

Psychology & the Law

CRN:24164

UGLC 346

Tuesday/Thursday 3:00 – 4:20



What will I learn in this class?

This course introduces you to the field of psychology and the law, particularly in relation to key debates, theories, and application of research to real-world settings. The course will highlight the challenges associated with working at the intersection of the fields of psychology and law. We will integrate ideas, findings, and logic between the fields. Overall, students will gain general knowledge about how psychological research can inform legal contexts, how psychological research is used in legal contexts, and exciting new directions in the study of psychology and law.

Course Objectives

At the end of the course, you should be able to:

1. Describe the different ways that psychologists interact with the legal system and careers within the field.
2. Describe the basic US legal system and procedures.
3. Understand the major findings of experimental and developmental psychology that inform the legal system (e.g., eyewitness memory, jury decision-making).
4. Describe the ways that clinical psychologists' evaluations can inform legal proceedings (e.g., insanity defense, competency).
5. Examine how research can be used to improve public knowledge of legal concepts and change attitudes toward legal policy.
6. Communicate effectively about key issues and research pertaining to legal psychology.

CONTENT WARNING

In this class, we will learn about sensitive topics that may be emotionally challenging for some individuals (for example, rape, domestic violence, hate crimes, mass shootings/violence, racial injustice, etc.). Some of the content may make you feel uncomfortable or challenge your current way of thinking, which can be difficult. If you feel any of our course topics may cause you undue distress, please let me know in advance so I can try to work with you and provide an alternate assignment.

PROFESSOR

Dr. Krystia Reed

Office Hours: Tuesday 1:30 – 2:30 & by appointment

Office: Vowell 206*

E-mail: kmreed2@utep.edu

TEACHING ASSISTANT

Morgan Wagner

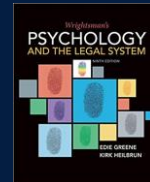
Office Hours: Wednesday 11:00 – 12:00 & by appointment

Office: Vowell 308*

E-mail: mrwagner@utep.edu

*NOTE: Vowell is not handicap accessible. Should you need an accessible meeting, please email us to schedule one in Psych

REQUIRED TEXT



Greene & Heilbrun (2018). *Wrightsmans' Psychology and the Legal System* (9th ed. - MindTap). Cengage Learning. ISBN 9781337570893.

E-MAIL

Please put PSYC3315 in the subject line of all emails. I will respond to all emails within 2 business days. For tips on how to email, see www.wikihow.com/email-a-professor

MindTap (MT) & Blackboard (BB)

In this course, we're using MT to have more interactive readings. Most assignments are completed on MT and synced with BB. Additional readings and any other assignments will be on BB. Please check BB regularly.

How will my grade be determined?

Your grade will be out of 1000 points divided across the following categories:

100 points

DISCUSSION ATTENDANCE

There are 8 discussion/activity days this semester, each worth 16 points for attendance and participation, up to 100 points. Except under exceptional circumstances, there are no makeups for discussion/activity days. But, you can miss 1 without penalty or 2 with minimal penalty. *Note:* Lectures will be recorded and attendance is encouraged but not mandatory for lecture days.

130 points

MASTERY TRAINING

Before reading each chapter, you will complete "Mastery Training" in MindTap. Each chapter will be worth 11 points, up to 130 points. Your 3 lowest chapter scores will be dropped. **Mastery Training must be completed BEFORE CLASS to earn credit.**

130 points

CHECK YOUR UNDERSTANDING

While reading each chapter, you will complete "Check Your Understanding" in MindTap. Each chapter will be worth 11 points, up to 130 points. Your 3 lowest chapter scores will be dropped. **Check Your Understanding must be completed BEFORE CLASS to earn credit.**

240 points

REVIEW QUIZZES

After reading each chapter, you will complete "REVIEW: Chapter Quiz" in MindTap. Each chapter will be worth 20 points, up to 240 points. Your 3 lowest chapter scores will be dropped. **Review quizzes must be completed by 11:59 pm on the Friday after class to receive credit.**

400 points

EXAMS

There are 5 examinations, each worth 100 points. **Your lowest exam score will be dropped**, for a total of 400 exam points.

