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FRSC 498-101: Introduction to Forensic Psychology

Christine Ruggiero

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FRSC 498
Introduction to Forensic
Psychology
Fall 2021 Course Syllabus
Tuesdays 6pm to 8:50pm

[NJIT Academic Integrity Code](#): All Students should be aware that the Department of Chemistry & Environmental Science (CES) takes the University Code on Academic Integrity at NJIT very seriously and enforces it strictly. This means that there must not be any forms of plagiarism, i.e., copying of homework, class projects, or lab assignments, or any form of cheating in quizzes and exams. Under the University Code on Academic Integrity, students are obligated to report any such activities to the Instructor.

COURSE INFORMATION

Course Description: Introduction to Forensic Psychology is multidimensional, demonstrating how to analyze psychological knowledge and research findings and apply these findings to the civil and criminal justice systems. This course will introduce students to research-based forensic practice and application which they will utilize to define and explore forensic psychology. Students will be introduced to emerging specializations within forensic psychology, including investigative psychology, family forensic psychology, police and public safety psychology. Research related to bias, diversity, and discrimination are included throughout the course to give students a multicultural perspective that is critical to understanding the practice of forensic psychology.

Number of Credits: 3

Prerequisites: none

Course-Section and Instructors:

Course-Section	Instructor
FRSC 498	Christine Ruggiero
Tuesday 6 pm-8:50 pm	FMH 305
Course meets in person	Office Hours: M & T 1-3 pm & by appt.
	Ph: 201-315-3751 Email: car63@njit.edu

Required Textbooks:

Title	Introduction to Forensic Psychology: Research and Application
Author	Bartol, A., & Bartol, C.
Edition	6 th edition
Publisher	Sage
ISBN #	9781071815342

Title	Deviant Behavior
Author	Humphrey, J.A., & Schmalleger, F.
Edition	
Publisher	Sage
ISBN #	9781544307923

University-wide Withdrawal Date: The last day to withdraw with a **W** is Wednesday, November 10 , 2021. It will be strictly enforced.

Learning Outcomes: Upon completion of this course, students will:

- Describe and discuss issue relevant to the practice of forensic psychology.
- Understand theories of behavior (normal and deviant) and apply them to the forensic setting which is applicable.
- Understand the different areas and subspecialties of forensic psychology and its practice.
- Gain a multicultural perspective of forensic psychology and how it impacts behavior.
- Understand the connection between forensic psychology and the justice systems, both civil and criminal.

POLICIES

All CES students must familiarize themselves with, and adhere to, all official university-wide student policies. CES takes these policies very seriously and enforces them strictly.

Grading Policy: The final grade in this course will be determined as follows:

Class Participation	10%
Quizzes/Homework	20%
Midterm Exam	25%
Final Exam	25%
Presentation	20%

Your final letter grade in this course will be based on the following tentative curve:

A	90-100	C	70-76
B+	87-89	D	60-69
B	80-86	F	<60
C+	77-79		

Attendance Policy: Attendance at classes will be recorded and is **mandatory**. Each class is a learning experience that cannot be replicated through simply “getting the notes.” You are expected to read the relevant chapter(s) and/or reading assignment(s) prior to the lecture. Students who participate in the lectures will receive points towards their class participation grade.

Homework Policy: Homework is an expectation of the course. The homework problems set by the instructor are to be handed in for grading and will be used in the determination of the final letter grade as described above.

Quizzes: Four (4) quizzes will be given during the semester. You will have until the next day following class to complete the quiz on your own time. The quizzes will be material from the lectures and reading and done online via Lockdown Browser and Respondus Monitor. You will need a computer and good internet connection when taking the quizzes.

Exams: There will be one midterm exam and one final exam held in class during the semester. The following exam periods are tentative and therefore possibly subject to change:

Midterm Exam	October 19, 2021
Final Exam	December 21, 2021

The final exam will test your knowledge of all the course material taught in the entire course.

Presentation: This assignment is for you to select a topic in forensic psychology, identify a criminal with a forensic psychological diagnosis, their crime and explain how they ended up in the judicial system and what was the outcome of their case. The presentation is designed to evaluate your public speaking skills and your understanding of the forensic psychology of the criminal. The presentation should be approximately 20-30 minutes in length and 20-25 power point slides. You must get approval from me for your presentation/person by October 1, 2021. No two people may choose the same topic/psychological disorder/person/case. The presentation will be given in alphabetical order by last name and during the last two class sessions. You must also turn in the presentation using Turnitin.com.

