University of South Florida Sarasota-Manatee
Spring 2015

SOP 4751: PSYCHOLOGY APPLIED TO LAW

Meeting Time & Place:  Web-Based Course with 4 in-person meetings: 1/5, 2/2, 3/16, & 4/20.  
Meeting Time: Mondays 6:00 pm to 7:45 pm (Room B 224)

Prerequisites:  PSY 3213 with grade of "C" or better or CI

Instructor:  Christine Ruva, Ph.D.
Office: C249  Phone: 359-4629
Mailbox: SMC Room C 263  e-mail: ruva@usf.edu
Web Site: http://luna.cas.usf.edu/~ruva/index.htm

Office Hours:  Monday 5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. or by appointment.


Readings  On Canvas and the course website you will find links to other assigned readings.

Course Introduction.  This course is designed explore the application of Psychological Science to the Legal System and to demonstrate how emerging knowledge from research in Psychological Science is helping to solve forensic and legal problems.  We will examine many areas in Psychology and Law in which Psychologists have applied theories and concepts of psychology to important legal system problems or issues.  We will explore the existing forensic or legal practices for each topic and explore their scientific bases.  Students will be given a broad overview of the relevant topics, problems, and methodologies in the field of Psychology and Law.

Course Goals and Objectives.  The main goal of this course is to provide students with knowledge and skills that will enable them to better understand the application of psychological research and theory to the legal system. Students upon completion of this course should be able to:
(a) define relevant terms used in the field;
(b) demonstrate knowledge of the methods used by Psychologist who examine forensic and legal issues;
(c) demonstrate knowledge of the scientific bases of existing forensic and legal practices;
(e) describe the research, methods, and theories relevant to Psychological Science and the Law;
(f) describe the application of Psychological Science to specific real world problems;
(g) describe the history of the study of the topics explored (e.g., eyewitness testimony and jury decision making).

Readings and Lectures.  The tentative schedule tells you which chapters you are responsible for and when to read chapters. Lectures and multi-media presentations will supplement the texts and assigned readings and will not necessarily follow along with the chapters. Note: Some chapters in your text book will be supplemented with recent journal articles covering material related to that chapter.
CANVAS & USF EMAIL USE

Be sure to check your USF email regularly for class announcements.

How to login to your USF email:
1. Login to Canvas via myusf: https://portal.usf.edu/Pages/USF.aspx
2. Click the link to “USF Office 365” or "Google mail." This will take you to your USF mail.

If you have questions about the course or its content, rather than emailing me, please post them in the Q&A Discussion Forum so everyone can benefit from the answers. How to do this:
1. Login to Canvas
2. Click on our course
3. Select Discussion
4. Click the Q&A Forum link to enter
5. Once on the Q&A Forum page enter your question
6. Don’t forget to post and then email me to inform me of your posting

Canvas use. Canvas will be used for all components of the online portion of this course. In addition, Canvas will be used to post student grades, for emailing students, and for broadcasting announcements by Dr. Ruva. Students are expected to check their email frequently (daily) and to respond to emails from Dr. Ruva in a timely fashion. Students are also responsible for checking Canvas on at least a bi-weekly basis for class announcements.

- New student should use the Canvas tutorials: http://guides.instructure.com/m/8470
- Students needing technical assistance with Canvas should use the following resources:
  - Canvas Support is available through USFSM E-Learning staff from 9am to 5pm Monday through Friday. Please call (941-359-4295) or email (cmmontoya@sar.usf.edu) Carlos Montoya.
  - The USF Tampa IT Helpdesk provides 24 hour support for CANVAS. Toll-free Helpline: 866-974-1222 or email: help@usf.edu if you need assistance outside of USFSM’s E-Learning hours.

If you require technical assistance, please contact the USF Help Desk:

E-mail us at help-ac@usf.edu
Or call 813-974-1222 or 1-866-974-1222.

*Note: When I refer to BlackBoard in my lectures or announcements I mean Canvas.

--- MARCH 21st IS THE LAST DAY TO WITHDRAW WITHOUT ACADEMIC PENALTY---
**Exams.** There will be THREE exams worth 100 points each. The three examinations will cover the assigned readings, lectures, multi-media presentations, and classroom demonstration and exercises. Exams 1 through 3 will cover only the material in those sections. Exams will consist of **ESSAY and/or Short Answer questions**. If you are ill or have some other documentable, legitimate reason for missing an exam (see excused absences below), you may be permitted to take a make-up. However, you **must** notify me NO LATER THAN 12:00 PM the day of the exam (or earlier, see excused absences) or you will get NO CREDIT FOR THE EXAM.