Exams will cover the readings, lectures, and activities. They include multiple choice, true/false, short answer and essay questions.

As your lowest exam score is dropped, no makeups will be given except for documented instances of:

- (1) absences sanctioned by UTEP and arranged in advance, or
- (2) serious and unavoidable medical circumstances.

The final exam will be cumulative. If you are happy with your grade before the final, you do not have to take the final since your lowest grade is dropped.

Extra Credit

Students in this course are eligible to receive up to 10 points of extra credit by participating in the Psychology Research Participation System (SONA). This is equivalent to 2 hours of SONA credit. You must register your credits for this class in order for them to count (you cannot double dip for credit in multiple courses). Additional extra credit opportunities may be announced on BB.

Grading Scale

A = 90.0% – 100%+ B = 80.0% – 89.9%
 C = 70.0% - 79.9% D = 60.0% – 69.9%
 F = 59.9% or below

Please note, I will not round grades up.

How can I be successful in this class?

This class will require more than mere memorization. My goal is to teach you how to apply the information you have learned. To be successful in this course, you not only need to know the material, but must also be able to integrate it into a broader framework and use it in different situations. I will try

NEED HELP?**CLASSROOM
ACCOMMODATIONS**

If you have a documented disability that requires assistance, please contact the Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS)
Office: Union East, 106
Phone: 747-5148
E-mail: cass@utep.edu
Web: www.sa.utep.edu/cass

STUDENT SUPPORT

Web: www.utep.edu/student-affairs

WRITING CENTER

Web: www.utep.edu/uwc

**FINANCIAL
RESOURCES**

The Dean of Students can help with financial resources, including emergency loans to purchase textbooks.
E-mail: DOS@utep.edu
Web: <https://www.utep.edu/student-affairs/dean-of-students-office/emergencyaid/>

**TECHNOLOGY
SUPPORT**

Office: Library, 300
E-mail: helpdesk@utep.edu
Web: <https://www.utep.edu/technologysupport/>

**COUNSELING
SERVICES**

Office: Union West, 202
E-mail: caps@utep.edu
Web: <https://www.utep.edu/student-affairs/counsel/>

to not just teach you about psychology and the law, but to **THINK** scientifically about it.

Not all course material is covered in the readings. Therefore attending/watching lectures and participating in class activities is vital to understand the course material. **Complete all Mastery Trainings, Readings, and Check Your Understandings before the lecture** and make notes on the readings to prepare to discuss the main points, theories, methods, results, implications, and any questions you have.

Tips for Success

1. Attend lecture and pay attention (it does you no good to show up and sleep or surf the web). If you cannot attend, make sure to watch the lecture recording.
2. ASK QUESTIONS – in class, after class, through email, in office hours, etc.
3. Do the reading **before class** without highlighting the book (just read the first time through). This might take time to read and understand - if you read a 40-page chapter in 20 minutes, you're not really reading. Re-read and highlight/take notes.
4. After lecture, go back to the readings to compare what your lecture notes say with what the readings say. That is when you should highlight.
5. Focus on understanding what is written rather than memorizing. The best way to know you've mastered the material is to try to teach this information to someone else.
6. Cramming is bad for your health (and your grades)! Spread out your studying to at least an hour each day outside of class focused on this course.
7. Come to office hours, even if you don't have questions or problems!

Every time you read something, think about the implications of the reading for law, policy, and future psychological research, and jot them down.

What is expected of me?**PUNCTUALITY**

Please be courteous to others and arrive to class on time. *If you must be late, please come in quietly.*

ACTIVE PARTICIPATION & RESPECT OF OTHERS

Students are expected to actively participate in the Activities. I also encourage **participation and engagement** from all students during

class. In order to create a climate for open and honest dialogue and to encourage the broadest range of viewpoints, it is important for you to respect each other. Name calling, accusations, verbal attacks, sarcasm, and other negative exchanges are counterproductive to successful teaching and learning about topics. **Do not personalize the dialogue.** Keep the discussion and comments on the topic, not on the individual. Please direct challenging comments or questions to the instructor or the entire class. Remember that it is OK to agree to disagree.

