

SYLLABUS
PSF-4591: Critical Issues in Forensic Psychology

Time: TBA

Room: TBA

Instructor: Marshall Jones

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Phone: 321-674-8104

Advising Hours: Call Ms. Debra Master at x8104 for an appointment.

Course Description

This course examines contemporary and critical issues in forensic psychology. In-depth topics will include, but are not limited to: drugs and crime, racial profiling, sex crimes, forensic psychopathology, sex and violence, community corrections, jury consulting, correctional psychology, subcultures of crime, kinesics and advanced interviewing, victimless crime, serial offenders, international crime, and terrorism.

Required Books:

(Texts will vary with topic)

Additional readings and materials will be distributed via Blackboard during the course.

Course Methodology

This senior level course will be conducted in lecture/presentation format.

Attendance & Participation

Attendance & participation are a critical part of your grade. Attendance will not be counted against you per se, but it is difficult to achieve a good participation grade if you are not in class. Team participation will also be assessed and your contributions are directly related to participation. A portion of your participation grade will be evaluated by me and part will be based on evaluation from class and team members.

If, for any reason, you do not sign the attendance sheet as it is being passed around in class, you must take the initiative to come up and sign it at the end of class in order to avoid being considered absent. Falsification of any signature on the attendance sheet will be dealt with in accordance with university policy on academic dishonesty.

To be successful in this course you need to attend class meetings and arrive on time. Except in emergencies, it is impolite and unprofessional to arrive late or to get up and leave during a class meeting without having previously discussed your late arrival or early departure with the instructor. **This class begins at XXX am. We understand that minor delays happen but disruptions once class begins are unacceptable. DO NOT enter class once the door is closed. This will normally occur at about XXX am.**

You are responsible for all material presented, handouts, announcements, and changes in scheduling that are made whether you are in class or not.

Withdrawal Policy

Students should familiarize themselves with the withdrawal procedures of Florida Tech. W will not withdraw a student from the class. Students not fulfilling course requirements will receive a grade of “F” for the term.

Videos

Videos may be used to support class lectures and text material and is testable material. Should you miss a video, it is your responsibility to get notes from a classmate.

Guest Speakers

Guest speakers may be invited to speak to you on various topics during this course. These practitioners are willing to share their professional experiences to students in the classroom. All courtesies are to be extended and ask questions! Guest lecture material is supplemental information to text reading and classroom lecture and is testable information.

Examinations

There will be three exams during the regular semester. Each will consist of multiple choice and short-answer questions. Exams will be offered to you only at the time they are scheduled. There will also be a comprehensive final exam during final exams week. The final examination is cumulative and required.

There will be no make-up exams given in this course. If an emergency arises and you miss a regular hour exam, the final exam will serve as a make-up. The final exam can be used to replace any number of missed hour exams, from one to all four. The final exam cannot, however, be used to replace any existing exam scores. I strongly advise all students to prepare for and take each of the regular hour exams.

Students arriving late on an exam day will not be admitted to the classroom. You are responsible for bringing number two pencils and an eraser to exams.

I encourage you to visit our office hours and go over your exams. You may only go over your most recent exam during the period before the next exam is given. For example, you can only go over the first exam before you take the second exam, etc. Students who miss an exam or who choose not to take it may not look over the exam questions they missed.

Papers and other “Deliverables”

There will be several written products completed during this course. Research papers will be in APA and submitted using TurnItIn. “Deliverables” are individual and/or group projects that are completed/developed during the course. Deliverables will be prepared as per the instruction.

Research Papers must be submitted electronically as Microsoft Word documents to the instructor before class on the day they are due. Hard copies of the papers must also be turned in at the beginning of class on the date specified in the course schedule. Papers turned in after that time will be considered late. Late papers will not receive credit. You may turn in your paper anytime before the due date.

Florida Tech has contracted with a private company, TurnItIn.com, to help identify plagiarized papers. Prior to being graded, students must submit papers written for this course to the TurnItIn.com web site for screening. Students must print out the report generated by TurnItIn.com and submit it with their papers. Papers that are submitted without a report from TurnItIn.com will not receive credit.

Academic Dishonesty

Academic dishonesty is the willful misrepresentation of all or any part of another's work as one's own. Copying another's answers or giving or receiving unpermitted aid during classroom or take-home examinations, assignments, papers, research reports, and projects is cheating. Plagiarism in all its forms is cheating.

Students have an obligation to themselves and to their peers to uphold the integrity of their institution by not participating either directly or indirectly in acts of cheating and by discouraging cheating by others. A student who aids another in cheating shares the guilt of the offense. In this course, the penalty for any kind of academic dishonesty will consist of a final course grade of "F". You should also be familiar with the statement of academic honesty at Florida Tech available on-line at:

<http://www.fit.edu/current/plagiarism.pdf>

College Email & Blackboard

We will sometimes communicate with the entire class by sending bulk email that automatically addresses each of you at your college email account. For this reason, you will have to check your college email regularly. We know that the college accounts tend to fill up with "@All" junk email, but this seems to be part of modern life and you should clean this stuff out of your account regularly. We cannot use non-college email addresses (hotmail, aol, etc.) to send bulk emails to the entire class because those services filter out messages to multiple recipients. If you have a non-college email, then you will have to do what we do: check both and keep the junk cleared out.

In addition to utilizing email to communicate with the class, we will make use of "Blackboard" throughout the semester. There we will post answers to your questions, course grades, study guides, and links to supplementary materials for the course.

Grades

Your grade in this course will be our evaluation of your performance. We will base this evaluation on your demonstrated competence on assignments and exams. The proportional contribution of each will be:

Semester Exams (3 at 5% each) 15%
Final Exam 10%
Journal 5%
Participation 20%
Deliverable(s) Evaluation(s) (varies on project) 50%

Final grades will be based on the percentage of points earned out of the total.

A = 90.0-100%
B = 80.0-89.99%
C = 70.0-79.99%

D = 62.0-69.99%

F = 61.99% or BELOW