Exams will take place from **6:00 pm to 7:45 pm** on the dates specified on the Tentative Outline (last page of syllabus). During exams, you will only be permitted to have pens, pencils, and erasers at your desk. Please leave refreshments, book bags, and other materials in the front of the classroom or do not bring them at all. Turn off all cellular/smart phones and please do not wear hats or any type of headphones/earplugs. You **may not leave the room** during an exam.

**Makeup Exam Procedures:** At USF SM makeup exams are only administered on 4 predetermined dates (Fridays) and times during each semester. These dates and times cannot be altered for your individual schedule – NO EXCEPTIONS. Therefore, if you qualify for a makeup exam make sure to contact Dr. Ruva ASAP to schedule your exam.

**Excused Absences** will be given for illness only with a **doctor’s excuse** (this illness must be severe enough to prevent you from taking the exam – Your instructor alone will determine if your illness meets this criterion), for the death of an immediate family member, for school sanctioned functions, or for observance of religious holy days. Doctor’s excuse require that the student fill out a "Verification of Visit" form at the health center. Something similar should be done for students using private physician services and must state specifically what the illness was and the date/s of the illness. Death of an immediate family member requires a copy of the death certificate. Students who anticipate the necessity of being absent from class due to the observation of a major religious observance or a school-sanctioned event must provide notice of the date(s) to the instructor, in writing, by the **second class meeting (2nd week of classes)**. If no notice is given the student will get no credit for the exam.

**Forums/Discussions (Graded).** There will be a total of FIVE graded Forums/Discussions worth 15 points each. These assignments will be based on **assigned videos** that accompany the lecture power points provided in Canvas. These assignments will also require you to use information from your textbook, class PowerPoints, personal experiences, and the web. In Canvas I will provide clear instructions of what is expected for each Forum. These assignments will be given during the weeks indicated on the tentative course schedule. There will be **NO MAKEUP FORUMS GIVEN**. The first part of each assignment (answering my questions) is Due the **Wednesday of the week given**. The **Peer Reviews and Replies** are due the following **Monday by 12:00 pm** (see tentative schedule). LATE FORUMS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED FOR ANY REASON. Only **four** of these Forum assignments will count toward your total points earned in the course. If a student completes more than the **4** required Forums his/her grade/s on the additional Forums will be multiplied by .40 and then added to his/her total points as **EXTRA CREDIT**.

**Grading.** Grading for this course will be on an accumulated point scale as follows: Exams 1 through 3 are each worth **100 points** and your 4 Forum worth a total of **15 points** each. Therefore, the total possible points a student can earn in the class (not including extra credit) are **360**.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>335+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>324-334</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>313-323</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>299-312</td>
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<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>288-298</td>
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<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>277-287</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>263-276</td>
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<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>252-262</td>
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<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>241-251</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>227-240</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D-</td>
<td>216-226</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>215 or less</td>
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COURSE WORK      PERCENT OF TOTAL POINTS
Exams          83%  
Graded Forums/Discussion Boards  17% 

Academic Honesty. Academic honesty is an essential component of the academic process. Both students and faculty are expected to “live up to the highest ethical standards with respect to the origin of ideas, the accuracy of data, and like matters” (Bryant, 2002).

Academic Dishonesty: Per the USF Undergraduate Catalog (p. 47-49) Academic Dishonesty includes PLAGIARISM, which is defined as:
“literary theft and consists of the unattributed quotation of the exact words of a published text, or the unattributed borrowing of original ideas by paraphrase from a published text. On written papers for which the student employs information gathered from books, articles, web sites, or oral sources, each direct quotation, as well as ideas and facts that are not generally known to the public at large, or the form, structure, or style of a secondary source must be attributed to its author by means of the appropriate citation procedure.”

Cheating. USF defines Cheating as “using or attempting to use materials, information, notes, study aids, or other assistance in any type of examination or evaluation which have not been authorized by the instructor. Students completing any type of examination or evaluation are prohibited from looking at or transmitting materials to another student (including electronic reproductions and transmissions) and from using external aids of any sort (e.g., books, notes, calculators, photographic images or conversation with others) unless the instructor has indicated specifically in advance that this will be allowed. Students may not take examinations or evaluations in the place of other persons. Students may not allow other persons to take examinations or evaluations in their places. Students may not acquire unauthorized information about an examination or evaluation and may not use any such information improperly acquired by others.” (pp. 54-55). Academic dishonesty will result in an "FF" for the course and a recommendation for disciplinary action by USF.

Plagiarism Detection (Turnitin): The University of South Florida has an account with an automated plagiarism detection service which allows instructors to submit student assignments to be checked for plagiarism. I reserve the right to submit assignments to this detection system. Assignments are compared automatically with a huge database of journal articles, web articles, and previously submitted papers. The instructor receives a report showing exactly how a student's paper was plagiarized. Any plagiarism in this course will result in an “FF” for the class and a recommendation for disciplinary action by USFSM.

