



PSY 339 Forensic Psychology
COURSE SYLLABUS: Fall 2018

Professor: Dr. Stephen Reysen
Class Location: Online
Office Location: Binnion 213
Office Hours: M 8:00AM-1:00PM and by appointment
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COURSE INFORMATION

Course Description: This course examines the intersection of psychology and the legal system. We will broadly review the major areas in which psychology has contributed to the understanding of attitudes and behavior within the legal system, such as eyewitness identification, lie detection, and jury deliberation.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Grading:

1. Reaction Papers: Over the course of the semester all students are required to post online (in the discussion section for that week) **THIRTEEN** ¼-page (single spaced) reaction papers. The papers are due Sunday by midnight for that week (see below for topics we are discussing). For example, if we discuss theories of crime the week of September 10 to September 16, you need to post your reaction by Sunday (September 16th) by midnight. The purpose of the reaction paper is to apply the concepts in a given article to your own life (e.g., past experience, expectations, ideas of how the concepts can be applied in other areas of life, research ideas). There is no specific requirement for these papers except to show that you have thought about the concepts presented in the article. **Within each paper please write one multiple choice question on that topic.** I highly recommend that you work ahead (e.g., post reactions a couple days in advance of when they are due) to avoid a last minute rush to post your reaction. Late reaction papers will be accepted, however points will be docked. Each paper is worth 10 points. **NOTE:** The last reaction paper is due on a Friday (I'll remind everyone by email as this goes against the Sunday due date system up until that week).

2. Exams: There will be two online exams. Each exam will consist of 40 multiple choice questions, and are worth 40 points each. You will have 5 hours to complete each exam. Please allow yourself at least a full hour on the computer for each exam (you cannot start and stop the exam time).

Exam 1 is due by Sunday October 21st by 11:59PM

Exam 2 is due by Friday December 7th by 11:59PM

Assessment:

Reaction papers: 130 points

Exams: 80 points

A = 189-210

B = 168-188

C = 147-167

D = 126-146

F = 125 and below

EXTRA CREDIT

There is a small amount of extra credit available for this course. I will offer 30 points of extra credit for participation in online research studies. I will offer 10 points for each 0.5 credits of research (max 30 raw points or 1.5 experiment credits). You can find a guide to participating in research at the bottom of the syllabus. If you would like an alternative assignment for extra credit instead of participating in research contact me. Additionally, the first time you log into SONA (the web system the psychology department uses to schedule participation) you will be asked to complete a prescreen survey. Completion of the prescreen is worth 0.5 experiment credits if done in the first two weeks of the semester.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

You will need access to a computer with internet to access myLeo Online.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: What is the best way to study for the test?

A: Print out and read over the articles. The questions on the test will be partly based on the questions students post in the reaction papers. Thus, it is a good idea to study those questions.

Q: I forgot to post my reaction paper can I still post it?

A: Yes, I will take late papers. However, I will take a couple points off for being late. The one exception to this is that all work in the class must be completed by 11:59PM of the Friday before finals week. I will not accept any late work after that time.

Q: Why were points taken off my reaction paper?

A: In myLeo Online there is a way to see any comments I may give. If points are taken off the paper I will put a comment. The two most common reasons for deducting points are (1) the paper is too short (i.e., less than ¼-page single-spaced) and (2) the response is missing the multiple-choice question.

Q: Do I need to understand the statistics in the articles?

A: No, the purpose of the articles is to expose you to actual research and theory. I do not expect you to understand everything in the articles (however, you may have to google some of the terms to gain a fuller understanding of the article).

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

Interaction with Instructor:

Please feel welcome to contact me by email. All email should receive a response within 48 hours. If you have not received a response then assume your email did not go through and please try again to make contact. All email should include student's last name, first name, course name, and brief description of the reason for contact.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES
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Student Behavior:

My expectations in this area should be very simple to fulfill. (1) Immaturity will NOT be tolerated! If a student's behavior is disrupting the class, he/she will be asked to stop. (2) Respect: Given the nature of this course, we may discuss issues that some of you may find embarrassing, uncomfortable, and/or even "inappropriate." To remain in this class, you must be respectful of others and maintain a mature and professional manner at all times. Failure to do so will result in your expulsion from the course. (3) The Student's Guidebook addresses the issues of academic cheating and plagiarism. These are a breach of conduct, and students are subject to disciplinary actions. It's simple. Do NOT cheat (to cheat is to act dishonestly or unfairly in order to gain an advantage) or plagiarize (to plagiarize is to take the work or idea of someone else and pass it off as one's own)!

