



## **PSY 339.01E Forensic Psychology**

COURSE SYLLABUS: FALL 2024

### **INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION**

Instructor: Scarlett Kooning, M.S.

Meeting Location and Time: ART 111; MWF\*: 1-1:50 pm (\*See Course Schedule)

Office Hours: By appointment

University Email Address: sdunmire@leomail.tamuc.edu

Preferred Form of Communication: Email

Communication Response Time: Within 24-48 hours, except weekends and holidays

### **COURSE INFORMATION**

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings

#### **Textbook(s) Required:**

Introduction to Forensic Psychology: Research and Application (6<sup>th</sup> edition)

Bartol, C.R., & Bartol, A.M.

ISBN: 9781071815342

### **Course Description**

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

1. Demonstrate an understanding of police and investigative psychology by analyzing real-world techniques and applying psychological principles to investigative processes.
2. Apply family forensic psychology concepts to assess and evaluate the impact of family dynamics in legal settings, demonstrating the ability to identify relevant psychological factors.
3. Critically assess the psychology of crime and delinquency, employing relevant theories and empirical evidence to analyze and explain criminal behavior.

*The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.*

4. Evaluate the role of victimology and victim services in the criminal justice system, demonstrating an ability to propose effective psychological interventions for victims.
5. Analyze and apply legal psychology principles to assess the impact of psychological factors on legal proceedings and decision-making within the justice system.
6. Demonstrate proficiency in evaluating and critiquing expert witness testimony, identifying psychological principles and biases that may influence legal outcomes.
7. Assess correctional psychology practices and their implications for rehabilitation and the overall well-being of individuals within the criminal justice system.

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

### **Research Participation:**

A goal of this class is to help you become familiar with psychological research. One way to obtain this goal is to have you participate in research studies. Participating in research studies contributes to students and faculty at A&M - Commerce, your understanding of how research is conducted, and human knowledge in general. All students in this class will be required to participate in the psychology department's participant pool or complete alternative assignments (see me for more information on alternative assignments). Students must complete a total of 6 experiment credits. However, if you complete your first 4 experiment credits without any "no-shows" you will receive 2 free *punctual participant credits*. In other words, if you show up to your experiments on time you will only need to complete 4 experiment credits. When you first sign into the experiment management system (EMS) you will be asked to take a prescreen. The prescreen takes about 20 minutes to complete. If you complete the prescreen in the first two weeks of the semester you will receive ½ free experiment credit. This can be combined with later experiments that are worth ½ credit.

If you fail to complete this portion of the class your grade will be lowered by one full grade. In effect, if you have an 'A' in the class but fail to complete your research participation (either through participating in research studies, alternative assignments, or a mixture of both) your final grade in the class will be a 'B.' More information about participating in research, such as how to log in to the EMS, is given at the end of this syllabus.

### **Minimal Technical Skills Needed**

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

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## **Instructional Methods**

This class will be blended, meaning that some of the classes will be in person while others will be done online. You will know in advance which days will be which.

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

Students will succeed if they:

1. Attend lectures. You will probably hear this from all of 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. I know you are busy students, and I will try not to assign too much reading. If you feel you do not have the time to dedicate to reading a whole chapter then skim it as that is better than nothing.
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 in this course while also taking care of yourselves. If something comes up, please let me know.

## **GRADING**

Total points corresponding to the final letter grades

A = 895 – 1000 Points

B = 795 – 894 Points

C = 695 – 794 Points

D = 595 – 694 Points

F = 0 – 594 Points

Weights of the assessments in the calculation of the final letter grade.

