

PsychD53F, 1998

**PSYCHOLOGY AND THE LAW**

Thursday 10-12, Room R3230

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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.

**Additional reading: Criminal Justice: Opposing Viewpoints (CJ)**

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.

At the start of each session there will be a short (10 minute) written quiz based on the assigned reading in the Textbook. Each quiz is worth 3 points, for a total of 30 points.

There will be two terms tests, each 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 22 during class. The second test will be given during exam period, Dec. 14-22. Each test is worth 35 points.

**TOPICS**

**September 17: THE PSYCHOLOGY OF EYEWITNESS TESTIMONY: DISTORTIONS DURING ENCODING**

**September 24: THE PSYCHOLOGY OF EYEWITNESS TESTIMONY: DISTORTIONS DURING STORAGE IN MEMORY**

**Text:** Chaps. 1 & 7; **CJ:** Ch.1, articles 1 & 2

**October 1: THE PSYCHOLOGY OF EYEWITNESS TESTIMONY: DISTORTIONS DURING MEMORY RETRIEVAL**

**Text:** Chaps. 2 & 3 **CJ:** Ch.1, articles 3 & 4.

- October 8:** Completion of the above topics  
Text: Chapt.5 & 16 CJ: Ch.1, articles 5 & 6.
- October 15:** LIE DETECTION  
Video: A case study of lie detection accuracy  
Text: Chapt. 8 CJ: Ch.1, articles 7 & 8
- October 22:** FIRST TERM TEST (Nov.6 last day to withdraw from class)  
Text: Chapters 1, 2, 3, 5, 7, 8, 16 CJ: chapter 1, articles 1-8
- October 29:** THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN WITNESS CONFIDENCE AND ACCURACY  
Text: Chapt. 13 CJ: Ch.2, articles 1 & 2
- November 5:** 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 (Copy provided)  
CJ: Ch.3, articles 1 & 2.
- November 12:** GUEST LECTURE BY JUSTICE T.P. MATLOW  
Text: Chapt. 18 CJ: Ch.3, articles 3 & 4.
- November 19:** NO CLASS
- November 26:** THE JURY, part 1  
Text: Chapt. 14 CJ: Ch.4, articles 1 & 2
- December 3:** THE JURY, part 2  
Text: Chapt. 15 CJ: Ch.4, articles 3 & 4
- December 10:** THE PREDICTION OF DANGEROUSNESS  
Text: Chapt. 11 CJ: Ch.4, articles 5 & 6
- Exam Period: SECOND TERM TEST**  
Text: Chapt. 11,13, 14, 15, 18. CJ: Ch.2, 1&2; Ch.3, 1-4; Ch.4, 1-6.