

PsychD53F, 1994

PSYCHOLOGY AND THE LAW
Tuesday 11-1, Room R3212

Professor Marilyn Smith
Room S531, phone 287-7409

Office hours: Monday 1-3
Tuesday 4-6

Text: Foley, L.A. 1993. **A psychological View of the Legal System**, Wm. Brown & Benchmark, Madison, Wisconsin.

Readings: **Criminal Justice 94/95**, Annual Editions (AE)

This seminar will provide an opportunity to explore the way in which psychological processes such as perception, memory, attention and decision making influence various aspects of the legal process. All students will be required to:

1. Come to each seminar session prepared to discuss the day's topic, having carefully read the assigned chapters).

2. Write an essay of approximately 25 pages double-spaced. The essay is due on November 15 at the beginning of class. There will be a penalty of 5% per day for late papers.

ESSAY TOPIC: Repressed memory and suggestibility in testimony about childhood sexual abuse

Suggested readings for the essay will be available on short term loan from the library. **ESSAYS ARE TO BE DONE INDEPENDENTLY!!**

2. Write two terms tests. Each test will be based on both assigned chapters in the textbook and readings and on material covered in class. The tests will consist of both essay, short answer and multiple-choice questions. The first test will be given on October 25 during class. The second test will be given during exam period.

Assignment of grade:

Essay: 40%

Tests: 60% (30% each)

TOPICS

**September 13: THE PSYCHOLOGY OF EYEWITNESS TESTIMONY:
DISTORTIONS DURING ENCODING**

Text: Chapt. 1 & 9

- September 20: THE PSYCHOLOGY OF EYEWITNESS TESTIMONY:
DISTORTIONS DURING STORAGE IN MEMORY**
Text: Chapt 2 & 3; AE: Unit 1, 2-4
- September 27: THE PSYCHOLOGY OF EYEWITNESS TESTIMONY:
DISTORTIONS DURING MEMORY RETRIEVAL**
Text: Chapt 4; AE: Unit 1, 5-7
- October 4: LIE DETECTION**
Video: A case study of lie detection accuracy
AE: Unit 2, 8-11
- October 11: LIE DETECTION (Continued)**
Chapt. 14; AE: Unit 2, 12-15
- October 18: THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN WITNESS CONFIDENCE
AND ACCURACY**
AE: Unit 4, 26; Unit 5, 30, 32, 34, 35
- October 25: FIRST TERM TEST (Nov.4 last day to withdraw)**
Text: Chapters 1-4, 9, 14; AE: Unit 1, 2-7, Unit 2, 8-15, Unit 4,
26, Unit 5, 30, 32, 34, 35
- November 1: HYPNOTIC MEMORY ENHANCEMENT**
FILM: Hypnosis on Trial
Read for Nov. 1: Smith, M.C. (1983) Hypnotic memory enhancement of
witnesses: Does it work? Psychological Bulletin, 94, 387-407
- November 8: VICTIMS OF CRIME**
Text: Chapt. 5; AE: Unit 6, 36-39
- November 15: DECISION MAKING**
Read for Nov. 15: Tversky, A. & Kahneman, D. Judgment under
uncertainty: Heuristics and Biases. Science, 1974, 185, 1124-31.
- November 22: THE JURY**
Text: Chapt. 8 & 10
- November 29: THE PREDICTION OF DANGEROUSNESS**
Text: Chapt. 11; AE: Unit 6, 40-42
- December 6: THE DEATH PENALTY**
Text: Chapt. 12 & 14
- Exam Period: SECOND TERM TEST**
Text: Chapt. 5, 8, 10-12, 14; AE: Unit 6, 36-42