Psychology Mission Statement

The curriculum for a Psychology degree from USF Sarasota-Manatee prepares graduates for the many occupations (e.g., human services, community or public relations, administration, and advertising and market research) and graduate work in such disciplines as clinical, cognitive, industrial psychology, education, gerontology, counseling, management, medicine, law, and other human service programs. By the time our majors are ready to graduate, they are equipped with two vital skill sets. First, our majors are familiar with numerous factors influencing behavior and mental processes, and the interactions between them. These factors range from the molecular (communication in the brain) to the cultural (human diversity). Second, our majors have developed the critical thinking skills necessary for the consumption and production of psychological research. These skills include writing and familiarity with the ethics of conducting psychological research. Students will have the opportunity to take a capstone course that allows them to create their own research study to demonstrate these competencies.
**Extra Credit.** Maximum of 24 points are possible.

1. **USFSM Sponsored Research Studies (maximum of 10 points):** You may choose to Participate in Research being conducted at USFSM. Participation in research is completely voluntary, and you will not be penalized in any way should you choose not to participate in research. Opportunities to participate in research can be found on the Sona website ([https://usfsm.sona-systems.com](https://usfsm.sona-systems.com)) and instructions for accessing and using the Sona website can be found in the getting started module on Canvas. Per Sona Guidelines you can earn 1 Sona point for every 30 minutes of participation in a "live" research study (i.e., a study requiring in-person participation). For studies administered solely online studies you can earn 0.5 points for every 30 minutes of participation. The time allocated for a research study is established by the researcher and is based on the estimated time needed to participate. All Sona extra-credit is will be multiplied by 1 to determine number of course points earned.
   a. *Note – there is no guarantee that any studies will take place during spring 2015.*

2. **Forums/Discussion Boards:** You will also have an opportunity to earn extra-credit (up to 6 points) by completing more than the 4 required Forums.

3. **Evelyn M. Duvall Family Studies Conference at USFSM (February 12-14, 2015).** You can earn up to 8 points of extra credit by doing all of the following: (1) register in advance for the conference, (2) sign in with conference organizers on the day of conference to verify attendance, (3) attend at least 3 hours of the conference, and (4) in a one-page typed paper summarize the talks and/or poster sessions you attended. Faculty/Students use code 991415391028710 - for Registration at No Charge
   - Duvall Family Studies Website: [http://www.usfsm.edu/duvall/](http://www.usfsm.edu/duvall/)

**Other Policies and Procedures**

**Disabilities Accommodation.** Students are responsible for registering with the Office of Students with Disabilities Services (SDS) in order to receive academic accommodations. Reasonable notice must be given to the SDS office (typically 5 working days) for accommodations to be arranged. It is the responsibility of the student to provide each instructor with a copy of the official Memo of Accommodation. Contact Information: SMC C107, 941-359-4714, [http://usfsm.edu/disability-services/](http://usfsm.edu/disability-services/)

**Student Responsibilities.** Every student is responsible for all materials in assigned readings, posted in Blackboard and on the course website, and provided in class. Students are expected to come to all class meetings on time and prepared to discuss course materials.

**Cell Phones & Personal Electronic Devices.** Any personal electronic devices (e.g., cell phones, smart phones, or tablets) other than notebook or laptop computers are to be TURNED OFF AND PUT AWAY before the beginning of class. Failure to comply could result in the student being asked to leave the classroom and thus loss of credit for any assignments due that day.

**Academic Disruption.** The University does not tolerate behavior that disrupts the learning process. The policy for addressing academic disruption is included with Academic Dishonesty in the catalog: [www.ugs.usf.edu/catalogs/0607/adadap.htm](http://www.ugs.usf.edu/catalogs/0607/adadap.htm). Occurrences of academic disruption should be addressed by the professor (depending on the situation, the student may be asked to leave or security may be called). Following the incident, the professor should establish with the student terms for continued course participation, and the professor should also submit a report to the dean. The consequences to the student can range from an administrative reprimand to suspension from USF.
Emergency Preparedness

- It is strongly recommended that you become familiar with the USF Sarasota-Manatee Emergency Action Plan on the Safety Preparedness site http://www.sarasota.usf.edu/facilities/SafetyPreparedness.php

- **Fire Alarm Instructions:** At the beginning of each semester please note the emergency exit maps posted in each classroom. These signs are marked with the primary evacuation route (red) and secondary evacuation route (orange) in case the building needs to be evacuated.