Changes to Class:

Minor changes may be made to this schedule; modifications will be announced on myLeo Online.

Students with Disabilities:

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services

Texas A&M University-Commerce

Gee Library-Room 162

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

Fax (903) 468-8148

StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu

Campus Concealed Carry:

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M-Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations. For a list of locations, please refer to ((<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>) and/or consult your event organizer). Pursuant to

PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

WEEK 1: Monday August 27 to Sunday September 2
Feel free to introduce yourself in the discussion section.
[NOTE: NO REACTION PAPERS FOR THIS WEEK]

WEEK 2: Monday September 3 to Sunday September 9
Article 1: Brigham, J. C. (1999). What is forensic psychology, anyway? *Law and Human Behavior*, 23, 273-298.

WEEK 3: Monday September 10 to Sunday September 16
Article 2: Moore, M. (2011). Psychological theories of crime and delinquency. *Journal of Human Behavior in the Social Environment*, 21, 226-239.

WEEK 4: Monday September 17 to Sunday September 23
Article 3: Dantzker, M. L. (2011). Psychological preemployment screening for police candidates: Seeking consistency if not standardization. *Professional Psychology: Research and Practice*, 42, 276-283.

WEEK 5: Monday September 24 to Sunday September 30
Article 4: Eigenberg, H. M., Kappeler, V. E., & McGuffee, K. (2012). Confronting the complexities of domestic violence: A social prescription for rethinking police training. *Journal of Police Crisis Negotiations*, 12, 122-145.

WEEK 6: Monday October 1 to Sunday October 7
Article 5: Johnson, R. R., & Morgan, M. A. (2013). Suspicion formation among police officers: An international literature review. *Criminal Justice Studies*, 26, 99-114.

WEEK 7: Monday October 8 to Sunday October 14
Article 6: Devery, C. (2010). Criminal profiling and criminal investigation. *Journal of Contemporary Criminal Justice*, 26, 393-409.

WEEK 8: Monday October 15 to Sunday October 21
Article 7: Magnussen, S., Melinder, A., Stridbeck, U., & Raja, A. Q. (2010). Beliefs about factors affecting the reliability of eyewitness testimony: A comparison of judges, jurors, and the general public. *Applied Cognitive Psychology*, 24, 122-133.
EXAM ONE THIS WEEK (Covers Weeks 2 to 8; this includes this week's article)

WEEK 9: Monday October 22 to Sunday October 28
Article 8: Steblay, N. K., Dysart, J. E., & Wells, G. L. (2011). Seventy-two tests of the sequential lineup superiority effect: A meta-analysis and policy discussion. *Psychology, Public Policy, and Law*, 17, 99-139.

WEEK 10: Monday October 29 to Sunday November 4

Article 9: Kassin, S. M., Drizin, S. A., Grisso, T., Gudjonsson, G. H., Leo, R. A., & Redlich, A. D. (2010). Police-induced confessions: Risk factors and recommendations. *Law and Human Behavior, 34*, 3-38.

WEEK 11: Monday November 5 to Sunday November 11

Article 10: Vrij, A., Fisher, R. P., & Blank, H. (2017). A cognitive approach to lie detection: A meta-analysis. *Legal and Criminological Psychology, 22*, 1-21.

WEEK 12: Monday November 12 to Sunday November 18

Article 11: Crocker, C. B., & Kovera, M. B. (2011). Systematic jury selection. In R. Wiener & B. Bornstein (Eds.), *Handbook of trial consulting* (pp. 13-31). Boston, MA: Springer.

WEEK 13: Monday November 19 to Sunday November 25: **THANKSGIVING BREAK**
[NOTE: NO REACTION PAPERS FOR THIS WEEK]

WEEK 14: Monday November 26 to Sunday December 2

Article 12: Daftary-Kapur, T., Dumas, R., Penrod, S. D. (2010). Jury decision-making biases and methods to counter them. *Legal and Criminological Psychology, 15*, 133-154.

WEEK 15: Monday November 3 to **FRIDAY DECEMBER 7**

Article 13: Peter-Hagene, L. C., & Bottoms, B. L. (2017). Attitudes, anger, and nullification instructions influence jurors' verdicts in euthanasia cases. *Psychology, Crime, & Law, 23*, 983-1009.

EXAM TWO THIS WEEK (covers weeks 9 to 15) DUE FRIDAY December 7th BY 11:59PM

If you are doing online research for extra credit for the class, these are due by midnight of Friday December 7th 11:59PM (all research studies shut down after Friday December 7th).

ALL CLASS WORK SHOULD BE COMPLETED BY FRIDAY DECEMBER 7TH AT 11:59PM. NO LATE WORK WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER THIS DATE.

