



Psychology and the Law
PSYC 3315 CRN 17498
The University of Texas at El Paso
Fall 2015

INSTRUCTOR

Dr. Jennifer Eno Louden

E-mail: jlenolouden@utep.edu

Office hours: Wednesdays 9:00-10:15 and by appointment

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

MWF 10:30-11:20am, Education Building room 313

REQUIRED TEXTS

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

Grisham, J. (2006). *The Innocent Man: Murder and Injustice in a Small Town*. New York: Random House.

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 within 24 hours, but it may take longer for me to respond on weekends and holiday breaks. Please include your full name and 800# 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) during the first week of the semester. They will help you with the required paperwork necessary to obtain accommodation.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

Academic dishonesty in any form will not be tolerated. Academic dishonesty includes: cheating on exams or assignments, forgery, and plagiarism. If you are caught engaging in academic dishonesty, you will receive an “F” for the relevant assignment, and you may receive a final grade of “F” for the course. 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 and listen actively. Material presented in lecture and films shown during 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—do not ask me for notes or to recap what happened in class. 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. There will be a lot of content presented in class that is not in the textbook, so you will not be able to do well on the exams if you miss 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 5 minutes late to class, do not come that day.
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.
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.

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 assignments. **These assignments will not be announced beforehand and cannot be made up.**

“Innocent Man” assignment: *up to 50 points.* This assignment will focus on the book, *The Innocent Man*, and will be completed on Blackboard. Detailed instructions will be posted to Blackboard. This assignment is due by 11:59pm on 11/25.

Quizzes: *up to 120 points.* Thirteen open-book quizzes will be administered on Blackboard, each worth 10 points. Each quiz will cover material from one chapter of the text (or the extra reading posted to Blackboard), and will be due at 11:00pm the night before the first class session on that chapter. **No make-up quizzes will be granted for any reason.** The lowest out of the 13 quiz scores will be dropped, so your quiz grade will be the total number of points on the twelve 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, fill in the blank, and short answer questions.

It is your responsibility to ensure you are able to take the exams when they are scheduled. The only reasons I will make exceptions to the exam schedule 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 me before the end of the first week of the semester and submit relevant documentation. Students in one of these situations will be required to take the exam *before* the rest of the class. In *extremely rare* situations, students who miss an exam due to a dire emergency (e.g., death of a family member, serious illness) may be allowed to complete an alternate assignment to make up points from a missed exam. If this applies to you, you must visit me during office hours and provide written documentation of the emergency. Whether the alternate assignment is offered is completely at my discretion.

GRADING

Grades will be based on the total number of points earned (out of a possible 420). Letter grades will be based on the following scale:

378 and above	=A
336 to 377.9	=B
294 to 335.9	=C
252 to 293.9	=D
251.9 and below	=F

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

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	8/24	Course introduction	Ch. 1
	8/26	Introduction to psychology & law	
	8/28	Introduction to psychology & law	
2	8/31	Introduction to psychology & law	Ch. 2
	9/2	The legal system	
	9/4	The legal system	
3	9/7	NO CLASS—LABOR DAY	Ch. 10
	9/9	The legal system	
	9/11	Trial issues	
4	9/14	Trial issues	
	9/16	Trial issues	
	9/18	EXAM 1	
5	9/21	Sentencing	Ch. 14
	9/23	Sentencing	Ch. 3
	9/25	Psychology of crime	
6	9/28	Psychology of crime	see Blackboard
	9/30	Psychology of crime	
	10/2	Psychopathy	
7	10/5	Psychopathy	Ch. 15
	10/7	Corrections	
	10/9	Corrections	
8	10/12	Corrections	
	10/14	Corrections	
	10/16	EXAM 2	
9	10/19	Witness issues	Ch. 5
	10/21	Witness issues	
	10/23	Witness issues	
10	10/26	Jury selection	Ch. 11

	10/28	Jury selection	
	10/30	Jury decisions	Ch. 12
11	11/2	Jury decisions	
	11/4	Jury decisions	
	11/6	EXAM 3	
12	11/9	Forensic assessment: civil	Ch. 9
	11/11	Forensic assessment: civil	
	11/13	NO CLASS—Work on Innocent Man assignment	
13	11/16	Forensic assessment: civil	
	11/18	Forensic assessment: criminal	Ch. 8
	11/20	Forensic assessment: criminal	
14	11/23	Forensic assessment: criminal	
	11/25	NO CLASS—Work on Innocent Man assignment Innocent Man assignment due online	
	11/27	NO CLASS—THANKSGIVING BREAK	
15	11/30	Evaluation of criminal suspects	Ch. 6
	12/2	Evaluation of criminal suspects	
	12/11	EXAM 4	
	10:00		