

Disclaimer

There will be material in this class that will be difficult to watch and listen to involving criminal acts of a sometimes violent and sexually violent nature. If these types of images or discussions offend your sensibilities or trigger difficult experiences for you, this is probably not the course for you. I do my best to present this material in the most respectful and professional way possible, however, if at any time you become emotionally overwhelmed by the class material, please see me and I will be happy to refer you to someone at the counseling center that can help you cope with what you are experiencing.

Course Goals

Expose students from multiple disciplines to the various psychological roles and influences in the courtroom. It is hoped that the multidisciplinary makeup of the class will contribute to this as students from a variety of programs are welcome to enroll. The course has both undergraduates and graduate students.

Become familiar with case law as it relates to expert testimony, particularly as expert testimony applies to mental health professionals.

Become familiar with ethical practices of forensic psychology.

A survey of mental health professional roles in the forensic context from civil to criminal issues.

This course carries the Ethics and Leadership flag for Undergraduate sections. Ethics and Leadership courses are designed to equip you with skills that are necessary for making ethical decisions in your adult and professional life. You should therefore expect a substantial portion of your grade to come from assignments involving ethical issues and the process of applying ethical reasoning to real-life situations.

Students with Disabilities

If you are a student with a disability and may need accommodations, please see me at the start of the semester. You are also advised to be registered with the Office of the Dean of Students (Students with Disabilities). Official documentation is needed for us to ensure appropriate accommodations. If you are a student with other concerns (e.g., English as a second language; child care), please see me at the start of the semester. There may be an opportunity for adjustments to be made in order to best accommodate you. You are still expected to complete all requirements.

Academic Dishonesty and Ethics

If for no other reason that this course carries with it an Ethics and Leadership flag, academic dishonesty is a particularly egregious offense. As the professor, I reserve the right to address these behaviors depending on the offense, from giving you an "0" for the assignment, an "F" for the class, or notifying your advisor and the university that you have engaged in academic dishonest behavior and allow them to take the appropriate steps consistent with university policy.

Attendance

A good number of lectures and assignments will be available on canvas. I will not regularly take attendance and I consider you to be adults that can make your own choices about the investment you want to make in your classes and education. Each week, I will give you notice through canvas about whether or not we will have class online or in the classroom for the following week. Some in class activities will have points associated with them, so missing class will cause you to miss points for the class. We will do our best to record these classes so that if you have an authorized, documented excuse, you will be able to view the class through canvas and participate using an alternative assignment for those points. Authorized excuses include doctors notes or notes from your advisor. Choosing to miss class to do other things that seem more interesting or fun in the moment, do not count as authorized excuses.

Use of technology

Use of cell phones, computers, iPads, etc are prohibited in the classroom. Please put these devices away. If you use these devices during class, you will be asked to leave and will forfeit any points associated with that class activity.

Assignments and Readings

Assignments and readings will be available to you via Canvas and will be easy to follow as this syllabus evolves over the semester. You should have a sense of what will be required of you for at least three weeks prior to the due dates. You are encouraged to do your own research and reading either on the Internet or through the library. Assignments will be based on the lectures (both in class and on canvas), films, and readings provided in each module on the Canvas system.