1. Choose a topic in forensic psychology or deviant behavior and develop an explanation of your topic.
2. Analyze a relevant criminal who has your chosen behavior or illness and explain in detail what the illness is and how it impacted the person you are writing about.
3. Create a timeline of events showcasing the illness and how it impacted this person’s life and eventual crime.
4. Provide credible academic and peer reviewed sources (at least 3 and current). You may use other sources in addition.
5. Communicate effectively through your slides and bullet points. Do not read off your slides during your presentation as you should be very familiar and comfortable with your topic. Pictures are acceptable.

Makeup Exam Policy: There will normally be **NO MAKE-UP QUIZZES OR EXAMS** during the semester. In the event that a student has a legitimate reason for missing a quiz or exam, the student should contact the Dean of Students office and present written verifiable proof of the reason for missing the exam, e.g., a doctor’s note, police report, court notice, etc. clearly stating the date AND time of the mitigating problem. The student must also notify the CES Department Office/Instructor that the exam will be missed so that appropriate steps can be taken to make up the grade.

Cellular Phones: All cellular phones must be switched off during all class times. Such devices must be stowed in bags during exams or quizzes.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Accommodation of Disabilities: Office of Accessibility Resources and Services (*formerly known as Disability Support Services*) offers long term and temporary accommodations for undergraduate, graduate and visiting students at NJIT.

If you are in need of accommodations due to a disability please contact Chantonette Lyles, Associate Director at the Office of Accessibility Resources and Services at 973-596-5417 or via email at lyles@njit.edu. The office is located in Fenster Hall Room 260. A Letter of Accommodation Eligibility from the Office of Accessibility Resources Services office authorizing your accommodations will be required.

For further information regarding self-identification, the submission of medical documentation and additional support services provided please visit the Accessibility Resources and Services (OARS) website at:

- <http://www5.njit.edu/studentsuccess/disability-support-services/>

Important Dates See: Fall 2021 Academic Calendar, Registrar
[Whttps://www5.njit.edu/registrar/fall-2021-academic-calendar/](https://www5.njit.edu/registrar/fall-2021-academic-calendar/)

Date	Day	Event
September 1	W	First Day of Classes
September 6	M	Labor Day
November 10	W	Last Day to Withdraw from Classes
November 25	T	Thanksgiving Recess Begins
November 28	S	Thanksgiving Recess Ends
December 10	F	Last Day of Classes
December 15	W	Final Exams Begin
December 21	T	Final Exams End
December 23	T	Final Grades Due

Course Outline

Lecture	Date	Topic	Assignment
1	September 7	Introduction to Forensic Psychology, Intro to Deviant Behav.	Chap. 1 (both books)
2	September 14	Theories of Deviant Behavior	Chap 2 & 3 (DB)
3	September 21	Police/Investigative Psychology; Profiling;	Chap 2 & 3 (BB) Quiz 1
4	September 28	Legal Psychology, Consulting, Criminal Court, Family Law	Chap 4-6 (BB)
5	October 5	Criminal Psychology, Delinquent and Criminal Behavior	Chap 7 (BB)
6	October 12	Psychology of Violence and Intimidation; Homicide, DV	Ch. 4-5(DB) Ch 8 (BB) Quiz 2
7	October 19	Psychology of Sexual Violence; Sexual Offending	Ch 9 (BB) Ch 10 (DB) Midterm Exam
8	October 26	Family Violence and Child Victimization	Ch 11 (BB)

9	November 2	Correctional Psychology in Adult Settings	Ch 12 (BB)
10	November 9	Juvenile Justice and Corrections	Ch 13 (BB) Quiz 3
11	November 16	Mental Illness, Drug and Alcohol Abuse	Ch 7-9 (DB)
12	November 23	Cyberdeviance, Positive Deviance,	Ch 13 & 14 (DB)
13	November 30	Property Crimes, White Collar Crimes, Terrorism	Ch11-12,16 (DB) Quiz 4
14	December 7	Final Presentations (last names A-M)	Work on Presentations
15	December 14	Final Presentations (last names N-Z) Review for final	Study for Final Exam
16	December 21	Final Exam	

**BB denotes Bartol and Bartol

**DB denotes Deviant Behavior

*Updated by Genti' Price
Department of Chemistry & Environmental Sciences (CES)*

Course Syllabus, Fall 2021