

CHILD PSYCHOLOGY AND THE LAW

PSYC 392 – 01 (3 Credit Hours)

Fall 2017

Tues. & Thurs., 8:00 – 9:15 a.m.

Location: WB 616



Instructor: [Elijah Ricks, Ph.D.](#)

Office: AUD 803A *E-mail (preferred):* ericks01@roosevelt.edu *Phone:* (312)281-3275

Office Hours: Tuesdays, 2:00 – 4:30 p.m. (and by appointment)

To do a video chat with me using Zoom, go to <https://roosevelt.zoom.us/j/3537279615>

Roosevelt University's Learning Goals: (a) Effective communication, (b) knowledge of discipline-focused content, and (c) awareness of social justice and engagement in civic life.

Course Prerequisites: Nine credit hours of psychology.

Course Objectives: Many special issues arise when children and adolescents become involved in the legal system, whether they are victims of, witnesses to, or perpetrators of crime. Psychological researchers have dedicated years to better understand these issues and inform the legal system. This course applies relevant developmental research to legal cases, and compares legal issues to developmental research.

Please be warned that this course necessitates discussion of many disturbing crimes, including all forms of child maltreatment, and gruesome crimes committed by children. It is perfectly normal to be uncomfortable with these topics. If, however, you feel that such topics would be unusually difficult or traumatizing for you, please consider taking another course.

Should you wish to speak with someone about your feelings about these things, please contact the [RU Counseling Center](#) in AUD 470, (312)341-3548. If you have information about sexual misconduct (against anyone), please contact Alice Jones, Title IX Coordinator at (312)341-2045. If you have any reason to believe that a child is in danger of maltreatment, please call (800)252-2873. Also see [here](#).

Text: Bottoms, B. L., Najdowski, C. J., & Goodman, G. S. (Eds.). (2009). *Children as victims, witnesses, and offenders: Psychological science and the law*. New York, NY: The Guilford Press. ISBN 978-1-60623-332-0. To purchase an electronic version of the book, please see [here](#).

Several supplemental readings will be available through Blackboard and/or class handouts. These readings will either complement or generate class discussion.

Quizzes & Activities (5-10 points each): Quizzes and class activities will occasionally (and randomly) be administered during the course meeting time. To prepare for these, come to every class for the entire time, read the course materials ahead of time, and pay close attention during lectures and other presentations. Your two lowest quiz and activity scores will be automatically dropped. Under no circumstances may you make up a missed quiz or activity.

Readings Exams (10 points each): Each week one 10-question exam will be due through Blackboard (see specific due dates on Blackboard). These will be on the material from the reading for the week. Exams may include (but are not limited to) multiple choice, matching, true/false statements, and short answers. Because these exams can be completed from any internet-connected device, and may be completed in advance, absolutely no late readings exams will be accepted. Your 2 readings exams with the lowest grades will be dropped automatically.

Final Exam (50 points): On Tuesday, December 12, a final exam will be administered in our normal classroom from 8 to 10:30 a.m. The format will be exactly like the in-class quizzes, but will use a fill-in-the-bubble response sheet, and will be 50 questions in length. The material will cover the entire course, primarily the material covered in class discussions. Bring multiple pencils with good erasers. Response sheets will be provided for you.

Studying: Grades are a reflection of your mastery of the material. To master the material, attend all of each class, carefully read and re-read the materials, and actively participate in discussions. Do not expect to spontaneously understand and apply material on exam day!

Grades: Your course grade will be computed by dividing the points you earn by the points that are possible. Points are not weighted differently; 1 quiz point = 1 exam point = 1 extra credit point. Your final grade will be based on the following scale:

89.1% to 100%	= A	69.1% to 79.0%	= C	0% to 59.0%	= F
79.1% to 89.0%	= B	59.1% to 69.0%	= D		

Your grades will be available for review through the Blackboard system. You are responsible for checking your grades. If you see a discrepancy or have a concern please contact me as early as possible to get it resolved.

Classroom Behavior: Students are expected to conduct themselves in a manner compatible with the University's function as an educational institution (see more [here](#)). Refrain from side conversations or other distractions to ensure everyone gets the best classroom experience. Punctuality is highly valued in the professional world; Make it a habit now!

