



Syllabus

SCHOOL OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SCIENCES **PSY 322: Forensic Psychology**

5 Credits

Effective: Summer 2016/2017

Access to the Internet is required.

All written assignments must be in Microsoft-Word-compatible formats.

See the library's APA Style Guide tutorial for a list of resources that can help you use APA style.

FACULTY

Faculty Name: FACULTY NAME

Contact Information: CONTACT INFORMATION

[INSTRUCTOR MAY INSERT PERSONAL MESSAGE IF DESIRED]

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course introduces various aspects of forensic psychology. It examines problems, limitations, roles, and responsibilities of psychologists and other human services professionals working along with law enforcement forces and the justice system. Other topics covered in this course include: techniques of criminal investigation, risk assessment, trial consultations, interrogation and confessions, sexual abuse and harassment, and discrimination.

COURSE RESOURCES

Required and recommended resources to complete coursework and assignments are found on the course [Reading List](#). The reading list can be found under Course Information in Blackboard as well as from the library homepage.

Note: Required resources that must be purchased by the student are tagged “Purchase from a vendor of your choosing.” Required resources with a direct link, “Available through CityU Library”, are available at no cost to students.

Students in Canada will see required resources they need to purchase tagged “Purchase from the Canadian Bookstore.” Students outside the U.S. and Canada should contact their advisor or textbook coordinator for additional information.

COURSE OUTCOMES

In this course, learners:

- Discuss problems and limitations of forensic psychology
- Understand the role and responsibilities, of the forensic psychologist, and other human service professionals, as an expert witness and trial consultant.
- Assess seriousness of specific behaviors and implications of psychologist recommendations
- Evaluate the applicability of various investigative techniques

OVERVIEW OF COURSE GRADING

The grades earned for the course will be derived using City University of Seattle's decimal grading system, based on the following:

| <i>Overview of Required Assignments</i> | <i>% of Final Grade</i> |
|---|-------------------------|
| Course activities | 20% |
| Quizzes (equally weighted) | 30% |
| Application papers (two equally weighted) | 30% |
| Synthesis paper | 20% |
| TOTAL | 100% |

SPECIFICS OF COURSE ASSIGNMENTS

The instructor will provide grading rubrics with more detail as to how this assignment will be graded.

Course activities

Class participation through discussion is an integral part of this online course, although it is typically less formal than other work submitted throughout the course. Participation is defined as active engagement in a discussion or other online activity. To provide a structure for balanced participation and allow you to maximize the benefit of the discussion boards, it is recommended that you follow these guidelines: 1) Post your responses to discussion questions in the first three days of the school week (Monday through Wednesday). 2) Post three or more thoughtful and topic-relevant comments to responses made by classmates during the last four days of the school week (Thursday through Sunday). 3) Respond to any questions that your instructor or peers have regarding your original post by the end of the school week.

| <i>Components</i> | <i>% of Grade</i> |
|-------------------------|-------------------|
| Timeliness of responses | 15% |
| Quality of responses | 70% |
| Quantity of responses | 15% |
| TOTAL | 100% |

Quizzes (equally weighted)

Students will take weekly equally weighted online quizzes to reinforce the course materials. The quizzes will test your ability to utilize psychological terminology as well as the identification and application of proper psychological concepts for a given problem. All quizzes are closed book and notes.

| <i>Components</i> | <i>% of Grade</i> |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| TOTAL | 100% |

Application papers (two equally weighted)

Students will prepare two papers, six- to seven pages long, on specific problems related to the concepts discussed in this class. They may choose which problem is to be written about for each of the four

papers, however, each paper should present an issue from a different category listed below: Techniques of criminal investigation – psychological profiling autopsies, hypnosis, and detecting lies; Violent and aggressive behavior – risk assessment and related recommendations; Child custody and related decisions; Trial consultation (jury selection, preparing witnesses, etc.); Insanity and competency; Discrimination; Sexual abuse and sexual harassment; Death penalty trials and appeals.

In their papers, students should combine their own thoughtful analysis with ideas and information found in a minimum of two sources other than the textbook. Therefore, as in any scholarly writing, students should not merely copy information from another author, but use evidence to support the contentions they have drawn from their findings and critically analyze related literature - this paper has to be an analytical paper, not a summary of readings. This paper must meet APA requirements of format and style. Students must cite the sources of all ideas, facts, and information used that are not their own, even if they have put the information into their own words. Failure to do so is plagiarism, even if the oversight is unintentional.

| <i>Components</i> | <i>% of Grade</i> |
|---|-------------------|
| DAS-U-Analysis and use of course concepts | 30% |
| DAS-U-Evidence and support | 30% |
| DAS-U-Organization and coherence | 20% |
| DAS-U-Style and mechanics | 20% |
| TOTAL | 100% |

Synthesis paper

Students are expected to select a high profile criminal or child custody case and write a eight- to ten-page paper describing their role as forensic psychologist working with the defendant and his/her team. In their papers, students should combine their own thoughtful analysis with ideas and information found in a minimum of four sources other than the textbook. Therefore, as in any scholarly writing, students should not merely copy information from another author, but use evidence to support the contentions they have drawn from their findings and critically analyze related literature - this paper has to be an analytical paper, not a summary of readings. This paper must meet APA requirements of format and style. Students must cite the sources of all ideas, facts, and information used that are not their own, even if they have put the information into their own words. Failure to do so is plagiarism, even if the oversight is unintentional.

