

**\*Please read the syllabus carefully. By remaining enrolled in this course, you agree to adhere to the policies described in this document.\***



**Psychology and the Law**  
PSYC 3315 CRN 26240  
**University of Texas at El Paso**  
**Spring 2017**

**INSTRUCTOR**

Dr. Jennifer Eno Louden

**E-mail:** [jenolouden@utep.edu](mailto:jenolouden@utep.edu)

**Office:** Vowell Hall room 204

**Office hours:** Monday and Wednesday 10:30-11:30 or by appointment

If you need to make an appointment, please email me with at least 3 specific times you can meet during the week and give at least 24 hours notice so I can set a time for you.

Note: my office is located in a building that is not ADA accessible. If you need to meet in a different location, please let me know.

**COURSE TIME AND LOCATION**

MW 9:00-10:20, UGLC 342

**REQUIRED MATERIALS**

Greene, E., & Heilbrun, K. (Eds). (2014). *Wrightsmen's Psychology & the Legal System (8<sup>th</sup> Ed.)*. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth.

We will be using the textbook frequently, and you should have a copy no later than the end of the first week of class. Purchase, ebook, and rental options can be compared in the UTEP bookstore or on various websites. Additional readings may be assigned and will be posted to Blackboard.

You should bring paper and pen/pencil with you to class to complete in-class assignments. Lecture notes aligned to the instructor's slides are posted to Blackboard to facilitate note-taking. It is highly recommended that you print these out and bring them to class with you.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course will provide a survey of the ways that psychological science and clinical practice interact with 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 and describe careers within the field.
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**

I am happy to talk with students after class and during my office hours. Quick questions regarding the course can also be handled by email (please do not call my office). I will do my best to respond to your messages within 24 hours, but responses will likely take longer on

weekends and holiday breaks. Please include your full name in all messages you send me, and put "PSYC 3315" in the subject line so I will know the message is from a student. Due to regulations regarding privacy, I am not allowed to discuss grades via email; please visit me in office hours for questions regarding grades.

### **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 several times per week. 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 need classroom accommodations, please contact the Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS) at 747-5148, or by email to [cass@utep.edu](mailto:cass@utep.edu), or visit their office located in UTEP Union East, Room 106. For additional information, please visit the CASS website at [www.sa.utep.edu/cass](http://www.sa.utep.edu/cass).

### **ACADEMIC DISHONESTY**

I have no tolerance for academic dishonesty in any form. Academic dishonesty includes: cheating on exams or assignments, unauthorized access of course materials, collaboration on individual assignments, and plagiarism. If you are caught engaging in academic dishonesty, you will receive an "F" for the relevant assignment, and it is highly likely that you will 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 the instructor for notes. I often refer to material presented in class on exams, so it is unlikely that you will earn a high grade in this course if you do not attend regularly.

### **CLASSROOM COURTESY**

It is crucial that everyone follows basic guidelines of courtesy and respect towards the instructor and their fellow classmates. By following a few simple rules, everyone can get the most out of class time:

1. **Don't come late.** If you will be more than 5 minutes late to class, do not come that day. It is distracting when people enter late.
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/tablet to take notes, but not for any other purpose. If you choose to use your laptop, you should sit in the first two rows of the classroom. No student may take photos in class. Audiorecording of lecture may only

be done in limited circumstances and only with the permission of the instructor.

4. **No side conversations.** Although I highly encourage students to ask questions during class, please refrain from side conversations not related to the larger class discussion.

5. **Respectful discussion.** We will discuss sensitive topics in this course, and it is important that every student is able to contribute to the discussion in a respectful way. Criticize ideas, not people. Keep the discussion in the classroom. Under no circumstances should class discussions be audiorecorded.

## POINTS OPPORTUNITIES

**Basic psychology pre-test:** up to 10 points. A quiz will be administered on Blackboard during the first week of class to assess students' retention of concepts from Introduction to Psychology, which is a prerequisite for this course. This quiz is meant to determine which concepts need to be revisited in the course. You should not "study" for this test. You will have the opportunity to make up points missed on the pretest; this will be discussed in class. The quiz is due 11:59pm on Friday, 1/20.

**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 textbook, and will be due at 11:59pm *the night before* the first class session on that chapter (see class schedule). After that time, the quiz will be closed; **it is not possible to take a quiz after the deadline passes.** You are allowed two attempts for each quiz and the higher of the two scores will count towards your grade. Note that the both attempts must be complete by the deadline. The lowest out of the 13 quiz scores will be dropped, so your quiz grade will be the total number of points on the 12 quizzes with the highest scores.

**In-class assignments:** up to 90 points. Assignments will be described in class and will be worth up to 12 points each. These will include practice questions that will help you prepare for the short answer questions on the exams, critical thinking reaction assignments to topics discussed in class, and group activities. **These assignments will not be announced beforehand, and there is no way to make up missed assignments.**

**Out of class assignments:** up to 45 points. Assignments and their associated deadlines will be described in class.

**Exams:** up to 225 points. Three non-cumulative exams will be administered, each worth 75 points. Any material from the lecture, class activities, and the assigned readings is fair game for the exam. Each exam will cover all of the material since the last exam. Exams will consist of multiple-choice, fill in the blank, and short answer questions. You must bring a green and white scantron form (half-page size) and #2 pencil to each exam.

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. Students who arrive late for an exam will not be allowed to take the exam once any student has completed the exam.

## **GRADING**

Grades will be based on the total number of points earned (out of a possible 490). Letter grades will be based on the following scale:

441 and above	=A
392 to 440.9	=B
343 to 391.9	=C
294 to 342.9	=D
293.9 and below	=F

You can view grades for assignments, quizzes, and exams on Blackboard. You should keep track of your total number of points throughout the semester; note that the total/percentage computed by Blackboard is often incorrect so you should perform your own calculations.

If you have any questions or disputes regarding grades, you must raise these within five days of the grade being released. Grades will only be changed in cases of 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	1/18	Course introduction <i>Basic psychology pre-test due by 11:59pm on 1/20</i>	
2	1/23 1/25	Introduction to psychology & law	Ch. 1
3	1/30 2/1	The legal system	Ch. 2
4	2/6 2/8	Trials and traditional prosecution	Ch. 8
5	2/13 2/15	Alternatives to prosecution	Ch. 9
6	2/20 2/22	<b>EXAM 1</b> Eyewitnesses	Ch. 5
7	2/27 3/1	Jury selection	Ch. 12
8	3/6 3/8	Jury decisions	Ch. 13
9	3/13 3/15	NO CLASS, SPRING BREAK	
10	3/20 3/22	Sentencing	Ch. 14
11	3/27 3/29	<b>EXAM 2</b> Forensic assessment: civil	Ch. 11
12	4/3 4/5	Forensic assessment: criminal	Ch. 10
13	4/10 4/12	Theories of criminal behavior	Ch. 3
14	4/17 4/19	Corrections	Ch. 15

15	4/24 4/26		
16	5/1 5/3	Evaluating suspects	Ch. 7
	5/10, 10:00AM	<b>EXAM 3</b>	