Course Outline (Due to the variable nature of the universe, these dates and topics may be modified):

Topic	Date	Relevant Reading	Due
Introduction to Course	8/29	Syllabus; Chapter 1	Syllabus RE
Review of Developmental Psychology	8/31-9/7		Chapter 1 RE
Children as Victims			
History, State of Child Welfare	9/12, 14	Ricks, 2013	Ricks RE
Child Maltreatment	9/19, 21	Chapter 7; Pimentel, 2012	Pimentel RE
Video: <i>Broken Child</i>	9/26, 28		Chapter 7 RE
Children as Witnesses			
Memory & Suggestibility	10/3, 5	Chapters 3 & 4	Chapters 3 & 4 RE
Interviewing Children	10/10, 12	Chapter 2, 5 & 6	Chapters 2 & 5 RE
Children in the Courtroom	10/17, 19	Chapter 8	Chapter 8 RE
Children as Perpetrators			
Overview, Theories of delinquency	10/24, 26	Chapter 13	Chapter 13 RE
Theories of delinquency, cont.	10/31, 11/2	Gardiner, 1985	Gardiner RE
Culpability, <i>Mens rea</i>	11/7, 9	Chapter 15	Chapter 15 RE
Confessions	11/14, 16	Chapter 14	Chapter 14 RE
Thanksgiving Break (No class ☺)	11/21, 23		
Life & Death Sentences	11/28, 30	Chapter 20	Chapter 20 RE
Catch up, Review, and/or Film	12/5, 7		
Final Exam – 8:00 to 10:30 a.m.	12/12	Entire Course	Final Exam

Extra Credit: A few opportunities will arise in the course for you to earn extra credit. One standing opportunity is to participate in psychological research through the SONA system, or to summarize scientific journal articles related to the course topic. More detail is in a separate handout, available on Blackboard. Each paper is worth 2 points of credit, and each SONA credit is worth 1 point of course credit, for up to 10 possible.

Students With Disabilities: Roosevelt University complies fully with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Details are found [here](#). If you have or believe you have a disability that affects you academically, please tell me as soon as possible, and also contact the Academic Success Center at (312)341-3818, or contact Danielle Smith at dsmith51@roosevelt.edu to arrange for any accommodations.

Academic Integrity: In the best interest of your education and intellectual growth, cheating, plagiarism, and lying will not be tolerated. See details in the [Student Handbook](#) (also see [this](#)). Ignorance of

standards will not be accepted as an excuse. References must be cited in the body of your essay and listed in a Reference section. Direct quotes must be identified either by quotations marks for brief quotes or indentations for longer quotes, with the page number of the original article included (see the *APA Publication Manual*, 6th edition for details). Students found guilty of academic dishonesty may fail the assignment, and their names will be forwarded to the Student Services office. Receiving an F for the assignment does not preclude imposition of other penalties by the University, including dismissal. When in doubt, ask me if something could be considered academic dishonesty. It is not worth risking your future!

“Rather fail with honor than succeed by fraud.” – Sophocles

Withdrawals: The last day to withdraw and receive a ‘W’ grade for this course is 11/2/17. Prior to and including the first week of the fall or spring semester sessions, students may drop one or more courses with no record of the class appearing on the transcript. In weeks 2 through 10 of the fall or spring semester, students may complete a Change in Registration form in person or by fax, found [here](#). After week 10 of the fall or spring semester students may not withdraw from courses without completing a Petition for Late Withdrawal form found [here](#). The petition form requires the student’s signature and the approval of the instructor, department chair, dean or dean’s designee. It also requires a statement of the non-academic reason for your late withdrawal, including reason student was unable to withdraw by deadline, and documentation. Withdrawing from courses may have serious consequences for academic progress towards the degree, for financial aid eligibility, for repayment of refunds, visa requirements (for international students), and eligibility for competition (for student athletes). Students should consult carefully with their instructors and academic advisors and must meet with a financial aid advisor before withdrawing from classes after the semester has begun. Tuition Refund Schedule and Withdrawal deadlines are published for each semester and for the summer session on the Important Dates page of the website [here](#).

Incomplete Grades: I follow the Registrar’s policy for assigning Incompletes for this course. A grade of ‘I’ will be assigned only when a small portion of the total semester’s work has to be completed and the student has a documented reason why the work cannot be completed within the regular timeframe.

Roosevelt’s Scholastic Policies: It is your responsibility to be familiar with and follow all of the University’s policies. These are available [here](#).

Religious Holidays: Roosevelt University respects the rights of students to observe major religious holidays and will make accommodations, upon request, for such observances. See details [here](#). Students who wish to observe religious holidays must inform their instructors in writing within the first two weeks of each semester of their intent to observe the holiday so that alternative arrangements convenient to both students and faculty can be made at the earliest opportunity. Students who make such arrangements by the deadline will not be required to attend classes or take examinations on the designated days, and faculty must provide reasonable opportunities for such students to make up missed work and examinations. However, all work missed for such absences, including papers and examinations, must be made up. Students who do not arrange for excused absences by the deadline are not entitled to such accommodations.