RESPECTFUL USE OF TECHNOLOGY

Please be respectful of the professor and other students with your technology use. Silence your cellphones, laptops, and other electronic devices that may ring or otherwise disrupt class. Please only use technology for class purposes – surfing the internet, texting, playing games, etc. is extremely distracting to those around you who are trying to focus. If devices become too distracting during class, they will no longer be permitted.

What are the course & UTEP policies?

DIVERSITY & INCLUSION

I recognize that within the class we each bring forth our own experiences and perspectives from our lived experiences. I aim to create a learning community in which those diverse thoughts and experiences are valued. I aim to value and respect your unique identities (including race, gender, class, sexuality, religion, ability, etc.). If you feel comfortable sharing, please let me know your preferred pronouns and/or if you have a name that differs from the official course record. I realize we are living in tumultuous times and there may be times when your life outside the class affects your performance within the class. I encourage you to be open with me when you are struggling so I can be a resource for you. I want each student to be successful in this class and will do my best to support you.

INCOMPLETES & ADD/DROP

Incompletes will not be given in this course except under extremely rare circumstances that require documentation and adherence to University policies. The FINAL drop date without the Deans' approval is **April 1st**. Students will not be able to drop the course after this date without the Dean's approval.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY & SCHOLASTIC DISHONESTY

Each student has a responsibility to understand, accept, and comply with the University's standards of academic conduct: <https://www.utep.edu/student-affairs/osccr/student-conduct/index.html>

It is the official policy of the university that all suspected cases or acts of alleged scholastic dishonesty must be referred to the Dean of Students for investigation and appropriate disposition.

TECHNOLOGY RESOURCES/FAQs

What if I don't have access to the internet or a computer?

You have a few options:

- Check out a laptop or mobile hotspot from UTEP at: https://www.utep.edu/technologysupport/TSCenter/tsc_eqcheckout.html
- Use the computers in the Collaborative Learning Center (library 2nd floor)
- Make an appointment to use the Liberal Arts computers at: <https://www.utep.edu/liberalarts/technology/coronavirus>

What if I don't have Word?

You can download Office for free from UTEP here:

https://www.utep.edu/technologysupport/ServiceCatalog/SOFTWARE_PAGES/soft_microsoftoffice365.html

What if I'm having problems with Blackboard?

Go through the following steps:

1. Try a different browser (Firefox and Chrome are recommended).
2. Make sure your browser is up-to-date and clear your cache.
3. Consult the BB help link or UTEP's BB help link – both are on the left side of your BB home page.
4. If BB is down, wait. Usually the problem is resolved within 2 hours.
5. Contact UTEP's help desk.
6. If you're having submission problems, send a back-up document to Krystia before the deadline as a last resort.

There are other remote learning resources here:

<https://www.utep.edu/technologysupport/learningremotely.html>

Any student who commits an act of scholastic dishonesty is subject to discipline. Scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to the following:

- cheating – use or attempted use of unauthorized materials, student aids or information in any academic exercise
- fabrication – falsifying or inventing information or data in an academic assignment
- collusion – aid or attempt to aid another student in committing academic misconduct
- plagiarism – use of ideas, words or statements of another person without giving credit to that person. This includes replacing words with synonyms.

Your work is to be completed independently and should reflect your own ideas and effort. YOU MAY NOT PRESENT AS YOUR OWN ANY MATERIALS THAT ARE THE WORK OF ANOTHER. These include, but are not limited to, work produced by another student, materials printed in books or articles, and materials published on the web. If you share your work with another student and they try to pass that work off as their own YOU are still guilty of collusion. Pay attention to the plagiarism reports generated by SafeAssign to ensure that you have not plagiarized in your writing and to figure out where you may need to include citations if you have not already done so. If you are uncertain as to what constitutes academic dishonesty, talk to me.

Evidence of academic dishonesty or any other violation of the Standards of Conduct WILL BE REPORTED to the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution (OSCCR). Students may be suspended or expelled and may have permanent notes included in their records. UTEP's code of student conduct and discipline may be found at the following location: <https://www.utep.edu/student-affairs/osccr/student-conduct/index.html>

EXCUSED ABSENCES

Attendance in this course is only required during Activities and Exams. As the lowest scores will be dropped, only approved absences for university-recognized activities, military leave, and religious holidays may be excused if they provide documentation of their absence according to the university policies listed in the student handbook. You may be required to complete an alternative for points which may not take the same form as the original activity. For example, a discussion essay or essay exam might be required. If you are sick, please let me know as soon as possible.