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COURSE POLICIES

Late Assignments

LATE ASSIGNMENT

Participation

PARTICIPATION

Professional Writing

Assignments require error-free writing that uses standard English conventions and logical flow of organization to address topics clearly, completely, and concisely. CityU requires the use of APA style.

UNIVERSITY POLICIES

You are responsible for understanding and adhering to all of City University of Seattle's academic policies. The most current versions of these policies can be found in the [University Catalog](#) that is linked from the CityU Web site.

Non-Discrimination & Prohibition of Sexual Misconduct

City University of Seattle adheres to all federal, state, and local civil rights laws prohibiting discrimination in employment and education. The University is committed to ensuring that the education environment is bounded by standards of mutual respect and safety and is free from discriminatory practices.

In the U.S., the University is required by Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 to ensure that all of its education programs and activities do not discriminate on the basis of sex/gender. Sex include sex, sex stereotypes, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, and pregnancy or parenting status. Sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating and domestic violence, and stalking are forms of sex discrimination, which are prohibited under Title IX and by City University of Seattle policy. City University of Seattle also prohibits retaliation against any person opposing discrimination or participating in any discrimination investigation or complaint process internal or external to the institution. Questions regarding Title IX, including its application and/or concerns about noncompliance, should be directed to the Title IX Coordinator. For a complete copy of the policy or for more information, visit <https://my.cityu.edu/titleix> or contact the Title IX Coordinator.

In Canada, in compliance with the British Columbia Human Rights Code, the Alberta Human Rights Act, WorksafeBC, and the Workers' Compensation Board of Alberta, the University believes that its environment should at all times be supportive and respectful of the dignity and self-esteem of individuals. Discrimination, harassment and bullying conduct, whether through person to person behaviour or via electronic communications such as email or social media is not acceptable and will not be tolerated. As an educational institution, it is our responsibility to cultivate an environment of excellence, equity, mutual respect and to recognize the value and potential of every individual. The University will take all necessary steps to meet or exceed the requirements of the law to prevent discrimination, harassment and bullying. The Respectful Workplace Policy for the prevention of discrimination, harassment and bullying policy and procedure can be found at <https://www.cityu.edu/discover-cityu/about-cityu/> under the Policies section or at <https://www.cityuniversity.ca/about/>.

Religious Accommodations

City University of Seattle has a policy for accommodation of student absences or significant hardship due to reasons of faith or conscience, or for organized religious activities. The University's policy, including more information about how to request an accommodation, is available in the University Catalog and on the my.cityu.edu student portal. Accommodations must be requested by the 20% mark of this course

(e.g. day 14 of a ten-week course, day 7 of a 5-week course) using the Religious Accommodations Request Form found on the student dashboard in the my.cityu.edu student portal.

Academic Integrity

Academic integrity in students requires the pursuit of scholarly activity that is free from fraud, deception and unauthorized collaboration with other individuals. Students are responsible for understanding CityU's policy on academic integrity and adhering to its standards in meeting all course requirements. A complete copy of this policy can be found in the University Catalog in the section titled [Academic Integrity Policy](#) under Student Rights & Responsibilities.

Attendance

Students taking courses in any format at the University are expected to be diligent in their studies and to attend class regularly. Regular class attendance is important in achieving learning outcomes in the course and may be a valid consideration in determining the final grade. For classes where a physical presence is required, a student has attended if they are present at any time during the class session. For online classes, a student has attended if they have posted or submitted an assignment. A complete copy of this policy can be found in the [University Catalog](#) in the section titled Attendance under Student Rights & Responsibilities.

Final Assignments Due Date

Final assignments for each class at CityU must be due on or before the final date of the course as indicated in the university's course information system. Due dates that extend beyond the final date of the course may negatively impact tuition funding for students.

SUPPORT SERVICES

Disability Services Accommodations Statement

Students with documented disability who wish to request academic accommodations are encouraged to contact Disability Support Services to discuss accommodation requests and eligibility requirements. Please contact Disability Support Services at disability@cityu.edu or 206.2369.4752 or visit the [Disability Support Services](#) page in the my.cityu.edu portal. Confidentiality will be observed in all inquiries. Once approved, information about academic accommodations will be shared with your course instructors.

Library Services

CityU librarians are available to help students find the resources and information they need to succeed in this course. Contact a CityU librarian through the [Ask a Librarian](#) service, or access [library resources and services](#) online, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Smarthinking Tutoring CityU students have 24/7 access to free online tutoring offered through Smarthinking, including writing support, from certified tutors. Contact CityU's Student Support Center at mycityusupport@cityu.edu to request a username and password.