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).

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

1. **600 Points (60%) EXAMS**

   Three Multiple Choice Tests, non-cumulative covering the Lectures and Cases.
   
   1st Exam (Lectures 1-3) 30 questions 180 Points  
   2nd Exam (Lectures 4-6) 30 questions 180 Points  
   3rd 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. FOLLOW THE TEMPLATE. Brevity is rewarded.  
   (4) Papers are due via Canvas by 5 PM on the days 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 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 AUGUST 29, 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 and how I post your grades for your reaction papers, etc.

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 under Assignments.

**Attendance Policy**

Besides Exam Dates and those dates associated with your Discussion Presentation, there are **Two (2) REQUIRED Class days:**
August 29, 2016
November 28, 2016

Penalty for each non-excused absence on required attendance day shall be 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 600 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](http://regulations.ufl.edu/chapter4/4017.pdf)

University Resources:
Libraries - [http://www.uflib.ufl.edu/computing.html](http://www.uflib.ufl.edu/computing.html)
Psychology Advising: [http://www.psych.ufl.edu/~undergrad](http://www.psych.ufl.edu/~undergrad)
PSYCHOLOGY & LAW
University of Florida

SCHEDULE

August 22 - 26
Monday Introduction/Discuss Class/Grading/Assignments
Wednesday Lecture 1
Friday Lecture 1 (continued)
Drop/Add ends at 11:59 PM

August 29 – Sept 2
Monday Interview and presentation (REQUIRED ATTENDANCE)
Wednesday Lecture 2
Friday How to do a Reaction Paper/Discussion for Psychology & Law

Sept 5 - 9
Monday Holiday
Wednesday Lecture 3
Friday (1) Reading assignment 1 will be on CANVAS all week, use this day to
do the paper or to meet with the Reading TA about the case or to
review any prior reaction paper.
(2) Paper due at 5 PM via CANVAS
(3) Discussion group #1 meets in classroom with Discussion TA.

Sept 12 - 16
Monday Discussion #1
Wednesday Lecture 3 (cont.)
Friday (1) Reading assignment 2 will be on CANVAS all week, use this day to
do the paper or to meet with the Reading TA about the case or to
review any prior reaction paper.
(2) Paper due at 5 PM via CANVAS
(3) Discussion group #2 meets in classroom with Discussion TA.

Sept 19 - 23
Monday Discussion #2
Wednesday Test 1 (Lectures 1-3)
Friday (1) Reading assignment 3 will be on CANVAS all week, use this day to
do the paper or to meet with the Reading TA about the case or to
review any prior reaction paper.
(2) Paper due at 5 PM via CANVAS
(3) Discussion group #3 meets in classroom with Discussion TA.
**Sept 26 – 30**

**Monday**  Discussion #3  
**Wednesday** Lecture 4  
**Friday**  
(1) Reading assignment 4 will be on CANVAS all week, use this day to do the paper or to meet with the Reading TA about the case or to review any prior reaction paper.  
(2) Paper due at 5 PM via CANVAS  
(3) Discussion group #4 meets in classroom with Discussion TA.

**Oct 3 - 7**

**Monday**  Discussion #4  
**Wednesday** Lecture 4 continued (Reading TA Hours: 1145 - 1:45 @ Library West)  
**Thursday** (Reading TA Hours: 10:40 – 12:40 at Library West)  
**Friday**  
(1) Reading assignment 5 will be on CANVAS all week, use this day to do the paper. No Reading TA hours  
(2) Paper due at 5 PM via CANVAS  
(3) Discussion group #5 meets in classroom with Discussion TA.

**Oct 10 – 14**

**Monday**  Discussion #5  
**Wednesday** Lecture 5  
**Friday** Homecoming/No Paper Due

**Oct 17 – 21**

**Monday**  Lecture 5 Continued/ Start Lecture 6  
**Wednesday** Lecture 6  
**Friday**  
(1) Reading assignment 6 will be on CANVAS all week, use this day to do the paper or to meet with the Reading TA about the case or to review any prior reaction paper.  
(2) Paper due at 5 PM via CANVAS  
(3) Discussion group #6 meets in classroom with Discussion TA.

**Oct 24 - Oct 28**

**Monday**  Discussion 6  
**Wednesday** **Test 2 (Lectures 4-6)**  
**Friday**  
(1) Reading assignment 7 will be on CANVAS all week, use this day to do the paper or to meet with the Reading TA about the case or to review any prior reaction paper.  
(2) Paper due at 5 PM via CANVAS  
(3) Discussion group #7 meets in classroom with Discussion TA.
### Oct 31 – Nov 4

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Activities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>Discussion #7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Lecture 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>(1) Reading assignment 8 will be on CANVAS all week, use this day to do the paper or to meet with the Reading TA about the case or to review any prior reaction paper. (2) Paper due at 5 PM via CANVAS</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Nov 7 - 11

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Activities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>Lecture 7 continued</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Lecture 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>(1) Reading assignment 9 will be on CANVAS all week, use this day to do the paper or to meet with the Reading TA about the case or to review any prior reaction paper. (2) Paper due at 5 PM via CANVAS tomorrow (November 10th)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Holiday- No Class</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Nov 14 - 18

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Activities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>Discussion #9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Lecture 8 continued</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>(1) Reading assignment 10 will be on CANVAS all week, use this day to do the paper or to meet with the Reading TA about the case or to review any prior reaction paper. (2) Paper due at 5 PM via CANVAS</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Nov 21 - 25

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Activities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>Lecture 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>NO CLASS HOLIDAY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>NO CLASS HOLIDAY</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Nov 28 – Dec 2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Activities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>Lecture 9 continued (class evaluation in class attendance required)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Lecture 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>Lecture 10 continued</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Dec 5 - 7

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Activities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td><strong>Test 3 (Lectures 7-10)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>One on one review of exams available- set appointment with Professor</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>