



## **PSY 339.51E Forensic Psychology**

COURSE SYLLABUS: Spring 2024

### **INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION**

**Instructor:** Leon King, MS, COTA

**Office Location:** Collin College Higher Education Center

**Office Hours:** 3:30 – 4:30 Wednesday or via Zoom by appointment

**University Email Address:** [Leon.king@tamuc.edu](mailto:Leon.king@tamuc.edu)

**Preferred Form of Communication:** E-mail

**Communication Response Time:** 24 hours Monday through Thursday and up to 48 hours Friday through Sunday, although I do my best to respond to emails over the weekend.

### **COURSE INFORMATION**

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings

Introduction to Forensic Psychology: Research and Application by Curt R. Bartol & Anne M. Bartol 6<sup>th</sup> Edition  
ISBN: 978-1-0718-1534-2

Psychological Criminology: An Integrative Approach by Richard Wortley 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition  
ISBN: 978-0-367-28102-1

### **Course Description**

This course focuses upon the application and practice of psychology in both the civil and criminal justice systems with the following topics examined in depth: police and

*The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.*

investigative psychology, family forensic psychology, psychology of crime and delinquency, victimology and victim services, legal psychology, expert witness testimony, consulting psychology, and correctional psychology. Additional focus will be placed on understanding the application of how psychopathology play a role in deviant behaviors and how psychologists, psychiatrists and other mental health professionals can help rehabilitate individuals who are currently in the forensic system. In essence, this class is broken into three main components, the law/legal system, the offender, and their psychological background/treatment and finally survivorship of those who have witnessed or been victim of serious crimes and how as mental health professionals we can treat survivors.

**Student Learning Outcomes** (Should be measurable; observable; use action verbs)

1. Understand and articulate the fundamentals of the field of forensic psychology as a whole and how the field of forensic psychology is similar, yet different from other fields of psychology.
2. Analyze and assess past and current legal and ethical factors that shape our current criminal justice system at a multiple systems level including the local, state, and national level.
3. Demonstrate the ability to read, assess, comprehend, and articulate real-world court cases and articulate their social and political implications both within the field of psychology and outside the field of psychology.
4. Understand how to utilize the DSM-V TR in classifying and identifying common mental health diagnoses that frequently lead to deviant behaviors that lend themselves to a person's entry into the forensic system.
5. Analyze, assess, create, and develop a recovery intervention strategy based on current evidence-based practice to restore a person experiencing a mental illness defined by the DSM-V TR who is either at risk for, or currently in the forensic system.
6. Understand the role of recovery in the context of survivorship after witnessing or experiencing violent crime.

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

### **Minimal Technical Skills Needed**

All course materials (e.g., PowerPoint lectures, assignments, articles, etc.) will be uploaded to D2L in advance each week, and all assignments will be done through D2L.

### **Instructional Methods**

This class will be taught face-to-face at the Collin College Higher Education Center, (CHEC) campus in McKinney, TX. Attendance for all classes will be required and not attending class will result in a reduction in points on your classwork as some course work will only be able to be completed in class and if a student is not present, the

*The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.*

missed assignment will be scored a “0” with no opportunity for makeup unless the absence is excused in advance and even then, the professor reserves the right to deduct points on the assignment for lack of participation.

## **Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course**

Students will succeed if they:

1. Attend lectures. You will probably hear this from all your professors, but it is true. Having the ability to ask questions when you think of them is immensely helpful in the learning process.
2. Participate. I will not lie and tell you this is easy, talking in front of others can be intimidating. I hope to foster a classroom of ease where you feel excited to contribute to the topic and ask questions along the way!
3. Read the assigned material.
4. Communicate your needs. I am here for you to help you succeed in this class. I want you all to learn everything that you can on this course while also taking care of yourselves. If something comes up, please let me know.

## **GRADING**

Final grades in this course will be based on the following scale:

- A = 90%-100%
- B = 80%-89%
- C = 70%-79%
- D = 60%-69%
- F = 59% or Below

## **Assessments**

**Legal Case Study** – For the legal case study, the student will select a court case that specifically deals with some aspect of psychology discussed in the textbook and read the court case. After reading the court case, the student will then review the political/social context at the time in which the court case took place, discuss how the field of psychology viewed the issue at hand both at the time of the final ruling and then how the issue has changed over time. The full assignment and all details will be provided on D2L.