Paper                    20%

Quizzes                40%

Midterm Exam        20%

Final Exam            20%

TOTAL                   100%

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## Assessments

### **TERM PAPER (200 points)**

A paper will be required over any topic that was discussed within the course, **excluding** any serial killers and cults. The paper should be **3-4 pages** (not including title or reference pages; APA format, 12 pt. font, 1" margins). It must consist of **at least 3 peer-reviewed journal articles** to support points you are trying to make or to illustrate a specific problem with a particular aspect of forensic psychology. The main purpose of this paper is to elaborate on a specific topic from this course using outside literature (e.g., peer-reviewed journals, not Wikipedia), and trying to connect it back to what we learned in class. If you have questions about picking a topic to write about, do not hesitate to contact me.

25 points will come from submitting the topic you are interested in writing the paper over in the correct discussion board before or on the due date. Another 25 points will be from the submission of the 3 peer-reviewed journal articles you are planning on using cited as you will cite them on your reference pages in the correct assignment section before or on its due date. The final 150 points will be from the submission of the term paper itself.

### **EXAMS (Mid-term and Final: 200 points each, 400 points total)**

There will be two online exams. The exams will be cumulative, be prepared to see any of the topics that we have covered up to that point on the exam. There will be no make-up exams, if you have to miss an exam contact me **BEFORE** the day of the exam and we will arrange something together.

### **QUIZZES (40 points each, 400 points total)**

There will be twelve online quizzes, the lowest two grades will be dropped and the highest ten will be used for this section. The quizzes will be covering any chapter(s) since the previous quiz. If you have to miss a quiz, please let me know **BEFORE** the day of the quiz and we will arrange something together.

### **EXTRA CREDIT (Up to 50 points)**

There will be opportunities to earn extra credit throughout the semester. All extra credit combined cannot exceed 50 points.

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## 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.

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>

## COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

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

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## **Interaction with Instructor Statement**

As there are no face-to-face office hours, I will be available via email to schedule meetings. I will be available to for any questions through email but if you would like a meeting, we can find a time that works best for both of us. Please allow 24 to 48 hours for a response, except on weekends and holidays where response times may be longer. As I often check my emails multiple times a day, response times will most likely be quicker. If you do not receive an email response after 48 hours your email may not have been received.

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

### **Course Specific Procedures/Policies**

Attendance is not mandatory but highly recommended. The best way to learn is utilizing your resources and as you professor I am one of those. If you find yourself having to miss an exam let me know **BEFORE** the day of the exam so that we can make appropriate measures. This communication will be the only way to make-up a missed exam. Late assignments may be turned in up to a week after the due date for partial credit. Please communicate with me if you need assistance in this class! I am here to help and wish to see you all learn something new and receive the grade that you would like/have worked for!

### **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 can be found at <https://www.tamuc.edu/student-code-of-conduct/>.

If you believe someone has engaged in behaviors that do not align with the Code of Student Conduct or you have other concerns, please visit the File a Report page at <https://www.tamuc.edu/office-of-student-rights-and-responsibilities/concerns-incident-reporting/>

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>

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## **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 student academic dishonesty policy  
[Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03](#)

Undergraduate student academic dishonesty policy  
[Undergraduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

Graduate student academic dishonesty policy:  
<https://inside.tamuc.edu/aboutus/policiesproceduresstandardsstatements/rulesProcedures/13students/graduate/13.99.99.R0.10.pdf>

Graduate student academic dishonesty form:  
<https://inside.tamuc.edu/academics/graduateSchool/faculty/GraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyForm.pdf>

## **TAMUC Attendance**

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the [Attendance](#) webpage.

## **Artificial Intelligence**

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.

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

Office of Student Disability Services  
Velma K. Waters Library- Room 162

**Phone (903) 886-5930**

Fax (903) 468-8148

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

**Website:** <http://inside.tamuc.edu/campuslife/campusServices/StudentDisabilityServices/default.aspx>

## **Mental Health and Well-Being**

The university aims to provide students with essential knowledge and tools to understand and support mental health. As part of our commitment to your well-being, we offer access to Telus Health, a service available 24/7/365 via chat, phone, or webinar. Scan the QR code to download the app and explore the resources available to you for guidance and support whenever you need it.



## **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)

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## **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 on the basis of 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:

<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 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

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