



Psychology and the Law
PSYC 3315 CRN 31298
The University of Texas at El Paso
Summer Session I, 2016

INSTRUCTOR

Dr. Jennifer Eno Louden

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Office hours: Monday through Thursday after class—just let me know you are coming

Location: Vowell Hall 204

Note: my office is not ADA accessible. Please let me know if you need to meet in a different location.

COURSE TIME AND LOCATION

MTWRF 9:20-11:30am, Psychology Building room 306

REQUIRED TEXT

Greene, E., & Heilbrun, K. (Eds). (2011). *Wrightsmen's Psychology & the Legal System (7th Ed.)*. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will provide a review of the relationship of psychology to the legal system. Topics include examination of criminal responsibility, psychological testimony in court, jury decision-making, eyewitness memory, and the management of offenders.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

At the end of this course, you should be able to:

1. Describe the different ways that psychologists interact with the legal system.
2. Describe the basic systems and procedures of the U.S. legal system.
3. Describe the major findings of experimental psychology that inform the legal system (e.g., eyewitness memory, jury decision-making).
4. Describe the ways that clinical psychologists' evaluations can inform legal proceedings (e.g., insanity defense, competency).

COMMUNICATION

Email is the best way to communicate with me. I will do my best to respond to your messages in a timely manner, but please allow 24 hours for a response, especially on weekends. Please include your full name in all messages you send me, and please put "PSYC 3315" in the subject line so I will know the message is from a student.

BLACKBOARD

Everything you need for this class can be found on Blackboard. I will make announcements regarding the course via Blackboard periodically, so please check Blackboard daily. Blackboard is also where you will find quizzes, lecture notes, and other materials relevant to the course.

DISABILITY ACCOMODATIONS

If you have a disability and require accommodation, please contact the Center for Accommodations and Support Services at 915-747-5148 or via e-mail (cass@utep.edu) no later than the first day of class. They will help you with the required paperwork necessary to obtain

accommodation.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

I do not tolerate academic dishonesty in any form. Academic dishonesty includes: cheating on exams, quizzes, or assignments; collusion; unauthorized access of course materials; and plagiarism. If you are caught engaging in academic dishonesty, you will receive an “F” for the relevant assignment, and you will likely receive a final grade of “F” for the course. *It is your responsibility to know what actions constitute academic dishonesty.* Please review UTEP’s policy statement on academic dishonesty: <http://academics.utep.edu/Default.aspx?tabid=23785>

COURSE POLICIES

ATTENDANCE

To do well in this course, you need to attend every class session, listen actively, and participate in activities and discussion. Material presented in class will not be available at any other time. If you miss a class, you will need to make arrangements to get notes from another student. PowerPoint slides of lecture material will be available on Blackboard, but these are to facilitate note-taking in class; these are not detailed enough to serve as a substitute for attending class.

CLASSROOM COURTESY

I want every student to get the most out of this course. For this to happen, it is crucial that everyone follows basic guidelines of courtesy and respect towards the instructor and their fellow classmates.

1. **Don’t come late.** If you will be more than 10 minutes late to class, do not come that day. It is incredibly distracting for students to wander in after class has started.
2. **Don’t leave early.** Plan to stay seated quietly for the entire class period—packing up early prevents others from hearing lecture and announcements. I will provide at least one break per class session; please do not leave the room otherwise unless absolutely necessary.
3. **No distracting electronics.** Cell phones should be turned off and put away during class. You are welcome to bring your laptop/iPad to take notes, but not for any other purpose.
4. **No side conversations.** While I highly encourage students to ask questions during class, please refrain from side conversations not related to the larger class discussion.

If you engage in these activities, you are preventing your fellow students from learning. As such, you will be asked to leave the classroom. Don’t let other students distract from your learning experience—if you see others engaging in these activities, please ask them to stop.

POINTS OPPORTUNITIES

In-class assignments: *up to 50 points.* Assignments will be described in class and will be worth 5 to 10 points each. These will include practice questions that will help you prepare for the short answer questions on the exams and critical thinking reaction assignments to topics discussed in class. These assignments will not be announced beforehand, and there is no way to make up missed assignments.

Quizzes: *up to 110 points.* Twelve open-book quizzes will be administered on Blackboard, each worth 10 points. Each quiz will cover material from one chapter of the text, and will be due at 11:00pm the night before the first class session on that chapter (the first quiz will be due at 11:00pm on the first day of class). After that time, the quiz will be closed; **no make-up quizzes will be granted for any reason.** Make sure you have a reliable internet connection when taking the quizzes; if this is a problem at your home you should plan to take the quizzes on campus. The lowest out of the 12 quiz scores will be dropped, so your quiz grade will be the total number of points on the eleven quizzes with the highest scores.

Exams: *up to 200 points.* Four non-cumulative exams will be administered, each worth 50 points. Exams will consist of multiple-choice, true/false, and short answer questions.

Exams will only be offered on the dates listed in the course schedule. The only exceptions to this policy are (a) observance of religious holidays, (b) participation in UTEP-sponsored activities (e.g., sports competitions), and (c) military duty. If you expect to miss an exam for any of these reasons, you must alert the instructor before the end of the first week of the semester and submit relevant documentation.

GRADING

Grades will be based on the total number of points earned (out of a possible 360). Letter grades will be based on the following scale:

324 and above	=A
288 to 323.9	=B
252 to 287.9	=C
216 to 251.9	=D
215.9 and below	=F

If you have any questions or disputes regarding grades, you must raise these in writing within five days of the grade being released. Grades will only be changed in cases of administrative error.

Be proactive about your grades—if you are not doing well by the end of the first week of class, come see me for help. If you wait until the end of the course, there is probably very little that can be done about your grade.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Adjustments to the course schedule are unlikely, but may occur. Adjustments will be announced in class and via Blackboard.

Readings must be completed by the earliest date listed below:

Week	Date	Topic	Readings
1	6/6	Course introduction	
		Introduction to psychology & law	Ch. 1
	6/7	The legal system	Ch. 2
	6/8	The legal system, part 2	
	6/9	Psychology of crime	Ch. 3
	6/10	EXAM 1	
2	6/13	Forensic assessment: civil	Ch. 9
	6/14	Forensic assessment: criminal	Ch. 8
	6/15	Forensic assessment: criminal, part 2	
	6/16	Corrections	Ch. 15
	6/17	EXAM 2	
3	6/20	Witness issues	Ch. 5
	6/21	Witness issues, part 2	
	6/23	Trial issues	Ch. 10
	6/24	Sentencing	Ch. 14
	6/25	EXAM 3	
4	6/27	Jury selection	Ch. 11
	6/28	Jury decisions	Ch. 12
	6/29	Jury decisions, part 2	
	6/30	Evaluation of criminal suspects	Ch. 6
	7/1	EXAM 4	