**Clinical Forensic Psychology Case Study** – For the clinical forensic psychology case study, students will select a mental health condition listed in the DSM-V TR, provide the DSM-V TR diagnosis criteria, and link the diagnosis to how the diagnosis can lead a person to deviant behaviors which may cause an individual to enter the forensic system. The student will then evaluate various treatment strategies as well as recovery programs to assist individuals that have been diagnosed with the selected

*The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.*

mental health condition on a path to recovery to either help prevent incarceration or re-incarceration. The full assignment and all details will be provided on D2L.

**Chapter Summaries** – After reading each assigned chapter, the students are expected to summarize the chapter in their own words. The chapter summaries need to be written in narrative format, in other words, the summaries should not be written in an outline format. Chapter summaries that are written in an outline format will lose points. There should be no in-text citations for these assignments and should be written so that the average person not majoring in psychology will understand and learn from the writings. Finally, the student must close out each chapter summary with their reflective thoughts on what they learned or their main takeaway from the chapter. Chapter summaries should be roughly 3 pages in length typed, double-spaced 12point, Times New Roman font with 1” margins. All chapter summaries will be due every Saturday by 11:59 pm following the class in which we cover the chapter.

**In Class Group Assignments** – In class group assignments will be done in class as will only be completed in class. As part of professional development and to create an effective “learning community,” each week, after lecture, the class will be divided into small groups. During small group time, students will be assigned various tasks, (most frequently chapter review questions, or other application-based assignment), however we may examine some case studies or review other research articles. After group time, we will reassemble as a class and each group will present their findings and we will discuss each group’s finds as a class. At least one person from each group will scan and turn in their group’s notes with each group member’s name on the notes. I will then award points based on participation. This assignment is essentially a pass/fail grade. If a student attends class and participates, he/she will earn all the points for the assignment, if a student is not present for class, he/she will earn a “0” for that day. Each student will get one “get out of jail free card,” in other words, a student may miss one class with no penalty as I will drop one of these assignments. After the first missed class, it will be left to the professor’s discretion if the student may make up this assignment through some form of an individualized assignment, or not, however a student will not receive full credit if granted the opportunity to do a makeup assignment because the amount of learning that the student, (and other students) will gain is less from that of the “learning community.”

Legal Case Study	35%
Clinical Psych. Case Study	35%
In Class Group Assignment	15%
Chapter Summaries	15%

*The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.*

Total	100%
-------	------

## TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

### LMS

All course sections offered by Texas A&M University-Commerce have a corresponding course shell in the myLeo Online Learning Management System (LMS). Below are technical requirements.

LMS Requirements:

<https://community.brightspace.com/s/article/Brightspace-Platform-Requirements>

LMS Browser Support:

[https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser\\_support.htm](https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser_support.htm)

Zoom Video Conferencing Tool

[https://inside.tamuc.edu/campuslife/CampusServices/CITESupportCenter/Zoom\\_Account.aspx?source=universalmenu](https://inside.tamuc.edu/campuslife/CampusServices/CITESupportCenter/Zoom_Account.aspx?source=universalmenu)

## ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or [helpdesk@tamuc.edu](mailto:helpdesk@tamuc.edu).

**Note:** Personal computer and internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, office service companies, Starbucks, a TAMUC campus open computer lab, etc.

## COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your instructor.

*The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.*

## **Technical Support**

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778. Other support options can be found here:

<https://community.brightspace.com/support/s/contactsupport>

## **COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES**

### **Syllabus Change Policy**

The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance.

### **University Specific Procedures**

#### **Student Conduct**

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. The Code of Student Conduct is described in detail in the [Student Guidebook](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/Admissions/oneStopShop/undergraduateAdmissions/studentGuidebook.aspx>

Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum:

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/netiquette>

Texas A&M University-Commerce acknowledges that there are legitimate uses of Artificial Intelligence, Chatbots, or other software that has the capacity to generate text, or suggest replacements for text beyond individual words, as determined by the instructor of the course.

Any use of such software must be documented. Any undocumented use of such software constitutes an instance of academic dishonesty (plagiarism).

Individual instructors may disallow entirely the use of such software for individual assignments or for the entire course. Students should be aware of such requirements and follow their instructors' guidelines. If no instructions are provided the student should assume that the use of such software is disallowed.

In any case, students are fully responsible for the content of any assignment they submit, regardless of whether they used an AI, in any way. This specifically includes cases in which the AI plagiarized another text or misrepresented sources.

