

LAW AND PSYCHOLOGY

PSYC 351-10 (3 Credit Hours)

Spring 2018

Wednesdays, 6:00 – 8:30 p.m.

Location: AUD 811



Instructor: Elijah Ricks, Ph.D.

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Office Hours: (CHI) Tuesdays and Thursdays, 3:15 – 4 p.m. (and by appointment)

(SCH) Wednesdays, 1:00-2:30 p.m. (and by appointment)

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

Required Text: Greene, E. & Heilbrun, K. (2014). *Wrightsman's psychology and the legal system* (8th ed.). Belmont, CA: Wadsworth. ISBN paperback: 9781133956563 or ISBN loose-leaf: 9781133951117. Purchase as an e-book at www.vitalsource.com.

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 Objectives: This course is an introduction to the areas where psychological science and the legal system interact. At course completion, students should understand the role of psychological science in informing and improving the legal system and its players in matters of preventing crime, identifying perpetrators, discovering guilt, assessing a person's state of mind during a criminal act, and determining appropriate dispositions for the guilty, among others.

Please be warned that the scope of this course includes details of disturbing crimes, including domestic violence, rape, and all forms of child maltreatment, including infanticide. 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 any reports of sexual misconduct, please contact Alice Jones, Title IX Coordinator at (312)341-2045, or ajones90@roosevelt.edu. See more about Title IX on page 3 of this document.

To report a crime, please contact the police department or the Federal Bureau of Investigation, depending on the jurisdiction.

Mini-Exams (10 points each): Following each chapter we cover in class, a brief exam will be available on Blackboard. These mini-exams are closed-book, and closed-note. You may not consult or collaborate with anyone once you've started a mini-exam. You will have 20 minutes to complete the mini-exam, and you must complete it within 48 hours of the class it covers. Exams may include (but are not limited to) multiple choice, matching, true/false statements, fill-in-the-blank, and short answers. Questions will be drawn from the course readings, discussions, and lectures. Your two lowest mini-exam scores will be automatically dropped. Under no circumstances may you make up a missed mini-exam.

Final Exam (50 points): There will be a final exam given during our normal class time, in our normal classroom on May 3 (finals schedule [here](#)). The material will cover the entire course. A study aid will be provided at least 1 week prior to the final to assist you in focusing your preparation. This exam will include the use of a fill-in-the-bubble response sheet that will be provided to you.

Brief Application Papers (10 points each): At various intervals throughout the course, students will turn in a brief writing assignment that assesses their ability to understand, analyze, and/or express key issues regarding specific cases or dilemmas within this subject field. Specifics about each assignment are available on Blackboard. Each application paper will be submitted before class on the date it is due. Submissions must be made anonymously, and through Blackboard.

Attendance (at least 3 points each): You are expected to be present for the full duration of every class. To encourage your attendance, role will be taken, pop quizzes will be administered, and/or class activities will be offered each time we meet. None of these will be dropped for any reason.

Studying: Grades are a reflection of your mastery of the material. To master the material, attend all of each class, participate in discussions, and take and consolidate thorough notes from both lecture and the readings. If you do not understand any part of the material, ask questions in class, ask classmates, attend office hours, hold study groups, work with a friend, find trustworthy sources on the internet, or read additional books. Practice by describing material to friends or relatives. Do not expect to spontaneously understand material once the exam is in front of you!

Grades: Your course grade is computed by dividing the points you earn by the points that are counted toward the course grade. Points are not weighted differently; 1 essay 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 (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, and is a sign of respect; Make it a habit now!

Course Outline (Note that these dates and topics are subject to change, with notice):

Date	Topic	Chapter	Due (approx.)
1/18	Intro to course, Psychology & Law	1	Exam on syllabus
1/25	Structure of the Legal System	2	C1 exam
2/1	Psychology of Crime	3	C2 exam
2/8	Psychology of Police	4	C3 exam
2/15	Eyewitness Memory & Testimony	5	C4 exam; WA1
2/22	Psychology of Victims of Crime & Violence	6	C5 exam
3/1	Evaluation of Criminal Suspects	7	C6 exam
3/8	Spring Break—No class ☺		Rest & Relaxation
3/15	Conventional Prosecution	8	C7 exam; WA2
3/22	Alternative Prosecution	9	C8 exam
3/29	Forensic Assessment	10	C9 exam
4/5	Preparing for Trials	12	C10 exam; WA3
4/12	Jurors & Juries	13	C12 exam
4/19	Punishment & Sentencing	14	C13 exam
4/26	Juvenile & Adult Corrections	15	C14 exam; WA4
5/3	Final Exam, 6:00 – 8:30 p.m.	All	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 psychology and law. More detail is in a separate handout, available on Blackboard. Each paper is worth 4 points of credit, and each SONA credit is worth 2 points of course credit, for up to 16.

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 Danielle Smith at dsmith51@roosevelt.edu, in AUD 1050, 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. Ideas and knowledge that did not originate from you must be credited to their sources. Sources must be cited in the body of papers and listed in a References section (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. Failing 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 3/23/18. 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, found [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](#).

Title IX: Federal law, specifically Title IX, and the University Sexual Misconduct Policy require that all employees are mandated reporters of incidents involving sexual or gender-based violence or harassment. Disclosures made to faculty or teaching assistants (TAs) about sexual or gender-based harassment, sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, and/or stalking on or off campus must be forwarded to the Title IX Coordinator. These staff are Responsible Employees and therefore are mandated to report. The Title IX office will contact any student who discloses an incident regarding student rights, including the option to request an investigation, interim safety measures, and/or academic accommodations. In certain circumstances, the Title IX Coordinator may need to proceed with an investigation, even if none is requested, if there are safety risks to the student or campus community. Participation in the process is voluntary.

If you want a confidential place to disclose sexual assault, sexual harassment or intimate partner violence, there are two confidential advisors on campus who are not mandated reporters. They are: Audrey Guy, (312)244-0577; and LaDonna Long, (312)244-0426. Both are available via phone all hours. The Counseling Center (430 S. Michigan Avenue Room 470 Phone: 312-341-3548) staff are also NOT mandatory reporters and therefore NOT required to report a disclosure to the Title IX Office.

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.