PSY 4930 Sec 1B26 Syllabus
Psychology of Law
Monday-Wednesday-Friday 3rd period 9:35 to 10:25
Room 415 of Black Hall

Professor Thomas G. Pye, JD
Office: 136 Psychology Bldg.
tom@pyelaw.com
352-381-9799 (office)
352-381-9726 (fax)
Office Hours: M/W 8:30 –9:30

Teaching Assistants:
Marissa Campopiano Mcampopiano@ufl.edu Role: Discussion Preparation
Alexa Poo alexanpoo12@ufl.edu Role: Reaction Paper assistance

TA Office Hours: Friday’s Class time/in classroom and by appointment

NOTE:
Each of the discussion weeks, the assigned discussion group will meet with the Discussion TA at the time that the Reaction Paper TA is assisting other students. Thus, if you are in the discussion group, and need to ALSO meet with the Reaction Paper TA, please arrange it with the Reaction Paper TA in advance to meet at another time/location or via telephone.

No Required Text Book

Readings:

There will be 10 readings on key legal issues this semester, either linked or provided via pdf file on Canvas.

What is the focus of “Psychology of Law?”

This course focuses on applications of behavioral science research and practice to the legal system. Topics covered include:
1. psychologists and the legal system;
2. the legal system and its players;
3. legality, morality and justice;
4. forensic assessment;
5. the insanity defense;
6. competence in the legal system;
7. eyewitness identification;
8. jury selection;
9. theories of crime;
10. punishment and sentencing.

You are encouraged to evaluate the theoretical and empirical support for the practices and policies guiding the work of behavioral scientists, clinicians, and lawyers in each of these substantive areas.
The development of critical thought is emphasized. You will read and critically analyze arguments on both sides of relevant contemporary psycho-legal issues as brought out by reading about significant legal matters relating to these topics.

**ACCOMMODATIONS**

"Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation." The signed documentation will then be the responsibility of the student to return to the DSO.

**COMMUNICATION**

You will find that I take a very active interest in your success in this class. I try to get to know each and every one of you. I encourage you to email me any questions, comments, or concerns that you may have at any time. You may be surprised how helpful this communication can be and how I welcome it. You will receive a prompt reply.

**CLASS Demeanor**

I try to create a relaxed environment to foster discussion. In order to do that, I request that everyone arrive on time, with your cell phones "off". No texting, no chatting, no working on other class assignments, no video games or other distractions on laptops (you can however use your laptops for note taking).

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**Grading: 1000 Possible Points as Follows:**

1. **600 Points (60%) EXAMS**
   
   Three Multiple Choice Tests, non-cumulative covering the Lectures and Cases.
   
   1\(^{st}\) Exam (Lectures 1-3 & cases 1-2) 30 questions 180 Points
   
   2\(^{nd}\) Exam (Lectures 4-6 & cases 3-7) 30 questions 180 Points
   
   3\(^{rd}\) Exam (Lectures 7-10) 40 questions 240 Points
   
   There is NO make up for a missed exam without a documented emergency. These are right from the lecture, thus attending each lecture is essential for doing well in the class.

2. **300 Points (30%) REACTION PAPERS**

   (1) There will be ten (10) Reaction Papers (each student on their own and without the help of any classmate) of 1 page.
   
   (2) Each paper will be awarded up to 30 points, 300 possible points between the 10 assigned papers through the term, thus 30% of your total grade.
   
   (3) You will receive a Reaction Paper Template detailing what needs to be done in the reaction paper and the way to earn all possible points. Brevity is rewarded.
   
   (4) Papers are due via Canvas by 5 PM on the Friday as noted in this syllabus, you will receive the reading assignment on Sunday during the week that it is
due and can turn in your reaction paper anytime after the assignment is posted.
(5) Any reaction paper that is uploaded later than 5 PM Friday will receive no points. **THIS IS A FIRM DEADLINE**, and as such, computer issues and even illness will not be an excuse for late papers since you will have all week to complete the paper.
(6) Your grades on these papers are generally posted within 36 hours of the deadline, so check your Canvas regularly for grades and comments as well.

3. **100 Points (10%) Discussions**

(1) In class, student led discussions will be held on topics of particular interest or controversy associated with a weekly reaction paper that has been turned in [see No. 2 above].
(2) There will be a total of six (6) or perhaps seven (7) if needed, of these discussions during the course of the semester. Each discussion will be for approximately 30 minutes during class time according to the schedule listed below.
(3) Students will be assigned discussion “groups” of 4-6 students. Each side of the group will consist of approximately 2-3 students. Each group member IS required to speak equally during the presentation.
(4) The Discussion Teaching Assistant will be the go to person on the discussions and will meet with both sides of the group 2 times for each discussion [one meeting on the Friday during scheduled class time before the and the second meeting occurring sometime over the weekend before the discussion in order to practice a run-through and/or final thoughts].

CHECK YOUR SCHEDULE FOR WEEKEND CONFLICTS FOR ANY OF THE BELOW DISCUSSION DATES AND EMAIL ME tom@pyelaw.com SO THAT YOU DO NOT GET ASSIGNED TO A GROUP ON A WEEKEND THAT YOU HAVE A CONFLICT. A CONFLICT IS DEFINED AS AN ACADEMIC ISSUE OR FAMILY OBLIGATION. **DO THIS BY 11 AM ON JANUARY 13, 2016**

**CHECK YOUR EMAIL AND CANVAS TWICE DAILY:**

I tend to be in frequent contact with the class. It is how I assign the weekly readings. It is also how I assign the discussion groups. It is also how I post your grades for your reaction papers. Since this schedule below is preliminary, changes may be made to the schedule if some sections require more time or discussion, or other events or issues present themselves.

