Psychology 6337 (D10)  
Forensic Psychology  
Spring 2019

Instructor: Dr. Ellen C. Melton  
E-mail: emelton@angelo.edu  
Phone Conferences by Scheduled Appointment

Required Text:

ISBN: 0-205-20927-0

Location:

This course will be conducted entirely online through the Blackboard.Angelo.edu.

Important Note: To communicate with me by email, please do so from your angelo.edu email account. As per ASU policy, I will not respond to emails from your personal email address.

Catalog Description:

This course is designed to be an introduction to the interface between psychology and the legal system. The contribution of psychology to legal topics and legal standards will be explored. Selected topics will be covered in more detail including psychological assessment, psychopathology, competency to stand trial, insanity, civil commitment, and the impact of current legal standards and ethical considerations on psychological practice.

Course Overview:

The course will include weekly written assignments over chapter material from the textbook, discussion boards, and a written project that will be created and assembled over the course of the semester culminating in a final paper. Self-motivation and self-initiation are required for successful online learning. Please pay close attention to the assignment due dates.

Course Objectives:

- Developing specific skills, competencies, and points of view needed by professionals in the field most closely related to this course.  
- Learning to apply course material to improve thinking, problem solving, and decisions.  
- Learning to analyze and critically evaluate ideas, arguments, and points of view.  
- Developing skill in expressing myself orally or in writing.

Attendance:

In order to successfully complete an online class, the student must visit the Blackboard course site on a regular basis, and participate in all classroom discussion boards and assignments. All course work has specific due dates available under the Assignment and Classroom Discussion tabs, and on the course calendar. Late submission of any assignment will result in a reduced grade for the assignment, which will continue to reduce over the course of the semester (see Grading Rubric).
**Course Grading System:**

Acknowledgment & Introduction: 50 pts. = 50 pts.
Weekly Written Assignments: 13 @ 100 pts. = 1,300 pts.
Final Project: Discussion & Conclusion: 150 pts. = 150 pts.
Course Evaluation: 50 pts. = 50 pts.

Total Points = 1,700 pts.

There are no extra credit opportunities for this class.

**Grading Rubric:**

Final grades will be based on the following scale and there will be no curves or concessions:

- A = 90% and above
- B = 80% - 89%
- C = 70% - 79%
- D = 60% - 69%
- F = 59% and below

Late Assignment Reduction Schedule:

1 week late = 10% penalty after assignment is graded
2 weeks late = 20% penalty after assignment is graded
3 weeks late = 30% penalty after assignment is graded
4 weeks late = 40% penalty after assignment is graded
5 weeks late = 50% penalty after assignment is graded
6 weeks late = unacceptable. Grade = 0.

*In other words, it is very important for you to stay current with your work, and it will be impossible to wait until the last week of class to turn in your assignments and pass this class.

**The Academic Honor Code:**

Angelo State University expects its students to maintain complete honesty and integrity in their academic pursuits. Students are responsible for understanding the Academic Honor Code, which is available on the web at:

[http://www.angelo.edu/forms/pdf/honorcode5.pdf](http://www.angelo.edu/forms/pdf/honorcode5.pdf)

**Disabilities:**

Persons with disabilities which warrant academic accommodations must contact the Office of Student Services (325 942-2191), Room 203-B in the Hardeman Building, in order to request such accommodations prior to their being implemented. You are encouraged to make this request early in the semester so that appropriate arrangements can be made.
## Tentative Course Calendar

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Discussion Board</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Jan 14 - 18</td>
<td>Acknowledgment and Introduction</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Jan 21 - 25</td>
<td>Chapter 1: An Introduction to Forensic Psychology</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Jan 28 - Feb. 1</td>
<td>Chapter 2: Police Psychology</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Chapter 3: The Psychology of Police Investigations</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Feb 4 - 8</td>
<td>Chapter 4: Deception, <strong>Ideas for Final Project</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Feb 11 – 15</td>
<td>Chapter 5: Eyewitness Testimony</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Feb 18 – 22</td>
<td>Chapter 6: Child Victims &amp; Witnesses</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Feb. 25 - Mar. 1</td>
<td><strong>Introduction &amp; Literature Review Draft of Final Project</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>March 4 - 8</td>
<td>Chapter 7: Juries: Fact Finders</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>March 18 – 22</td>
<td>Chapter 8: The Role of Mental Illness in Court</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>April 1 – 5</td>
<td>Chapter 10: Risk Assessment</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Chapter 11: Psychopathology</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>April 8 - 12</td>
<td>Chapter 12: Assessment &amp; Treatment of Juvenile Delinquency</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>April 15 - 19</td>
<td>Chapter 13: Intimate Partner Violence</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>April 22 - 26</td>
<td>Chapter 14: Sexual &amp; Homicidal Offenders</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>April 29 - May 3</td>
<td>Critical Thinking</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>May 6 – 9</td>
<td><strong>Discussion and Conclusion of Final Paper</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Course Evaluation Assignment - At some point in the last few weeks of the semester, you will receive an email from Austin.hobbs@angelo.edu with the course evaluation. Please do not delete this email, as completing the course evaluation is an assignment for this class. You will need to send me an email after completing the course evaluation giving me one of the questions that you answered from the evaluation – NOT how you answered the question, as your answers are confidential, just one of the questions so that I will know to give you credit for the assignment.*