Students' Guide to Research Participation for Extra Credit
Department of Psychology, Counseling, & Special Education
Texas A&M University-Commerce

- **What is Research Participation?**

Exposure to research is essential to your gaining a better understanding of the scientific study of psychology. It is how we add new knowledge in psychology. Being involved in research is a good way to experience first-hand and learn about the scientific enterprise. We believe there are two key ways to experience research activity at this level: 1) read about related scientific investigations; 2) experience research as a volunteer participant; or some combination of both. The class in which you received this handout offers extra credit through one or both of these activities.

- **What if I am not yet 18 years old?**

In order to participate in research you must be at least 18 years old. If you are not yet 18 years old, please see your instructor, and ask him/her about alternative ways of earning extra credit.

- **In what type of research studies will I participate?**

All studies you will participate in have been reviewed and approved by the Texas A&M University-Commerce Institutional Review Board (IRB) and by the Department of Psychology, Counseling, & Special Education. Studies vary widely. Many involve completing questionnaires or carrying out tasks on the computer. Some are even fun, and you'll learn something from all of them.

- **What are my rights as a research participant?**

Your participation is voluntary and you may withdraw from any study at any time. Your data will be kept confidential. If you have any further questions about your rights as a research participant, you may contact the IRB head, Dr. Tara Tietjen-Smith (irb@tamuc.edu). More information about your rights will be provided to you prior to each study for which you sign up.

- **How will my research participation credit be calculated?**

You will receive 1 credit for each hour of research participation. Studies lasting 15 minutes or less are worth 0.25 credit. For example, a 15 min. study = 0.25 research credits; 30 min. = 0.5 credits; 45 min. = 0.75 credits; 60min = 1 credit; 1½ hours = 1.5 credits... etc.

- **How many research credits may I complete?**

You are encouraged to participate in as much research as you wish, but your instructor will inform you of how many credits are offered for extra credit.

- **What if I do not wish to participate in research studies?**

Participation in research is voluntary. Your instructor is offering you the opportunity to earn extra credit by participating in research (and helping psychology).

- **How do I find and sign up for research participation opportunities?**

Throughout the semester, researchers in the Psychology Department will post their research studies in the Experiment Management System (EMS) online. It is up to you to check the EMS regularly to find and sign up for research studies that fit into your schedule. Detailed instructions for how to use the EMS are listed in the following pages of this handout.

- **What if I cannot go to a study I signed up for?**

If for whatever reason you cannot attend a study that you have signed up for you need to cancel your appointment before the start of the study. There are 2 ways to cancel an appointment. First, if you cancel 24 hours before a study you can do this online through the Experiment Management System (EMS) website. Second, if it is the same day of the study you can call or email the experimenter – their contact information will be available in the EMS.

How do I use the Experiment Management System (EMS)?

(Create a new participant account unless you already have one and your login information works. If you do not remember your login information click on the “lost your password?” on the front page of the EMS website and follow the directions on the site, and if that does not work email curt.carlson@tamuc.edu. A list of courses will be presented, from which you must select the courses you are taking this semester for which you will receive credit for participation. If your course is not listed, see the instructor for that course.)

A. How to create a participant account on the EMS

1. Go to <http://tamuc-commerce.sona-systems.com/>
 - a. Click on New Participant “request an account here” link on the left of the screen.
 - b. This takes you to a screen on which you must enter your name, a unique User ID, your University ID number, and primary email address (reminders of studies you sign up for will be sent to that email address). You will also need to highlight the course(s) in which you are enrolled, and for which you will be earning credits. If more than one, highlight all that will be involving you in research participation. However, each study in which you participate will only provide you credit for ONE course. In other words, there is no “double-dipping” allowed. **BE CAREFUL TO SELECT THE CORRECT COURSE AND SECTION # – IF YOU CHOOSE THE WRONG ONE, YOUR INSTRUCTOR WILL NOT BE INFORMED OF YOUR CREDITS!** After you submit your information, you will be emailed your login information. (After you have received your login information, I recommend that you login into EMS and go to your “Profile” and change your password to something that you can remember.)

If you encounter any problems with creating your account (e.g., login information not sent to you), contact the EMS administrator, curt.carlson@tamuc.edu with your full name and a detailed description of the problem.

