

PsychD53F, 1995

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 95/96**, 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 14 at the beginning of class. There will be a penalty of 5% per day for late papers.

ESSAY TOPIC: Repressed memory for childhood sexual abuse: Problems of suggestibility.

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 (1) assigned chapters in the textbook and readings and (2) material covered in class. The tests will consist of essay and short answer questions. The first test will be given on October 24 during class. The second test will be given during exam period.

Assignment of grade:

Essay: 40%

Tests: 60% (30% each)

TOPICS

**September 12: THE PSYCHOLOGY OF EYEWITNESS TESTIMONY:
DISTORTIONS DURING ENCODING**

Text: Chapt. 1 & 9

- September 19: THE PSYCHOLOGY OF EYEWITNESS TESTIMONY:
DISTORTIONS DURING STORAGE IN MEMORY**
Text: Chapt 2 & 3; AE: 2
- September 26: THE PSYCHOLOGY OF EYEWITNESS TESTIMONY:
DISTORTIONS DURING MEMORY RETRIEVAL**
Text: Chapt 4; AE: 4,7
- October 3: LIE DETECTION**
Video: A case study of lie detection accuracy
AE: 17
- October 10: LIE DETECTION (Continued)**
Chapt. 14; AE: 28, 30
- October 17: THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN WITNESS CONFIDENCE
AND ACCURACY**
AE: 32, 34
- October 24: FIRST TERM TEST (Nov.3 last day to withdraw)**
Text: Chapters 1-4, 9, 14; AE: 2,4,7,17,28,30,32,34
- October 30: HYPNOTIC MEMORY ENHANCEMENT**
FILM: Hypnosis on Trial
Read for Oct.30: Smith, M.C. (1983) Hypnotic memory enhancement of
witnesses: Does it work? Psychological Bulletin, 94, 387-407
- November 7: VICTIMS OF CRIME**
Read for Nov.7: Text: Chapt. 5; AE: 9,10,12,14.
- November 14: THE EFFECTIVENESS OF PUNISHMENT**
Guest lecture my criminal lawyer Matthew Friedberg
Read for Nov.14: Text, Ch.12 & 14; AE: 37,38,40.
- November 21: DECISION MAKING**
Read for Nov. 15: Tversky, A. & Kahneman, D. Judgment under
uncertainty: Heuristics and Biases. Science, 1974, 185, 1124-31.
- November 28: THE JURY**
Read for Nov.28: Text, Chapt. 8 & 10, AE: 22,23,25
- December 5: THE PREDICTION OF DANGEROUSNESS**
Read for Dec. 5: Text, Chapt. 11; AE: 41
- Exam Period: SECOND TERM TEST**
Text: Chapt. 5,8,10-12,14; AE: 9,10,12,14,22,23,25,37,38,40,41