

Ph.D. Program in Criminal Justice  
The City University of New York

CRJ U 710: **PSYCHOLOGY AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE**

Spring 2003

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Office Hours: By appointment

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course is designed to introduce you to the breadth of the field of forensic psychology/law and psychology. It will expose you to an array of contemporary topics in the field, introducing original empirical work, important case law, and ethical and theoretical issues throughout. The course will, most importantly, provide a template for thinking about the criminal justice system and criminal justice issues from a psycholegal perspective.

A final list of topics will be decided upon by the class. Each of you will be assigned a topic and will be responsible for leading a discussion on that topic by producing a series of questions raised about the topic and working through the questions with the class. In addition, case briefs and research reviews will be prepared throughout the semester on selected cases and studies. Finally, a research proposal will be developed that is designed to test empirically the legal assumptions made in a law, statute, or court opinion.

Final grade will be determined by a combination of the In-class Discussions (30 percent), periodic briefs and reviews (20 percent), and research proposal (50 percent).

Course Materials:

Background Textbooks (On reserve):

Wrightsmann, Greene, Nietzel, & Fortune (2002). Psychology and the Legal System (5<sup>th</sup> Edition). Belmont, CA: Wadsworth. [This is an upper level undergraduate text, but provides an excellent overview of many of the topics we will discuss.]

Melton, Gary B., Petrilla, John, Poythress, Norman G., & Slobogin, Christopher, Psychological Evaluation for the Courts: A Handbook for Mental Health Professionals and Lawyers, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition. Guilford Press, 1997. [This text will be on reserve, and is an excellent overview of the forensic mental health issues we will discuss]

Articles (TBA):

Many of the articles we read will come from Law and Human Behavior [hereinafter LHB] and Psychology, Public Policy, and Law [hereinafter PPPL], the two leading peer-reviewed journals for empirical and theoretical articles in law and psychology.

Where possible, I will make articles or web addresses available on Blackboard for assigned readings.

The exact readings will be provided to you after our first class meeting when a final list of topics will be determined.

**DRAFT SYLLABUS - Spring Semester 2003**

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TOPIC</u>	<u>ASSIGNMENT</u>
Thursdays	4:15p - 6:15p	
Jan. 30	<b>INTRODUCTION TO COURSE</b>	
Feb. 6	<b>WHAT IS LAW AND PSYCHOLOGY?</b>	<p><u>Psychology and Law</u> - Chapter 1</p> <p><u>On Reserve:</u>            Ogloff, Beavers, &amp; DeLeon. (1999). Psychology and the law: A shared vision for the 21<sup>st</sup> century. <u>Professional Psychology: Research and Practice</u>, <u>30</u>, 331-332.            Brigham. (1999). What is forensic psychology, anyway? <u>LHB</u>, <u>23</u>, 273-298.            Bersoff, et al. (1997). Training in law and psychology. <u>American Psychologist</u>, <u>52</u>, 1301-1310.</p>
Feb. 13	<b>SOME PRELIMINARY MATTERS: Morality, Legality, and Empiricism</b>	<p><u>Wrightstman, et al.</u>, Ch. 3</p> <p>Original readings from Kohlberg &amp; Gilligan</p> <p><i>McCleskey v. Kemp</i> (1987)</p>
Feb. 20	<b>Social Science Evidence in the Courtroom</b>	<p><i>Daubert v. Merrell Dow</i></p> <p><i>Kumho Tire Co. v. Carmichael</i></p>
Feb. 27	<b>FORENSIC MENTAL HEALTH LAW</b>  <b>Sexual Predator Laws: A Case in Point</b>	<p><i>Kansas v. Crane</i>, 534 U.S. 407(2002).            Legal Update: AP-LS Newsletter review            American Psychologist article (on reserve)</p>
March 6	<b>Mental Status: Competency to Stand Trial (&amp; other matters)</b>	<p>Melton, Chs. 6 &amp; 7</p> <p>Wrightstman, et al, Ch. 11, pp. 294-311</p>
March 13	<b>Insanity Defense</b>	<p>Melton, Ch. 8; 18; 19.04</p> <p>Wrightstman, et al, Ch. 11, pp. 311-330</p>
March 20	<b>Civil Commitment &amp; Risk Assessment</b>	<p><i>O'Connor v. Donaldson</i>, 422 U.S. 563 (1975).            Melton, Chs. 1-3; 10; 19.09; Ch. 4; pp. 95-102            Litwack, T., "Actuarial versus Clinical Assessments of Dangerousness..." <u>Psychology, Public Policy, and Law</u>, <u>7 (2)</u>, 409-443.</p>

March 27	<b>VICTIMS</b>	Stefan, S. (1994). The protection racket: Rape trauma syndrome, psychiatric labeling, and law. <u>Northwestern University La Review</u> , 88, 1271. Schuller, R.A., & Hastings, P.A. (1996). Trials of battered women who kill: The impact of alternative forms of expert evidence. <u>LHB</u> , 20, 167-188. <u>State v. Smith</u> (Ga. 1997).
April 3	<b>WITNESSES</b> <b>Eyewitnesses:</b> <b>Estimator &amp; System</b> <b>Variables</b>	<u>Wrightsman</u> - Chapter 7, pp. 168-198
April 10	<b>Eyewitnesses:</b> <b>Special Cases</b> <b>(Repressed Memory &amp;</b> <b>Children)</b>	<u>Wrightsman</u> - Chapter 7, pp. 198-203 <i>Lundquist</i>
April 10	<b>Topic: TBA</b>	
April 17 & April 24	<b>SPRING BREAK</b>	
May 1	<b>JURIES</b>  <b>Jury</b> <b>Decisionmaking</b>  <b>Race and the Jury</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Draft of Research Proposal DUE (for feedback)</b>
May 8	<b>ETHICAL ISSUES IN</b> <b>PSYCHOLOGY AND</b> <b>LAW: RESEARCH and</b> <b>PRACTICE</b>	APA Revised Ethics Code
May 15	<b>Wrap-Up</b>	<b><u>Final Draft of Research Proposal Due</u></b>