



Clinical Forensic Psychology (PSY 6381)

Fall Semester 2019

Wednesday 2:00 PM to 4:50 PM, Room A 213

Instructor: Jarvis A. Wright, Ph.D.

Professional Office

421 West Concho Ave
San Angelo, Texas 76903
Phone: (325) 944-8184

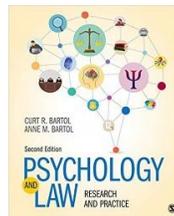
Students are welcome by appointment

ASU Office

Office Hours: Wednesday 1:00 to 2:00

Email: jwright68@angelo.edu

Required Text:



Bartol, C. R. and Bartol A. M. (2018). *Psychology and Law Research and Practice, Second Edition* SAGE Publications (ISBN: 9781544338873)

Course Description:

This course focuses on the interface of psychology and civilization's orderly process for settling differences. It is a practice-oriented course for students planning careers in the provision of mental health services. It will expose students to empirical aspects of clinical forensic practice, an understanding of the legal system, and careers in forensic settings.

Course Objectives:

1. Gaining a basic understanding of the subject (e.g., factual knowledge, methods, principles, generalizations, theories)
2. Learning to *apply* course material (to improve thinking, problem solving, and decisions)
3. Recognizing the specific skills, competencies, and points of view you must develop if you choose to pursue a career field in forensic settings.

Student Learning Outcomes: Upon completion of this course, you should:

1. Be able to identify your ethical responsibilities when situations compel you to provide your expertise in legal proceeding.
2. Understand the jurisdictions most likely to incorporate you in process of resolving civil, criminal and administrative matters.
3. Communicate the boundaries of your expertise when the parties of a lawsuit enlist you to provide expertise favorable to their side of the quarrel.
4. Develop a keen understanding of the identity of your client and design your intake information and treatment authorization documents to protect both you and your client.
5. Be knowledgeable of opportunities available to you in forensic settings.

Course Policies, Procedures and Format

Professionalism

Students must maintain professionalism in and outside of the class. During the semester, opportunities will arise for you to observe court ordered forensic examinations. A slight possibility exists that you might accept an assignment to conduct library research or function as a shadow juror in an ongoing legal matter. These are real-world situations. Federal and state laws apply to everything you see or hear during these experiences. We will discuss them in class **WITH THE DOOR CLOSED**. Failure to maintain professional integrity, identity, deportment, accountability, concern for the welfare of others, and confidentiality can result in criminal charges.

*****I do not require you to participate in these real-world experiences. They may take place in jails and other disturbing settings. They may involve vile accusations, they may require a long drive and they may expose you to criminal defendants who are not nice people. Your safety is paramount. If you choose to participate, you must dress as modestly and as appropriately as the officers who work in the detention facilities we visit.**

Readings

I expect each student to have the required reading completed before the class during which we will discuss the material (see course schedule). Some material in the text may be challenging upon first read, but lectures and discussions will be easier and more advantageous if you have read the assigned reading.

*****If I feel the class is not keeping up with the reading, I will have the option to start giving quizzes at any time during any class. Just remember that reading prior to class is really to your benefit!**

Policies/Expectations

1. Read the syllabus thoroughly. If anything is unclear, then read the syllabus again. If you still have concerns, contact me.
2. I expect you to take responsibility for your success in class. Be an active participant in the education process by asking questions and being alert in class.
3. I will ask students who are distracting or disrespectful to leave the class (this includes using the personal electronic devices you bring to class for purposes other than the business of the class.).
4. If you have any concerns related to this class, please tell me. **You should raise any issues within one week of receiving a grade or completing a given project.**
5. I expect you to access your email and Blackboard online classroom on a regular basis for announcements, course materials, assignments, and grades.
6. The instructor reserves the right to use plagiarism prevention software.

Class Sessions

This is a graduate level class, so attendance is **mandatory**. Most of the classes will be lecture and discussion based on the reading assignments, so reading the assigned materials is **essential** to contributing to class discussion. I do not require your participation in the real-life observations, but you must join your classmates in discussions of their observations. The experiences of your classmates are important and may appear as exam questions, so you must either possess remarkable memory skills or take good notes to pass. Classes may include discussions, group projects, films, and activities. Questions and comments are always welcome! (Please be respectful.)

***DISCLAIMER:** This class examines a variety of cultural and personal issues and may expose students to ideas and material that they may find disagreeable. If students are unable or unwilling to tolerate other perspectives or their own value systems in the context of the class, then they are encouraged to speak with the instructor regarding their concerns and may wish to reconsider their enrollment in the course. Should you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions at any time during the semester, please feel free to contact me.

Communication

Email is the best way to contact your instructor.

All emails should include the course title or number in the subject line.

All emails should include your first and last name.

