

PSYC53F: PSYCHOLOGY AND THE LAW

1999

Thursday 9-11, Room H 214

Professor Marilyn Smith

Office hours: T 10-12; R 1-2

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Text: Wrightsman, Nietzel and Fortune (1998). Psychology and the Legal System, Fourth edition, Brooks/Cole Publishing Company, Calif.

This course 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.

There will be two terms tests, each based on (1) assigned chapters in the textbook and (2) material covered in class. The tests will consist of a mix of short answer and multiple choice questions. The first test will be given on October 21 during class. The second test will be given during exam period, Dec.13-21. Each test is worth 50 points.

TOPICS

September 16: THE PSYCHOLOGY OF EYEWITNESS TESTIMONY: DISTORTIONS DURING ENCODING

September 23: THE PSYCHOLOGY OF EYEWITNESS TESTIMONY: DISTORTIONS DURING STORAGE

Text: Chapt. 1 & 7

September 30: THE PSYCHOLOGY OF EYEWITNESS TESTIMONY: DISTORTIONS DURING RETRIEVAL

Text: Chapt. 2 & 3

October 7: Completion of eyewitness testimony

Video: The role of suggestibility in child abuse testimony

Text: Chapt. 5

October 14: THE RELATION BETWEEN WITNESS CONFIDENCE AND ACCURACY

Text: Chapt. 16

October 21: FIRST TERM TEST (Nov.5 last day to withdraw from class)

Text: Chapters 1, 2, 3, 5, 7, 8, 16

October 28: Guest lecture by Prof. Tim Moore

***The Judas Priest Trial* – The issue of "subliminal" messages**

Reading: Moore, T.E. (1992). Subliminal perception: Facts and fallacies. *Skeptical Inquirer*, 16, 273-281 (on reserve in library).

Text: Chapt. 13

November 4: LIE DETECTION

Video: A case study of lie detection accuracy

Text: Chapt. 8

November 11: HYPNOTIC MEMORY ENHANCEMENT

Reading: Smith, M.C. (1983) Hypnotic memory enhancement of witnesses: Does it work? *Psychological Bulletin*, 94, 387-407 (Copy provided)

November 18: HYPNOTIC MEMORY ENHANCEMENT

Film: Hypnosis on Trial

Text: Chapt. 18

November 25: THE JURY

Text: Chapt. 14 & 15

December 2: THE PREDICTION OF DANGEROUSNESS

Text: Chapt. 11

Exam Period: SECOND TERM TEST

Text: Chapt. 11,13, 14, 15, 18.