

PsychD53F, 1997

PSYCHOLOGY AND THE LAW
Thursday 10-12, Room R3230

Professor Marilyn Smith
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Office hours: Tuesday 10-12
Thursday 3-4

Text: Wrightsman, Nietzel and Fortune (1998). **Psychology and the Legal System**, Fourth 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 13 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: The role 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 a mix of essay, short answer, and multiple choice questions. The first test will be given on October 23 during class. The second test will be given during exam period.

Assignment of grade:

Essay: 30%

Tests: 70% (35% each)

TOPICS

September 11: THE PSYCHOLOGY OF EYEWITNESS TESTIMONY:
DISTORTIONS DURING ENCODING

September 18: THE PSYCHOLOGY OF EYEWITNESS TESTIMONY:
DISTORTIONS DURING STORAGE IN MEMORY
Text: Chapt. 1 & 7

September 25: THE PSYCHOLOGY OF EYEWITNESS TESTIMONY:
DISTORTIONS DURING MEMORY RETRIEVAL
Text: Chapt. 2 & 3

October 2: NO CLASS
Text: Chapt. 6

October 9: Completion of the above topics
Text: Chapt. 16

October 16: LIE DETECTION
Video: A case study of lie detection accuracy
Text: Chapt. 8
Ekman, P. Lying and Deception, in Stein, Ornstein, Tversky and Brainerd,
Memory for Everyday and Emotional Events, Ch.14, pp.333-347.

October 23: FIRST TERM TEST (Nov.3 last day to withdraw from class)
Text: Chapters 1, 2, 3, 6, 7, 8, 16

October 30: THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN WITNESS CONFIDENCE
AND ACCURACY
Text: Chapt. 13

November 6: 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 13: ESSAY DUE AT BEGINNING OF CLASS

THEORIES OF CRIME
Text: Chapt. 5

November 20: THE JURY

Text, Chaps. 14 & 15

November 27: FORENSIC ASSESSMENT

Chaps. 11 & 12

December 4: THE PREDICTION OF DANGEROUSNESS

Text, Chapt. 17 & 18

Exam Period: SECOND TERM TEST

Text: Chaps. 5, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 17, 18.