GRADES

Reading Reactions/Professionalism/Participation

After completing the week's reading assignments, each student will prepare a reading reaction document and submit it at the beginning of the class. A satisfactory reading reaction document shall include one or more salient questions, critical comments, discussion topics or other responses based on the assigned reading. The reading reaction document demonstrates that you completed the reading assignment and gives me an idea of the direction students might need or want the week's discussion to take. Write enough to achieve that effect. To earn a reading reaction credit for the day, you must be present, submit your reading reaction document and participate in the discussion. You will receive no credit if you fail to complete the reading reaction document, fail to attend class or fail to contribute to the class activities.

Quizzes

There will be five quizzes given throughout the semester. Each quiz will be worth 5 points and you will have no more than ten minutes to complete the quiz.

Forensic Situation Scenario

The junction of mental health services and legal proceedings is an adversarial neighborhood but many find it collegial, challenging and interesting. Some find the neighborhood so intriguing that they merge with it and adopt the hybridized identity of forensic experts. This course might be someone's first step toward such an identity. If not, then I want the course to give you enough familiarity with the engagement of law and human behavior to protect yourself and your clients from legal surprises.

During our first meeting on Wednesday, August 28, 2019, I will ask you to introduce yourself, explain how you became interested in psychology and explain what you hope to do with your training. I will continue learning about your hopes and aspirations as the semester progresses. On our fifth meeting, Wednesday, September 25, 2019, I will give each of you a scenario describing a situation likely to occur in the setting where you hope to work. I want you to consider everything you learned in the course, search publications and articles salient to the scenario, ask knowledgeable people for advice and prepare a response describing what you believe is the best way for you to resolve the scenario. Cite every source you considered and describe how that source contributed to your decision. Include a bibliography. Before class begins on Wednesday, October 30, publish your response in a group email to me and to all your classmates. On November 6, everyone will defend their response to the class.

Final Exam

The final exam will include 20 items, each worth ten points. Some items will be true false or multiple choice. Some will be fill-in-the-blank. One will require you to describe how you would respond to a scenario.

Make up policy for exams and quizzes: Make up exams and quizzes will **ONLY** be allowed for emergency situations (in other words, a doctor's appointment is not an emergency). It is the student's responsibility (BY EMAIL WHEN POSSIBLE) to contact the professor within 24 hours to reschedule. Failure to do so will result

in a zero on the quiz or final exam. Make up exams will be scheduled at the convenience of the instructor and will be scheduled as quickly as possible. Make-up exams will cover the same material, but will be in a format of the instructor's choice, such as **ORAL** or comprehensive fill in the blank/essay exams.

Course Point Distribution

Assignment	Points	Final Grades:
Quizzes (5):	100 pts. (20 pts. each)	A = 450-500
Reading Reactions/Participation (10):	100 pts. (10 pts. each)	B = 400-449
Scenario Response:	100 pts.	C = 350-399
Final Exam: 20 items, ten points each	200 pts.	F = < 349
Total Points Possible =	500 pts.	

Tentative Schedule

Date	Topic	Reading Assignment
8/28/19	What does the law say about that?	Before the first class, explore the Texas Constitution and Statutes website (https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov). Add it to your Favorites because we will use it often. Pretend that you won the Power Ball Lottery and had millions of dollars. Find the Estates Code and determine whether you can write a will. Look further in the Estates Code and determine who would inherit your millions if you died without making a will. Pretend you swallowed a hallucinogenic drug that caused you to see vicious snakes in a tree on the ASU campus. The snakes appeared to fall on students who walked under the tree. You protected the Student Body by firing at the snakes with a shotgun. Find the Penal Code. Could you plead not guilty by reason of insanity for discharging a firearm on the ASU campus?
09/04/19	Introduction	Read the first chapter of Bartol and Bartol (pages 1-24)
09/11/19	Psychology and the Courts	Read the second chapter (pages 23 to 58). We will probably proceed chapter by chapter for most of the course. Let's discuss that the first class meeting.
09/18/19	The Criminal Investigation Process	Read the third chapter (pages 59 to 96)
09/25/19	Eyewitness Evidence	Read the fourth chapter (pages 97 to 129)****This is the day you will receive your scenarios****
10/02/19	The Jury Trial	Read the fifth chapter (pages 130 to 161)
10/09/19	Jury and Judicial Decision Making	Read the sixth chapter (pages 162 to 189)
10/16/19	Competencies and Criminal Responsibilities	Read the seventh chapter (pages 190 to 227)
10/23/19	Children, Adolescents and the Criminal Law	Read the eighth Chapter (pages 228 to 267)
10/30/19	Psychology and Family Law	Read the ninth chapter (pages 268 to 304). This is probably the most important chapter for people who want to become counselors. We may need to spend more than one class period discussing it. Let's talk about it in class and decide what will meet your needs. ***Remember, today is the day everyone the class will submit their scenario response to the entire class as a group email. Be sure to include me in that email.
11/06/19	Prepare to present and discuss scenarios	Read how each of your classmates resolved the scenario. Prepare to present your scenario and to explain the reasons you elected to respond as you described.
11/13/19	Helping your clients navigate the vicissitudes of hard family business	Go to the Texas Statutes. Read about Wills, Incapacitation, Guardianships, Defining Intellectual Disability, Involuntary civil commitment, admitting a family member to a Protected living facility or a State Supported Living Center
11/20/19	Involuntary Civil Commitment	Read the tenth chapter (pages 305 to 332) Come to class ready to discuss more of the hard family business you will encounter as counselors
11/27/19	Psychology in Civil Litigation	Read the eleventh chapter (pages 333 to 359)
12/04/19	Psychological Assessment and the Law	Read the twelfth chapter (pages 333 to 359)
12/11/19	Final Exam	Final exam—20 items