If I am absent, I will post it in advance, so check your email and E learning Canvas before class each day.

**Lecture Power Points**

Outlines of these are on E Learning Canvas

**Attendance Policy**

Besides Exam Dates, there are TWO Required Class days: Wednesday January 13th and April 11th. Penalty for each non-excused attendance, 5 points off your total final score.

The remainder of the class dates are at your discretion, but advised.
GRADES

This class will be graded with the plus/minus system based on the following point totals, there will be NO extra credit, and there is NO grade “boosting” or “rounding up”, for example a 899 is a B+ and will NOT be boosted or rounded up, the same follows for all of these numbers below:

93-100% [930-1000] = A
90-92% [900-929] = A-
87-89% [870-899] = B+
83-86% [830-869] = B
80-82% [800-829] = B-
77-79% [770-799] = C+
73-76% [730-769] = C
70-72% [700-729] = C-
67-69% [670-699] = D+
63-66% [630-669] = D
60-62% [600-629] = D-
Below is failing

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

University policy defines scholastic dishonesty as any act that violates the rights of another student with respect to academic work or that involves misrepresentations of a student’s own work. Academic dishonesty includes (but is not limited to): cheating on assignments or examinations; plagiarizing (misrepresenting as one’s own work anything done by another); submitting the same or substantially similar papers for more than one course without consent of all instructors concerned; depriving another of necessary course materials; or sabotaging another’s work. For a full description of what constitutes academic dishonesty and plagiarism, see the University of Florida Student Honor Code at: http://regulations.ufl.edu/chapter4/4017.pdf

University Resources:
Psychology Advising: http://www.psych.ufl.edu/~undergrad
PSYCHOLOGY OF LAW
University of Florida

SCHEDULE

January 6 - 8

Wednesday    Introduction/Discuss Class/Grading/Assignments
Friday        Lecture 1

Jan 11-15

Monday        Lecture 1 (continued)
Wednesday     Interview and presentation **REQUIRED**
(deadline 11 AM for conflict weekends)
Friday        TA’s: How to do a Reaction Paper/Discussion for Psychology of Law

Jan 18-22

Monday        Holiday
Wednesday     Lecture 2 / Lecture 3 (begin)
Friday        Reading assignment 1 will be emailed during the week, use this day as
              independent study, or meet with the TA about the case or to review
              your prior reaction paper. Also, discussion group #1 meets in
              classroom. Paper due at 5 PM

Jan 25-29

Monday        Discussion #1
Wednesday     Lecture 3 (conclude)
Friday        Reading assignment 2 will be emailed during the week, use this day as
              independent study, or meet with the TA about the case or to review
              your prior reaction paper. Also, discussion group #2 meets in
              classroom. Paper due at 5 PM

Feb 1-5

Monday        Discussion #2
Wednesday     **Test 1 (Lectures 1-3, cases 1-2)**
Friday        Reading assignment 3 will be emailed during the week, use this day as
              independent study, or meet with the TA about the case or to review
              your prior reaction paper. Also, discussion group #3 meets in
              classroom. Paper due at 5 PM

Feb 8-12

Monday        Discussion #3
Wednesday     Lecture 4
Friday        Reading assignment 4 will be emailed during the week, use this day as
              independent study, or meet with the TA about the case or to review
your prior reaction paper. Also, discussion group #4 meets in classroom. Paper due at 5 PM

**Feb 15-19**

Monday: Discussion #4  
Wednesday: Lecture 4 continued  
Friday: Reading assignment 5 will be emailed during the week, use this day as independent study, or meet with the TA about the case or to review your prior reaction paper. Also, discussion group #5 meets in classroom. Paper due at 5 PM

**Feb 22-26**

Monday: Discussion #5  
Wednesday: Lecture 5  
Friday: Open Date/Catch up

**Feb 29-4**  **SPRING BREAK**

**March 7-11**

Monday: Lecture 5 continued  
Wednesday: Lecture 6  
Friday: Reading assignment 6 will be emailed during the week, use this day as independent study, or meet with the TA about the case or to review your prior reaction paper. Also, discussion group #6 meets in classroom. Paper due at 5 PM

**March 14-18**

Monday: Discussion #6  
Wednesday: Lecture 6 continued  
Friday: Reading assignment 7 will be emailed during the week, use this day as independent study, or meet with the TA about the case or to review your prior reaction paper. Also, discussion group #7 (if needed) meets in classroom. Paper due at 5 PM

**March 21-25**

Monday: Discussion 7 (if needed)  
Wednesday: **Test 2 (Lectures 4-6, cases 3-7)**  
Friday: Lecture 7  
Reading assignment 8 will be emailed during the week. Paper due at 5 PM

**March 28-April 1**

Monday: Lecture 7  
Wednesday: Lecture 8  
Friday: Lecture 8 continued  
Reading assignment 9 will be emailed during the week. Paper due at 5 PM
### April 4-8

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<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>Lecture 9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Lecture 9 continued</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>catch up (if needed)</td>
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Reading assignment 10 will be emailed during the week. Paper due at 5 PM.

### April 11-15

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<tr>
<th>Day</th>
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<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>Lecture 10 (class evaluation in <strong>class attendance required</strong> bring your computer or device to link to <a href="http://www.evaluations.ufl.edu">www.evaluations.ufl.edu</a>)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Lecture 10 continued</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>Open date/catch-up</td>
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### April 18-22

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<th>Day</th>
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<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td><strong>Test 3 (Lectures 7-10)</strong></td>
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<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Review Exam 3</td>
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