

PsychD53F, 1996

PSYCHOLOGY AND THE LAW
Thursday 1-3, Room R3230

Professor Marilyn Smith
Room S531, phone 287-7409

Office hours: Thursday 10-12
Tuesday 4-6

Text: Wrightsman, Nietzel and Fortune (1994). **Psychology and the Legal System**, Third edition, Brooks/Cole Publishing Company, Calif.

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 15 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: Hypnotic enhancement of memory
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 a mix of essay, short answer, and multiple choice questions. The first test will be given on October 17 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

September 19: THE PSYCHOLOGY OF EYEWITNESS TESTIMONY:
DISTORTIONS DURING STORAGE IN MEMORY
Text: Chapt 1 & 7

September 26: THE PSYCHOLOGY OF EYEWITNESS TESTIMONY:
DISTORTIONS DURING MEMORY RETRIEVAL
Text: Chapt 2 & 3

- October 3:** LIE DETECTION
Video: A case study of lie detection accuracy
Text: Chapt. 8 & 9
- October 10:** THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN WITNESS CONFIDENCE
AND ACCURACY
Text: Chapt. 12
- October 17:** **FIRST TERM TEST** (Nov.1 last day to withdraw)
Text: Chapters 1-3, 7-10
- October 24:** Guest lecture by Judge Sandra Chapnik
Topic to be announced
- October 31:** **NO CLASS**
- November 7:** HYPNOTIC MEMORY ENHANCEMENT
FILM: Hypnosis on Trial
Reading: Smith, M.C. (1983) Hypnotic memory enhancement
of witnesses: Does it work? Psychological Bulletin, 94, 387-407
- November 14:** **ESSAY DUE AT BEGINNING OF CLASS**

THEORIES OF CRIME
Text: Chapt. 5 & 6
- November 21:** REPRESSED MEMORY: PROBLEMS OF SUGGESTIBILITY
Reading: Lindsay, D.S. & Read, J.D. (1994). Psychotherapy
and memories of childhood sexual abuse: a cognitive
perspective. Applied Cognitive Psychology, 8, 281-338.
Text: Chapt. 17 & 18
- November 28:** THE JURY
Text, Chapt. 13 & 14
- December 5:** THE PREDICTION OF DANGEROUSNESS
Text, Chapt. 15 & 16
- Exam Period:** **SECOND TERM TEST**
Text: Chapt. 5, 6, 13-18.