

JOHN JAY COLLEGE OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE
CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

Forensic Psychology and
Criminal Behavior for the
CRJ Professional
Wed: 6:15-8:18

Louis B. Schlesinger, Ph.D.
Ext. 8779 Room 2132
973-762-6431
Office Hrs: Mon: 2:00-4:00
Wed: 2:00-4:00
and by appointment

Course Description

This course will analyze criminal behavior and various problems confronting the criminal justice system from a forensic psychological perspective. Topics to be covered will include the relationship between law and psychology, forensic assessment and issues in the law-psychology interface, criminal behavior and criminal law, psychopathology and psychodynamics of crime, the paraphilias and sexual psychopath laws, stalking syndromes, juvenile offenders, and various civil law issues that arise out of criminal conduct. The emphasis will be on understanding various forms of criminal behavior that confronts the practicing forensic psychologist. Research and theory will be presented with an emphasis on areas ripe for future study and exploration.

Course Objective: The objective of this advanced seminar is to analyze criminal behavior and various problems involving the criminal justice system from a forensic psychological perspective. The topics to be covered will include the relationship between law and psychology, forensic assessment and issues in the law-psychology interface, criminal behavior and criminal law, psychopathology and psychodynamics of crime, sex offenses,

stalking syndromes, juvenile offenders, and civil law issues that confront forensic psychologists.

Course Requirements and Grading Criteria: Regular attendance is required. Three absences will result in a lower grade and four absences are grounds for failing the course. Tape recording is prohibited. There will be a final examination covering classroom lectures and discussions and reading assignments. One term paper will be assigned using a case study format and forensic analysis, the details to be discussed in class; students will be expected to discuss their papers in class. The final grade will be determined primarily by averaging the term paper and the final exam (with the greatest weight given to the final). Borderline grades will be influenced by class participation, which is strongly encouraged.

Textbooks and Reading:

Textbooks for course:

Melton, G.B. et al. (1997). Psychological Evaluations for the Courts, (2nd. ed.). New York: Guilford.

Schlesinger, L.B. (1996). (Ed.). Explorations in Criminal psychopathology: Clinical syndromes with forensic implications. Springfield, IL: Charles C. Thomas.

Supplemental texts (not required to purchase--copies will be available at the library for your reference).

Schlesinger, L.B., & Revitch, E. (1997). Sexual dynamics of antisocial behavior, (2nd. ed.). Springfield, IL: Charles C. Thomas.

Schlesinger, L.B. (2000). Serial Offenders: Current thought, recent findings. Boca Raton, FL: CRC Press.

Articles:

Abel, G. & Osborne, C. (1992). The paraphilias. Psychiatric Clinics of North America, 15, 675-687.

Banay, R.S. (1969). Unconscious sexual motivation of crime. Medical Aspects of Human sexuality, 3, 91-102.

Bazelon, D.L. (1974). Psychiatrists and the adversary process. Scientific American, 230, 18-23.

Bradford, J.M., Greenberg, D., & Motayne, G. (1992). Substance abuse and criminal behavior. Psychiatric Clinics of North America, 15, 605-622.

Goldstein, R.L. (2000). Serial stalkers. In L.B. Schlesinger (Ed.). Serial Offenders, Boca Raton, FL: CRC Press.

Schlesinger, L.B. (1996). The catathymic crisis (1912-present): A review and clinical study. Aggression and Violent Behavior, 1, 307-316.

Schlesinger, L.B. (2000). Serial homicide: Sadism, fantasy, and a compulsion to kill. In L.B. Schlesinger, (ed.). Serial offenders (pp. 3-22). Boca Raton, FL: CRC Press.

Schlesinger, L.B. (2001). The contract murderer: Patterns, characteristics and dynamics. Journal of Forensic Sciences, 46, 1119-1123.

Schlesinger, L.B. (2002). Stalking, homicide, and catathymic

cases. Civil competencies; PTSD, Workers compensation, fraud (Melton, chapter 10, 11, 12, 13; Schlesinger chapter 14).

May 7 Juvenile offenders and CJS: History, status offenses, waiver hearings, child abuse, child custody (Melton, chapter 14, 15, 16).

May 14 Emerging roles for the forensic psychologist: Consultation to nonforensic mental health professionals, business, government and law enforcement. Knowledge of criminal psychopathology, criminal psychodynamics, psychological profiling (Melton, chapter 17, 18).

Final EXAM: ON SCHEDULE DATE - Wed May 21