

Fall 2023

STS-325 (001): ST: Forensic Psychology

Laura Pople

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Forensic Psychology: STS325001

T/F 8:30am – 9:50am
Central King Building 341

Professor Laura Pople

Office Hours: by appointment
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Course Description

The field of forensic psychology is broad and multifaceted and offers an essential complement to the field of forensic science. Within any scientific endeavor, people play a critical role. This is especially true within the criminal justice system. In this introductory survey course, we will explore the different players within that system, the roles they play, and the psychology behind what they do. The course will enhance students' understanding of the relationship between scientific and practical psychological concepts, methods, and principles as they are applied to all aspects of the criminal justice system - the police, forensic experts, the courts, corrections, and the public

Course Attendance: REQUIRED

During the first week of class you will join a work group that you will participate in each class session. Your group will be expected to submit work product after each session that will be graded. As a consequence, your grade for the class is heavily influenced by the in-class activities your group works on.

Expectations for Technology Use

In this class, you are expected to collaborate on group assignments as part of the in-class experience. This group work will involve researching topics, creating materials, and building presentations. For all these activities, you will be encouraged to bring and use your electronic devices

Course Learning Objectives

1. Recognize the psychology behind any exposure you have to the criminal justice system in your life
2. Identify where psychology and the criminal justice system intersect
3. Explain what forensic psychologists do
4. Illuminate the psychology inherent in the actions of forensic psychology professionals
5. Critically evaluate statements made about forensic events
6. Apply the scientific method to observations about phenomena pertaining to behavior related to the criminal justice system
7. Recognize when media depictions of topics related to forensic psychology are grounded in reality and when they are not
8. Describe the ethical issues confronting professionals in the field of forensics.
9. Discuss the impact of digital technologies on the criminal justice system.
10. Enhance your collaboration skills.

Course Technology

- This course requires students to have access to a Windows 10 PC or Mac computer (desktop or laptop) with Wi-Fi connectivity.
- You should come to class prepared to use a device – a phone, tablet, or laptop - to access the web for class group work.
- We will use Canvas as a base for this course. Specifically, each week you will be responsible for completing a module which will include any of the following: readings, videos, written assignments, quizzes and other activities.

Required Course Materials

The following materials are required for this course.

- Forensic and Legal Psychology: Psychological Science Applied to Law Fourth Edition

by [Mark Costanzo](#) (Author), [Daniel Krauss](#) (Author)

ISBN-13: 978-1319244880

ISBN-10: 1319244882

Publisher : Worth Publishers; Fourth edition (December 15, 2020)

You can rent the more economical ebook or paperback edition from the publisher's website at <https://store.macmillanlearning.com/us/product/Forensic-and-Legal-Psychology/p/1319244882>.

- Select readings from Ethics in Law Enforcement

By Steve McCartney (Author), Rick Parent (Author)

Available for download, or to read online as an open educational resource at

<https://opentextbc.ca/ethicsinlawenforcement/>

- Weekly postings on Canvas for each module

Course Schedule

Week 1: Course Introduction

Week 2: Investigators

Week 3: Police

Week 4: Criminals

Week 5: Defendants

Week 6: Victims

Week 7: Witnesses and Evidence

Week 8: Trials, Judges, and Jurors

Week 9: Midterm Activity

Week 10: Corrections

Week 11: The Death Penalty

Week 12: Predicting Violent Behavior

Week 13: Forensics Outside the Criminal Courtroom

Week 14: Forensic Psychology in the Digital Age

Week 15: Final Project

Grading Rubrics

Written Assignment Grading Criteria	% of points for each assignment item	Example for 20-point assignment	Example for 50-point assignment
<p><i>Assignment met and facts or concepts covered</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The/each question was fully answered. • The student addressed key points for the assignment correctly. • The assignments' instructions were followed. 	40%	8 pts possible	20 pts possible
<p><i>Logic, organization, depth of response, and references</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The student communicated his/her response in a thoughtful and thorough manner. • Information was presented logically. • The response was supported by appropriate references (as needed). 	20%	4 pts possible	10 pts possible
<p><i>Writing, grammar, and formatting</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student used clear, concise, and error-free writing. • Student adhered to rules of grammar usage, spelling, and punctuation. • Student used correct APA formatting of citations. 	20%	4 pts possible	10 pts possible
<p><i>Timeliness</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assignments turned in late but within a week of the due date are penalized 10%. • Assignments turned in more than a week after the due date but within four weeks of the due date are penalized 20%. • Assignments turned in more than a month after they are due but no later than the last class period are penalized 50% 	20%	4 pts possible	10 pts possible

Course Grading Criteria

- A: 91-100
- B+: 87-89
- B: 80-86
- C+: 77-79
- C: 70-76
- D: 60-69
- F: 0-59

POLICIES

University Policy on Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is the cornerstone of higher education and is central to the ideals of this course and the university. Cheating (which includes plagiarism) is strictly prohibited and devalues the degree that you are working on. As a member of the NJIT community, it is your responsibility to protect your educational investment by knowing and following the academic code of integrity policy that is found at:

<http://www5.njit.edu/policies/sites/policies/files/academic-integrity-code.pdf>. (Links to an external site.) (Links to an external site.)

Please note that it is the instructor's professional obligation and responsibility to report any academic misconduct to the Dean of Students Office. Any student found in violation of the code by cheating, plagiarizing or using any online software inappropriately will result in disciplinary action. This may include a failing grade of F, and/or suspension or dismissal from the university. If you have any questions about the code of Academic Integrity, please contact the Dean of Students Office at dos@njit.edu.