2. When you first log into the EMS at the beginning of the semester you will be asked to take a prescreen survey. This is a short survey that researchers will use to decide if you meet the specified requirements for some studies (e.g., as a researcher I may only allow participants who are female. If you do not complete the prescreen you will not be eligible to participate in this study). In other words, if you do not complete the prescreen you will have fewer studies that you are eligible to participate in. **IF YOU COMPLETE THE PRESCREEN IN THE FIRST TWO WEEKS OF THE SEMESTER YOU WILL GET 0.5 CREDIT.** Take it even if you have done it before – it has probably changed, and you will still earn the 0.5 credit.

3. You are now ready to use the EMS to sign-up for research studies.

B. Sign-up for studies—login to the EMS with your User ID and password that was emailed to you after creating your account

1. Click **Study Sign-Up**. A list of all available studies for which you qualify will appear. You can sign-up by clicking on either the study name or **Timeslots Available**, and you will go to a new screen showing more information about the study, with a link to **View Time Slots for This Study**.
2. Click the **Sign-Up** button to schedule your time. You should then write down or print out the study information (name of study, place, time, name and contact information of experimenter, etc.) that appears in the final window. You will also receive an email reminder the day before the study time you have selected.

C. Canceling a Sign-Up (MUST be done if you know you will not show up)

1. If you need to cancel a timeslot you have signed up for, you can do this from the **My Schedule and Credits** page. Choose the **My Schedule and Credits** option from top toolbar.
2. You will see listed all of the studies for which you have signed up, as well as those you have completed (see the Tracking Your Progress section below for more information).
3. Studies for which you have signed up that you are allowed to cancel will have a **Cancel** button next to them. If you cannot attend the study session you signed up for, you need to cancel it, either within the EMS system or by contacting the researcher directly prior to the start of the study. Keep in mind that there is a time limit before the study is to occur, when it is too late to cancel online. This restriction is listed at the bottom of the page (it can be 24 hours before your timeslot, or much less, such as just 2-4 hours). If you cannot cancel online please email or call the experimenter to cancel. **IF YOU DO NOT CANCEL ONLINE, BY EMAIL, OR OVER THE PHONE BEFORE THE START OF THE STUDY YOU WILL BE COUNTED AS A “NO SHOW.”**
4. If you cancel the first part of a two-part study, the second part will also be cancelled. If you cancel the second part of a two-part study, the first part will *not* be cancelled, but you will need to ask the researcher to sign you up for the second part again, if you would like to participate in it at a later date. However, this is up to the researcher.

D. Tracking Your Progress

1. You may track your progress at any time by choosing the **My Schedule and Credits** option from the top toolbar.

3. When you view this page, you will see at the top a list of the number of credits you are required to earn, and how many you have earned so far. Below that, if you have signed up for any studies, those are listed as well. In the list of studies, you will see information about your credit status. If you have a no show for a study you will see that the status for that study is “failure to appear.”

Note: Your login session will expire after a certain period of inactivity, usually 20-60 minutes. This is done for security purposes. If this happens, you can always log in again. When you are finished using the system, it is better to explicitly log out, to prevent any problems that may arise if someone uses your computer before the session expires. This is especially important if you are using a public computer lab.

E. Frequently Asked Questions

1. Immediately after I login, as soon as I click on any menu option, I am taken back to the login page and I see a message that my authentication has expired. What does this mean?

Your web browser is not properly configured to accept cookies. You should turn on cookies in your web browser, use a different web browser (for example, try Firefox if you are currently using Internet Explorer), or try a different computer. Detailed instructions can be found if you go to the site and enter the URL “cookie_help.asp” in place of “default.asp” in the address bar of the browser, when you are on the front page of the site.

2. I participated in a study, but I have yet to receive credit. How do I receive credit?

The researcher must grant you credit. This is usually done within a few days after your participation. If it has been some time and you have still not received credit, contact the researcher (his or her contact information should be listed when you click on the study name within the system).

3. How do I change the email address where email notifications from the system are sent?

You can change the email address where notifications are sent by going to **My Profile** and editing the email address you see there.

4. I forgot where and when a study is that I signed up for. What do I do?

If you forget when or where your study is, check your e-mail for the **EMS reminder**, or logon to EMS and check your appointments.

5. Should I keep some sort of record of my participation and credits earned?

The system will keep track of the credits you earn and your instructor will have access at the end of the semester to a report of credits earned by students enrolled in the class.

It is a good idea, however, to occasionally print a personal copy of your credits earned and hold on to that printout as a back up to the system.

6. I showed up for a study on time, and no one was there! What do I do?

First refer to your information about that study session, to make sure you are in the right place at the right time. If you are, then wait at least 10 minutes for the researcher. If they are still not there at that point, you can leave and must send them an email within 24 hours, stating that you were present at the correct place and time for the study (refer to the study name). It is up to the researcher to try to reschedule with you.