Course Number and Title: PSYC 2490, Sec. 01 - Introduction to Forensic Psychology
Semester/Year: Fall 2006
Credit Hours: 3

Instructors: Tracey Coziahr, MA, CPP; Tabatha Madrigal, MA, CPP
Email: thanlin_4@yahoo.com, tabs007@gmail.com
Phone numbers: Work 473-8066, Tabatha Cell 258-4698
Office Hours: No formal office hours are scheduled, however we will be available informally before and after class and individual appointments may be scheduled.
Academic Assistant: Julie Laib, AD 175, 268-2368, jlaib@caspercollege.edu

Class Time: Day: Room:
Lecture 7:00 - 9:45 PM Tuesdays PS 315

Prerequisite: Psychology 1000, General Psychology

Required Text, Readings, Materials:
Introduction to Forensic Psychology, By C. Bartol & A. Bartol, 2004

Course Description:
Forensic Psychology 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 investigative psychology, family forensic psychology, psychology of crime and delinquency, victimology and victim services, legal psychology, expert witness testimony, consulting psychology and correctional psychology.

General Objective:
Students are required to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of forensic psychology theories and research, and their relevance to current issues in the news and in psychological peer-reviewed research journals.

Specific Objectives (Outcomes):
* Become familiar with theories of forensic psychology
* Demonstrate understanding of the scholarly controversies and ethical dilemmas in the field
* Develop critical thinking skills regarding issues of forensic psychology
* Develop critical writing skills
These will be evidenced on (1) exams, (2) oral and written presentations, and (3) class discussions and attendance.

Teaching Methods:
Each student is responsible for her/his own education in this class. Students are responsible for reading and learning text material before the scheduled class. Students are expected to take an active role in their learning and participate in class discussions, bringing their own experiences and views to the class. The lecture portion of the course will use a variety of media presentations which may include videos and overheads.
Evaluation Criteria:
Students will be evaluated on attendance, class participation, required paper and examinations.

Last Date to Change to Audit Status or Withdraw with a W Grade:

November 3, 2006

Student Rights and Responsibilities:
Please refer to the Casper College Student Conduct and Judicial Code for information regarding your rights and responsibilities as a Casper College Student.

Grade Scale:

Total Points Possible: 700

Exams: 500 points total

A= 90 - 100 % (630-700 pts)

B= 80 - 89% (560-629 pts)

C= 70 - 79% (490-559pts)

D= 60 - 69% (420-489 pts)

F= Below 60% (less than 420 pts)

Extras:
There will be no extra credit offered for this course.

Exams:
There will be a total of five exams, four Section tests and one comprehensive final exam. Each exam will be worth 100 points. Students with a 93% class average going into the final exam may opt not to take this exam and will receive an “A” for the course.

Paper/Presentation:
Each student will be expected to write a research paper on a pertinent topic of their choice and present their findings to the class. The research paper will be worth 100 points.

Attendance Policy:
Research indicates a direct relationship between classroom attendance and grade performance. Attendance is expected for all students on all class days. Attendance means being in class, arriving on time, and engaging in class discussions, demonstrations and other exercises. Sleeping, text messaging, reading or working on other material are prohibited and will result in the student being administratively withdrawn from the class. Auditors missing more than 4 class periods may be withdrawn from the course. Signatures on the attendance sheet shall comprise the official record.

Accommodations will not be made for students with poor attendance records. Poor attendance indicates that your education is not important to you and therefore does not deserve special consideration from us.

Please be considerate and respectful of your fellow students and turn off your cell phones and beepers (unless, of course, you are on-call), do not talk when someone else is speaking or when watching videos and do not mock or demean others in the class. 

This behavior will not be
tolerated.

**Makeup Policy:** You will only be allowed to make up an exam if you have contacted me ahead of time and have a valid excuse. No student will be allowed to make up more than one exam per term.

**Late Policy:** Under normal circumstances, papers that are turned in late are given a penalty of one letter grade.

**Policy on Incompletes:** An incomplete will only be given if you have successfully completed all but one of the course requirements prior to the end of the term. Material turned in after the end of the term to satisfy an incomplete will ordinarily receive a penalty of one letter grade.

**Chain of Command:** If you have any problems with this class, you should first contact the instructors in order to solve the problem. If you are not satisfied with the solution offered by the instructors, you should then take your problem through the appropriate chain of command starting with the department head, then the division chair, and lastly the vice president for academic affairs.

**Academic Dishonesty:** Cheating & Plagiarism: Casper College demands intellectual honesty. Proven plagiarism or any form of dishonesty associated with the academic process can result in the offender failing the course in which the offense was committed or expulsion from school. See the Casper College Student Code of Conduct.

**ADA Accommodations Policy:** It is the policy of Casper College to provide appropriate accommodations to any student with a documented disability. If you have a need for accommodation in this course, please make an appointment to see me at your earliest convenience. If you have test anxiety or this course raises any personal issues for you please contact a counselor at the Casper College Counseling Center (AD 113).

**Exceptions:** Any requests for exception to the syllabus or assignments must be accompanied by a brief note of record explaining the exception, be dated and signed by both the student and instructor. The course outline and attached assignment sheet are subject to change at the discretion of the instructor and be announced in class.

The course calendar and syllabus are subject to change at the discretion of the instructors. Any changes shall be announced in class.

---

**Calendar of Course Content**

**Week 1**

Introduction to the course, forensic psychology overview
Assigned Reading: Chapter 1

**Week 2**
Police Psychology
Assigned Reading: Chapter 2

**Week 3**

Investigative Psychology
Assigned Reading: Chapter 3

**Week 4**

Development of Habitual Criminal Behavior
Assigned Reading: Chapter 4
Exam 1 (Chapters 1-3)

**Week 5**

Psychology of Violence and Intimidation
Assigned Reading: Chapter 5
Paper Topic Due

**Week 6**

Psychology of Sexual Assault
Assigned Reading: Chapter 6
Exam 2 (Chapters 4-5)

**Week 7**

Forensic Psychology and Victims of Crime
Assigned Reading: Chapter 7

**Week 8**

Family Violence, Abuse and Victimization
Assigned Reading: Chapter 8

**Week 9**

Consulting and Testifying
Assigned Reading: Chapter 9

**Week 10**

Consulting with Criminal Courts
Assigned Reading: Chapter 10
Exam 3 (Chapters 7-9)

**Week 11**

Consulting with Civil Courts
Assigned Reading: Chapter 11

**Week 12**

Correctional Psychology in Adult Settings
Assigned Reading: Chapter 12

**Week 13**

Juvenile Corrections
Assigned Reading: Chapter 13

**Week 14**

Exam 4 (Chapters 9-11)
Project Presentations

**Week 15**

Project Presentations
**Term Paper Due**
Review for Final Exam

**Final Exam Date**: Tuesday, December 19, 7:00 pm

**Fall Break** - No Class - Tuesday, October 24