



PSY 339.51E Forensic Psychology

COURSE SYLLABUS: Fall 2024

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Grace Hackney, B.S.

Meeting Location and Time: Collin High Ed Center/McKinney; Room TBD

Office Hours: Tuesdays: 3:00-4:30pm (in person - CHEC Room 106), Thursdays: 1pm-2pm (Zoom)

University Email Address: ghackney1@leomail.tamuc.edu

Preferred Form of Communication: Email

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

COURSE INFORMATION

Class Meeting Time & Location:

Class meets in person from 8/26/24 – 12/13/24

Tuesdays 4:30-7:10pm

Collin High Ed Center/McKinney, Room TBD

Textbook(s) Required:

Bartol, C.R., & Bartol, A.M. *Introduction to Forensic Psychology: Research and Application* (6th ed.). ISBN: 9781071815342

Course Description

Student Learning Outcomes

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, in order to assess and evaluate the impact of family dynamics in legal settings, demonstrating the ability to identify

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

relevant psychological factors.

3. Critically assess the psychology of crime and delinquency, employing relevant theories and empirical evidence to analyze and explain criminal behavior.
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, in order 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 pre-screen. The pre-screen takes about 20 minutes to complete. If you complete the pre-screen in the first two

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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, will be discussed in class.

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.

Instructional Methods

This class will be held in person at the Collin High Ed Center/McKinney. Regular attendance is crucial for success in this course.

Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course

Students will succeed if they:

1. First and foremost, attend lectures. You will likely hear this from all of your professors, but it is true. Having the ability to ask questions, seek guidance or clarification, and learn from others 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. My goal is to create a classroom of ease where you feel excited and comfortable contributing to the topic and asking questions along the way!
3. Read the assigned material. I know you are busy students, and I will do my best not to assign too much reading. If you are unable to complete reading assignments in full, read as much as you can and/or skim the chapter. Any amount of reading is better than none.
4. Communicate your needs! I am here for each of you and I truly want all of you to succeed in this class. It is important that you learn everything you can in this course while also taking care of yourself in the process. If something comes up, please let me know and we will work together to find a solution.

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GRADING

Total points corresponding to the final letter grades:

A = 895 – 1000

B = 795 – 894

C = 695 – 794

D = 595 – 694

F = 0 – 594

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

Term Paper: 20%

Quizzes: 40%

Midterm Exam: 20%

Final Exam: 20%

TOTAL: 100%

Assessments

TERM PAPER (200 points)

A paper will be required over a topic of your choosing 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 or to illustrate a specific problem within 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 making connections to class concepts. If you have questions about picking a topic to write about, do not hesitate to contact me.

- 25 points will come from submitting your topic 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 in APA format, 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, so 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, please contact me **BEFORE** the day of the exam and we will arrange something together.

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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 assigned 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.

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

Zoom Video Conferencing Tool

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.

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.

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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>

Interaction with Instructor Statement

As there are no face-to-face office hours, I will be available via email to schedule meetings. Please feel free to ask me any questions you may have through email, but if you would like to meet via zoom, we can find a time that works best for both of us. Allow 24 to 48 hours for a response, except on weekends and holidays where response times may be longer. I check my emails regularly, so response times will likely be quicker. If you do not receive a response after 48 hours, please send me a follow-up email.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures/Policies

Attendance:

Attendance is not mandatory but highly recommended. The best way to learn is by utilizing your resources, and as your professor, I am one of those!

Late Assignments:

Late assignments may be turned in up to **one week** after the due date for **partial** credit. Please communicate with me if you need assistance in this class! I am here to help you and I 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 is described in detail in the [Student Guidebook](http://www.tamuc.edu/Admissions/oneStopShop/undergraduateAdmissions/studentGuidebook.aspx).

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

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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

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/GraduateStudentAcademicDi>

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[s_honestyFormold.pdf](#)

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

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 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

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 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/>

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[es/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.

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

Course Outline/Calendar

(To be attached prior to the start of class)

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