Writing Center where students can obtain help with writing skills and assignments. Learn more here: <http://wp.rutgers.edu/tutoring/writingcenters>

Rutgers Student Accommodations

The Rutgers Office of Disability Services evaluates students and provides documentation about necessary accommodations. Students who need accommodations in class must do so through the Rutgers Disabilities Services Office. See <https://ods.rutgers.edu/students> for details.

Students with disabilities requesting accommodations can do so here:
<http://disabilityservices.rutgers.edu/request.html>

If you need special accommodations, let me know early in the semester. If you need extra time on exams, you must provide me with a Letter of Accommodation from the disability office to sign at least one week prior to the first exam.

Counseling

College can be an overwhelming time. If you find yourself having a difficult time coping, please refer to <http://rhscaps.rutgers.edu/> where you can see an overview of support services available at Rutgers.

Communication

Before asking a question, read the syllabus thoroughly and look on our course site to see if your question was answered. When emailing, it is helpful to let me know what steps you took to find the answer.

When emailing, always identify that you are in Forensic Psychology and sign with your full name.

Dropping the course

In order to withdraw from a course, it is not sufficient to stop coming to class or taking exams. In accord with university policy, students wishing to withdraw from a course must do so formally through the Registrar's office. It is the student's responsibility to complete all forms. If this is not done, the instructor must assign a grade of F at the end of the semester.

Diversity

Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, disability, age, or any other category covered by law in its admission, programs, activities, or employment matters. The Department of Psychology at Rutgers, New Brunswick is committed to promoting tolerance and respect for differences in the classroom and across campus. Students enrolled in this course are expected and required to treat all students with respect both inside and outside of the classroom.

Studying

Here are some tips to improve your study skills and increase your chances of doing well in the course.

- Form study and homework groups. Discussing material with others is a great way to aid retention.

- Distributed practice: don't cram. The more you space out your studying over a period of time, the more likely you'll be to remember the material.

- Self-testing and evaluation - frequent testing is one of the best ways to learn and retain information. Make sure to take all quizzes.
- Study actively. Make flash cards, write definitions, talk it out.
- Take frequent breaks when studying. People tend to remember the beginning and end of a study session best. Marathon sessions are usually exhausting and hamper long-term recall.
- SLEEP! Make sure to get adequate rest.
- Ask for help early in the semester when there is still enough time to address issues.

Student Wellness Services

Just In Case Web App

<http://codu.co/cee05e>

Access helpful mental health information and resources for yourself or a friend in a mental health crisis on your smartphone or tablet and easily contact CAPS or RUPD.

Counseling, ADAP & Psychiatric Services (CAPS)

(848) 932-7884 / 17 Senior Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08901/ www.rhscaps.rutgers.edu/

CAPS is a University mental health support service that includes counseling, alcohol and other drug assistance, and psychiatric services staffed by a team of professional within Rutgers Health services to support students' efforts to succeed at Rutgers University. CAPS offers a variety of services that include: individual therapy, group therapy and workshops, crisis intervention, referral to specialists in the community and consultation and collaboration with campus partners.

Violence Prevention & Victim Assistance (VPVA)

(848) 932-1181 / 3 Bartlett Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08901 / www.vpva.rutgers.edu/

The Office for Violence Prevention and Victim Assistance provides confidential crisis intervention, counseling and advocacy for victims of sexual and relationship violence and stalking to students, staff and faculty. To reach staff during office hours when the university is open or to reach an advocate after hours, call 848-932-1181.

Disability Services

(848) 445-6800 / Lucy Stone Hall, Suite A145, Livingston Campus, 54 Joyce Kilmer Avenue, Piscataway, NJ 08854 / <https://ods.rutgers.edu/>

Rutgers University welcomes students with disabilities into all of the University's educational programs. In order to receive consideration for reasonable accommodations, a student with a disability must contact the appropriate disability services office at the campus where you are officially enrolled, participate in an intake interview, and provide documentation: <https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/documentation-guidelines>. If the documentation supports your request for reasonable accommodations, your campus's disability services office will provide you with a Letter of Accommodations. Please share this letter with your instructors and discuss the accommodations with them as early in your courses as possible. To begin this process, please complete the Registration form on the ODS web site at: <https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/registration-form>.

Scarlet Listeners

(732) 247-5555 / <http://www.scarletlisteners.com/>

Free and confidential peer counseling and referral hotline, providing a comforting and supportive safe space.

By continuing your enrollment in the course, you are accepting the terms of this syllabus.