*** Please note that this syllabus is subject to change throughout the semester.**

STUDENT ABSENCE FOR OBSERVANCE OF RELIGIOUS HOLY DAYS

“A student who intends to observe a religious holy day should make that intention known in writing to the instructor prior to the absence.”

ACADEMIC HONESTY

Academic honesty is expected on all work. Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in their online experiences. Any student found guilty of any form of dishonesty in academic work is subject of disciplinary action and possible expulsion from ASU.

The Department of Psychology, Sociology, and Social Work adheres to the academic honesty statement as set forth in the Angelo State University Student Handbook (2011-2012) <http://www.angelo.edu/content/files/17358-university-honor-code>. The University faculty expects all students to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach and to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experience both in and out of the classroom setting and may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty, including but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work, plagiarism, collusion, and the abuse of resource materials.

PLAGIARISM

Plagiarism at ASU is a serious topic. The Angelo State University's Honor Code gives specific details on plagiarism and what it encompasses. Plagiarism is the action or practice of taking someone else's work, idea, etc., and passing it off as one's own. Plagiarism is literary theft.

In your discussions and/or your papers, it is unacceptable to copy word for word without quotation marks and the source of the quotation. We use the *APA Style Manual of the American Psychological Association* as a guide for all writing assignments. Quotes should be used sparingly. It is expected that you will summarize or paraphrase ideas giving appropriate credit to the source both in the body of your paper and the reference list. Papers are subject to be evaluated for originality via Bb Turnitin. Resources to help you understand this policy better are available at the ASU Writing Center http://www.angelo.edu/dept/writing_center/academic_honesty.php.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

1. "Angelo State University is committed to the principle that no qualified individual with a disability shall, on the basis of disability, be excluded from participation in or be denied the benefits of the services, programs, or activities of the university, or be subjected to discrimination by the university, as provided by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act of 2008 (ADAAA), and subsequent legislation."
2. The Office of Student Affairs is the designated campus department charged with the responsibility of reviewing and authorizing requests for reasonable accommodations based on a disability, and it is the student's responsibility to initiate such a request by contacting the Office of Student Affairs, University Center, Room 112 at (325) 942-2047 or (325) 942-2211 (TDD/FAX) or by e-mail at studentservices@angelo.edu to begin the process. The Office of Student Affairs will establish the particular documentation requirements necessary for the various types of disabilities.

Reasonable accommodations will be made for students determined to be disabled or who have documented disabilities.

TUTORING:

The ASU Tutor Center is located in the Library C301 (3rd floor). Tutoring is free to all ASU students.

WITHDRAWALS:

Please review withdrawal policies: http://www.angelo.edu/services/registrar_office/withdrawals_refunds.php

TITLE IX AT ANGELO STATE UNIVERSITY:

Angelo State University is committed to providing and strengthening an educational, working, and living environment where students, faculty, staff, and visitors are free from sex discrimination of any kind. In

accordance with Title VII, Title IX, the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), the Campus Sexual Violence Elimination Act (SaVE), and other federal and state laws, the University prohibits discrimination based on sex, which includes pregnancy, and other types of Sexual Misconduct. Sexual Misconduct is a broad term encompassing all forms of gender-based harassment or discrimination and unwelcome behavior of a sexual nature. The term includes sexual harassment, nonconsensual sexual contact, nonconsensual sexual intercourse, sexual assault, sexual exploitation, stalking, public indecency, interpersonal violence (domestic violence or dating violence), sexual violence, and any other misconduct based on sex. You are encouraged to report any incidents involving sexual misconduct to the Office of Title IX Compliance and the Director of Title IX Compliance/Title IX Coordinator, Michelle Boone, J.D.

You may submit reports in the following manner:

Online: www.angelo.edu/incident-form

Face to Face: Mayer Administration Building, Room 210

Phone: 325-942-2022

E-Mail: michelle.boone@angelo.edu

Note, as a faculty member at Angelo State, I am a mandatory reporter and must report incidents involving sexual misconduct to the Title IX Coordinator. Should you wish to speak to someone in confidence about an issue, you may contact the University Counseling Center (325-942-2371), the 24-Hour Crisis Helpline (325-486-6345), or the University Health Clinic (325-942-2171).

For more information about resources related to sexual misconduct, Title IX, or Angelo State's policy please visit: www.angelo.edu/title-ix.