



**PSY 339.001: Forensic Psychology
COURSE SYLLABUS: Fall 2013**

Instructor: Shannon D. Akin, M.S., LSSP
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COURSE INFORMATION

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings:

Textbook(s) Required:

Bartol, C. & Bartol, A., (2001). Introduction to Forensic Psychology, Research and Application 3rd Edition

Bartol, C. & Bartol, A., (2008). Current Perspectives in Forensic Psychology and Criminal Behavior

Course Description: This course is designed as an introductory-level course in forensic psychology. As such, we will investigate contemporary roles of forensic psychology, crime from the perpetrator perspectives, victim and community perspectives, as well as the legal system. Multiple psychological domains will be covered including: developmental, behavioral, cognitive, biological and social. Relevant case law will be covered to provide a historical perspective of the increasingly important role of Forensic Psychology in our country.

Student Learning Outcome: Upon completion of this course, the students will gain a factual and conceptual understanding of the contributions of forensic psychology and its role within the community and criminal justice system.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Cell phones and other electronic devices will be turned off during class.

Attendance: Attendance is mandatory. I cover a tremendous amount of information each class meeting, therefore, attendance is **critical** to your performance in this course. Please be in class, on time to class, and remain for the entire class. If you are absent for an excused reason (see student handbook or instructor for detailed explanation of excused absences) you may turn in assignments via email on that date. Assignments and projects that are missed **may not be made up**. Pop quizzes and exams must be taken on the date given. If a student misses an exam, a comprehensive

exam may be taken to “make up” that grade. Upon receiving the 5th unexcused absence, a student will be asked to drop the course, **or will receive a failing grade.** Also, if you are absent from class for any reason, please make arrangements with a classmate to get the notes from that class, and complete the assigned readings for that date. **PLEASE remember that communication with the instructor is the key to taking care of attendance issues.** Texas A&M-Commerce procedures allows for instructors to determine attendance policies. I maintain a record of class absences and require copies of absence excuses. Faculty members are requested to consider the following reasons for absence as excusable: participation in university activities; verified illness, death in a student’s immediate family, obligation of student at legal proceedings, and others determined by the individual faculty to be excusable. Appeals can be made through normal administrative channels.

Instructional / Methods / Activities Assessments

Learning is an active process thus participation in course activities and discussions are integral. I will lecture on the course textbook material, but I strongly encourage you to play an active participant role in these discussions. Individual and/or group projects will be assigned.

Grading

All of the exams might have multiple choice, fill-in-the-blank, true/false, and/or short answer questions. Our chapters schedule us not set in stone and subject to adaptations as the semester progresses. The speed at which chapters are covered will be determined as feedback is evaluated for comprehension of the nuances of each diagnosis/category. **A word of warning:** If you do not **thoroughly study** the chapter after we have discussed it, you will experience significant difficulty in successfully navigating the evaluations and you will certainly not be prepared for the comprehensive final exam. The questions for all exams, including the final, can cover any of the material in the textbook, lectures, movies, and learning activities, regardless of whether the material was specifically discussed in class or not.

Make-up exams will not be given without sufficient cause (medical, legal, or familial).

The final exam is comprehensive, which means that it will test you over every chapter in the textbook that we have discussed in lecture

Grades will be determined by the following:

All exams and the project with a maximum possible 400 points

Daily quizzes and participation with a maximum possible 100 points

Course Letter Grade:	Grade	Performance Requirements
Your course letter grade will be determined by your percent earned of the total points available. Your grade is independent of the other students in the course, and your course letter grade will be assigned as follows:		

Percent of Possible

> 88.5%

A

Well exceeds all course requirements with superior

78.5 - 88.4%	B	academic distinction in all areas Meets course requirements with good performance in most areas
68.5 - 78.4%	C	Meets course requirements with average performance in most areas
59.5 - 68.4%	D	Meets course requirements, but with inadequate performance in some or most areas
< 59.4%	F	Does not meet the course standards and requirements

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

University Specific Procedures:

ADA Statement

Students with Disabilities:

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services

Texas A&M University-Commerce

Gee Library- Room 132

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

Fax (903) 468-8148

StudentDisabilityServices@tamu-commerce.edu

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

Course lecture will be the primary mode of instruction. Chapters will be covered in the order of the text. The following is a general guide:

Lecture 1	Introduction
Lecture 2	Chapter 1 Forensic Psychology
Lecture 3	Chapter 1 Forensic Psychology
Lecture 4	Chapter 2 Police Psychology
Lecture 5	Chapter 3 Investigative Psychology
Lecture 6	Flex Day
	Review
	Exam
Lecture 7	Chapter 4 Consulting & Testifying
Lecture 8	Chapter 4 Consulting & Testifying
Lecture 9	Chapter 5 Consulting with Criminal Courts
Lecture 10	Chapter 5 Consulting with Criminal Courts

Lecture 11	Chapter 6 Consulting with Juvenile and Civil Courts
Lecture 12	Chapter 6 Consulting with Juvenile and Civil Courts
Lecture 13	Flex Day
	Review
	Exam
Lecture 14	Chapter 7 Development of Delinquent and Criminal Behavior
Lecture 15	Chapter 8 Psychology of Violence and Intimidation
Lecture 16	Chapter 8 Psychology of Violence and Intimidation
Lecture 17	Chapter 9 Psychology of Sexual Assault
Lecture 18	Chapter 9 Psychology of Sexual Assault
Lecture 19	Chapter 10 Forensic Psychology and Victims of Crime
Lecture 20	Chapter 11 Family Violence, Abuse, and Victimization
Lecture 21	Chapter 12 Correctional Psychology in Adult Settings
Lecture 22	Chapter 13 Juvenile Corrections
Lecture 23	Flex Day
	Review
	Exam
Lecture 24	Group Presentations
Lecture 25	Group Presentations

FINALS WEEK Comprehensive Final

Final Note:

Student Conduct

“All students enrolled at the university shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment.” (See Student’s Guide Handbook, Policies and Procedures, Conduct