

ADVANCED FORENSIC PSYCHOLOGY:
CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY & THE LAW

PSYC 391-01 (3 Credit Hours)

Fall 2017

Thursdays, 2:00 – 4:30 p.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>

Text: Given the diverse nature of the course topics, there is no textbook. Readings from various sources will be made available through Blackboard.

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.

Prerequisites: Three psychology courses.

Course Objectives: This course concerns how clinical psychology—the practice of psychology—has application to our criminal justice system. Broadly, these are instances where an individual's mental health or state is relevant for the legal system before, during, and after crimes are committed. The course will also offer findings from psychology research that have implications for the legal system, but have not yet been fully integrated. At the semester's end, students will have a working knowledge of how clinical psychology is relevant to forensic issues, and how its techniques are applied to the criminal justice system.

Please be warned that the scope of this course necessitates the discussion of some disturbing crimes, including those against children. You will be expected to study and dispassionately analyze troubling topics, such as sexual assault and infanticide, among others. It is perfectly normal to be uncomfortable with these themes. 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.

Readings Quizzes (5 points each): Each week before class, you must complete a brief readings quiz online, based upon that week's assigned reading. Your two lowest grades from these readings quizzes will be automatically dropped. Under no circumstances may you submit a readings quiz after it is due.

Immersive Learning Assignment (50 points total): This course is intended to be as immersive as possible. For this reason, all students are required to do something course-related that is outside of the course, or involves experiential learning. There are many options to complete this requirement, such as writing an offender, interviewing a forensic psychiatrist, attending court, and so on. Some suggestions are available on Blackboard, as are the requirements for documenting this assignment. In general, you will be required to submit proof of your participation, as well as a written summary of your experience.

Take-Home Exams (50 points each): In addition to the two scheduled exams, students will also have two exams that may be completed at their convenience during a specified time period. Students may use notes, the internet, class readings, and so on, but may not consult with other people. The format for these will include essays, short answers, matching, and multiple-choice responses. These exams will primarily assess students' ability to apply material to situations they may encounter in the real world. Grades will depend on students' ability to demonstrate their mastery of the material through accuracy and depth with clarity. Students will have 1 week to complete these exams. They will be administered and submitted through Blackboard. Omit identifying information to ensure anonymous grading.

In-Class Exams (50 points each): There are two scheduled in-class exams that are recognition based. Their format may include (but is not limited to) multiple choice, matching, true/false statements, and fill-in-the-blank. Questions will be drawn from the course readings, discussions, and lectures, and will focus on application. If you will miss a scheduled exam, you must notify me in advance. No make-up exams will be given without advance permission. All make-up exams must be completed within 1 week of the original exam date, or no credit will be given.

Grades: The course grade will be computed by dividing the points earned by the points that are possible. Points are not weighted differently; 1 exam point = 1 quiz point = 1 extra credit point. To compute a grade, sum all earned points, and divide that number by the total number of points possible. Make sure to include extra credit in the numerator, but not the denominator.

Final grades are 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. Although I make every effort to ensure that grades are accurate, 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 (Note that these dates and topics are subject to change):

| Date | Topic | Reading | Due |
|-------|---|---------------------|-------------------|
| 8/31 | Intro. to Course, Review of Clinical Psych. | Syllabus | |
| 9/7 | Mental Illness & Crime | Peterson; Patterson | Quiz |
| 9/14 | Psychopathy, Dark Triad | Jones & Paulhus | Quiz |
| 9/21 | Risk Assessment: Predicting Criminal Activity | Skeem; Columbine | Quiz |
| 9/28 | Criminal Profiling | Douglas or Snook | Exam; Quiz |
| 10/5 | Mental Health Courts, Involuntary Medication | Redlich | Quiz |
| 10/12 | Midterm Exam | | Exam |
| 10/19 | Insanity, <i>Mens rea</i> , Culpability | Resnick | Quiz |
| 10/26 | Competency Evaluations | Kuby & Kunstler | Quiz |
| 11/2 | Malingering, and Tests Thereof | Resnick & Knoll | Quiz |
| 11/9 | Lie Detection | Grubin & Madsen | Quiz |
| 11/16 | Psychotherapy With Prisoners | Ricks (pp. 1-38) | Exam; Quiz |
| 11/23 | Thanksgiving Break – No Class | | Binge-eating |
| 11/30 | Sex Offenders | Farkas & Miller | Quiz |
| 12/7 | Rehabilitation: Truth or Fantasy? | Cullen & Gendreau | Quiz |
| 12/14 | Final Exam 3:30 – 6:00 p.m. | | 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 clinical issues within the legal system. More detail is in a separate handout, available on Blackboard. Each paper summary is worth 2 points of credit, and each SONA credit is worth 1 point of course credit, for up to 10 total.

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 [here](#)). Ignorance of standards will not be accepted as an excuse. References must be cited in the body of papers and listed in a References 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.