- **Contingency Plans:** In the event of an emergency, it may be necessary for USFSM to suspend normal operations. During this time, USFSM may opt to continue delivery of instruction through methods that include but are not limited to: Blackboard, Elluminate, Skype, and email messaging and/or an alternate schedule. It’s the responsibility of the student to monitor Blackboard site for each class for course specific communication, and the main USFSM and College websites, emails, and MoBull messages for important general information. The USF hotline at 1 (800) 992-4231 is updated with pre-recorded information during an emergency. See the Safety Preparedness Website for further information. http://www.sarasota.usf.edu/facilities/SafetyPreparedness.php

Counseling Center and Mandatory Reporting

The Counseling and Wellness Center is a confidential resource where you can talk about incidents of sexual harassment and gender-based crimes including sexual assault, stalking, and domestic/relationship violence. You can receive assistance in confidence. This confidential resource can help you without having to report your situation to either the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities (OSSR) or the Office of Diversity, Inclusion, and Equal Opportunity (DIEO), unless you request that they make a report. Please be aware that educators must report incidents of sexual harassment and gender-based crimes including sexual assault, stalking, and domestic/relationship violence. If you disclose any of these situations in class, in papers, or to me personally, I am required to report it to OSSR or DIEO for investigation. The Deputy Coordinator for USFSM is Mary Beth Wallace, AVP for Student Enrollment, Engagement and Success, 941-359-4330 or marybeth@sar.usf.edu.

Counseling Center and Wellness Center 941-487-4254
Victim Advocate (24/7) 941-504-8599
List of off-campus resources:
Hope of Manatee: 941-755-6805
Safe Place & Rape Crisis Center (SPARCC) – Sarasota: 941-365-1976
First Call for Help- Manatee: 941-708-6488
- Sarasota & North Port 941-366-5025
Manatee Glens: 941-782-4800
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week &amp; Date</th>
<th>Topics</th>
<th>Assigned Readings</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 1: 1/05</td>
<td>Introduction to Psychology and Law (Welcome Forum) *</td>
<td>Chapter 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 2: 1/12</td>
<td>Investigative Interviewing</td>
<td>Chapter 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 3: 1/19</td>
<td>Eyewitness Recall, Testimony, &amp; Identification</td>
<td>Chapters 4 &amp; 6</td>
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<td>*MLK Holiday Monday</td>
<td>White Paper (Wells et al., 1998)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 4: 1/26</td>
<td>Children’s Recall and Testimony (Forum 1)</td>
<td>Chapter 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 5: 2/02</td>
<td>EXAM 1 (chaps. 1, 2, 4, 5, 6 &amp; Eyewitness White paper) *</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 6: 2/09</td>
<td>False Memory- Repressed Memory Debate</td>
<td>Chapter 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 7: 2/16</td>
<td>False Confessions (Forum 2)</td>
<td>White Paper (Kassin et al., 2009)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 8: 2/23</td>
<td>Deception Detection (Forum 3)</td>
<td>Chapter 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No Class: 3/2</td>
<td>SPRING BREAK – ENJOY!</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 9: 3/09</td>
<td>Simulation, Realism, and the Study of the Jury</td>
<td>Chapter 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 10: 3/16</td>
<td>EXAM 2 (chaps. 3, 7, 10, &amp; False Confession White Paper) *</td>
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| Week 11: 3/23 | Comprehension of Judicial Instructions                                 | Chapter 12                                                                        |
| Week 12: 3/30 | Pretrial Publicity and Its Influence on Jury Decision Making          | Chapter 8                                                                         |
|               | (Forum 4)                                                            | Ruva & Guenther (2015)                                                             |
| Week 13: 4/06 | The Psychology of Jury and Juror Decision Making (Forum 5)            | Chapter 11                                                                        |
| Week 14: 4/13 | Helping Experimental Psychology Affect Legal Policy                   | Chapter 14                                                                        |
|               | Content Analysis of Mock-Jury Deliberations                           | Ruva & LeVasseur (2012)                                                           |
| Week 15: 4/20 | EXAM 3 (chaps. 8, 11, 12, 14, & Content Analysis) *                   |                                                                                   |

Note: *(Forum)* Indicates that there will be a graded Forum (Discussion) assigned that day that is based on the lecture, readings, and videos for that week. These assignments will have 3 components: (1) answer my questions, (2) peer review/questioned two other students’ responses, and (3) respond to students questions regarding your posts. The first step is due Wednesday by 11:59 PM. All 3 steps are due the following Monday by 12:00 pm. Late Forums will not be accepted for any reason. NO makeup Forums will be given for any reason. See Forum instructions for other criteria (e.g., when first post is due).

Note: *All Exams will be given in-person. That is, the class will meet in our scheduled room at our scheduled time for all exams and the first class meeting. Exams will begin at 6:00 pm and end at 7:45 pm. Our first class meeting will take place from 6:00 pm to 7:45 pm.*