13.99.99.R0.03 Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty

*The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.*

13.99.99.R0.10 Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty

### **TAMUC Attendance**

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the [Attendance](#) webpage and [Procedure 13.99.99.R0.01](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx>

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/academic/13.99.99.R0.01.pdf>

### **Academic Integrity**

Students at Texas A&M University-Commerce are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all of their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures:

[Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03](#)  
[Undergraduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/documents/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyForm.pdf>

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/academics/graduateschool/faculty/GraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyFormold.pdf>

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/undergraduates/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

Texas A&M University-Commerce acknowledges that there are legitimate uses of Artificial Intelligence, Chatbots, or other software that has the capacity to generate text, or suggest replacements for text beyond individual words, as determined by the instructor of the course.

Any use of such software must be documented. Any undocumented use of such software constitutes an instance of academic dishonesty (plagiarism).

Individual instructors may disallow entirely the use of such software for individual assignments or for the entire course. Students should be aware of such requirements and follow their instructors' guidelines. If no instructions are provided the student should assume that the use of such software is disallowed.

*The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.*

In any case, students are fully responsible for the content of any assignment they submit, regardless of whether they used an AI, in any way. This specifically includes cases in which the AI plagiarized another text or misrepresented sources.

### **Students with Disabilities-- ADA Statement**

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 reasonable accommodation for their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

#### **Office of Student Disability Resources and Services**

Texas A&M University-Commerce

Velma K. Waters Library Rm 162

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

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: [studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu](mailto:studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu)

Website: [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/>

### **Nondiscrimination Notice**

Texas A&M University-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

### **Campus Concealed Carry Statement**

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 the [Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus](#) document and/or consult your event organizer.

Web url:

*The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.*



<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>

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 903886-5868 or 9-1-1.

### **A&M-Commerce Supports Students 'Mental Health**

The Counseling Center at A&M-Commerce, located in the Halladay Building, Room 203, offers counseling services, educational programming, and connection to community resources for students. Students have 24/7 access to the Counseling Center's crisis assessment services by calling 903-886-5145. For more information regarding Counseling Center events and confidential services, please visit [www.tamuc.edu/counsel](http://www.tamuc.edu/counsel)

### **COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR**

<b>Week:</b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b>Topic:</b>	<b>Readings:</b>	<b>Assignment:</b>
1	1/7 - 1/13	Introduction to Forensic Psych.	Ch. 1, IFP	Chapter Summary, In Class Assignment
2	1/14 - 1/20	Psychology of Investigations	Ch. 3, IFP	Chapter Summary, In Class Assignment
3	1/21 - 1/27	Consulting and testifying	Ch. 4, IFP	Chapter Summary, In Class Assignment
4	1/28 - 2/3	Consulting with Criminal Courts	Ch. 5, IFP	Chapter Summary, In Class Assignment
5	2/4 - 2/10	Family Law and Other Forms of Civil Litigation	Ch. 6, IFP	Chapter Summary, In Class Assignment

*The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.*

6	2/11 - 2/17	<b>Legal Case Study Report/Presentation Due</b>		
7	2/18 - 2/24	The Brain	Ch. 4, PC	Chapter Summary, In Class Assignment
8	2/25 - 3/2	Development	Ch. 6, PC	Chapter Summary, In Class Assignment
9	3/3 - 3/9	The Development of Delinquent and Criminal Behavior	Ch. 7, IFP	Chapter Summary, In Class Assignment
10	3/10 - 3/16	<b>Spring Break</b>	<b>No Readings</b>	<b>No Assignments</b>
11	3/17 - 3/23	Personality	Ch. 5, PC	Chapter Summary, In Class Assignment
12	3/24 - 3/30	Cognition	Ch. 8, PC	Chapter Summary, In Class Assignment
13	3/31 - 4/6	Learning	Ch. 7, PC	Chapter Summary, In Class Assignment
14	4/7 - 4/13	Psychology of Sexual Violence	Ch. 9, IFP	Chapter Summary, In Class Assignment
15	4/14 - 4/20	Forensic Psychology and the Victims of Crime	Ch. 10, IFP	Chapter Summary, In Class Assignment
16	4/21 - 4/27	Family Violence and Child Victimization	Ch. 11, IFP	Chapter Summary, In Class Assignment

*The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.*

17	4/28 - 5/4	Class meets at Genesis Woman's Shelter		Reflection Paper
18	5/5 - 5/10	Clinical Psych. Report/ Presentations Due		

IFP = Introduction to Forensic Psychology

PC = Psychological Criminology

*The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.*