TITLE IX REPORTING

Faculty are considered responsible employees who has a legal obligation to report incidents of sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating violence, or stalking allegedly committed by or against a student or employee of the university to a Title IX Coordinator or Deputy Title IX Coordinator. This means that if you report such an incident, I have a legal obligation to report it and cannot guarantee confidentiality. Additionally, any reports of suicidal thoughts will also be reported.

Given this, it is important to make you aware of the following resources available to you that do allow for confidential reporting (many are available via video or phone):

Counseling & Psychological Services

Union West 202
915.747.5302
caps@utep.edu

<https://www.utep.edu/student-affairs/counsel/>

Campus Advocacy, Resources & Education

1101 N. Campbell St.,
Room 100-103
915.747.7452

[care@utep.edu](https://www.utep.edu/student-affairs/care/)
<https://www.utep.edu/student-affairs/care/>

UTEP Student Health and Wellness Center

Union East 100

915.747.5624

<https://www.utep.edu/chs/shc/>

COPYRIGHT STATEMENT

The materials used in this course are copyrighted. This includes, but is not limited to syllabi, quizzes, lecture slides, lecture recordings, in-class activities, review sheets, homework, solutions, class notes, supplemental materials. You do not have the right to copy or distribute these items, unless I specifically grant you permission.

COVID-19 PRECAUTION STATEMENT

Please stay home if you have been diagnosed with COVID-19 or are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms. If you are feeling unwell, please let me know as soon as possible, so that we can work on appropriate accommodations. **If you inform me that you have tested positive for COVID, I must report it to UTEP.** You are also encouraged to report your results to covidaction@utep.edu, so that the Dean of Students Office can provide you with support and help with communication with your professors. The Student Health Center is equipped to provide COVID-19 testing.

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that people in areas of substantial or high COVID-19 transmission wear face masks when indoors in groups of people. **Therefore, I request you wear masks while in class.** The best way that Miners can take care of Miners is to get the vaccine. If you still need the vaccine, it is widely available in the El Paso area. For more information about the current rates, testing, and vaccinations, please visit epstrong.org.

Additionally, as things change quickly with transmission, I reserve the right to modify the syllabus in response. If I make changes, they will be announced on Blackboard.

CONTRACT

By remaining enrolled in the class, you are agreeing to the terms of this syllabus. This is a contract. I reserve the right to modify any information in the syllabus and class schedule provided that 1) students are given reasonable advance warning and 2) students are not unfairly disadvantaged by the change. Please check Blackboard and your UTEP e-mail regularly to remain informed of any changes.

If you have any questions, please email Dr. Reed (kmreed2@utep.edu). Make sure your questions indicate that you have read the syllabus or other relevant materials, otherwise you will be directed back to the syllabus.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

Remember, readings should be completed BEFORE class. For every chapter you should complete a) Mastery Training and b) Check Your Understanding before **BEFORE** class, and c) Review Quizzes by **11:59 pm on Friday** after class. Any other readings and **Discussion Materials** will be posted on BB. Supplemental resources that I believe might be helpful to you will also be posted on BB.

Wk	Date	Topic	Assignment
1	1/18	Introduction to Psychology & Law	Chapter 1 Serial Season 3, Episode 1
	1/20	Overview of the Legal System	Chapter 2 Serial Season 3, Episode 2
2	1/25	Crime	Chapter 3
	1/27	Race & Crime	Mekawi, Y., & Bresin, K. (2015) Najdowski et al., (2015)
3	2/1	Police	Chapter 4
	2/3	Discussion 1: Defunding the Police	Discussion 1 Materials (BB)
4	2/8	EXAM 1	Chapters 1 – 4
	2/10	Eyewitnesses	Chapter 5 (review quiz due 2/18)
5	2/15	Eyewitnesses continued	
	2/17	Discussion 2 : Eyewitnesses	Discussion 2 Materials (BB)
6	2/22	Victims	Chapter 6
	2/24	Discussion 3: Sexual Harassment	Discussion 3 Materials (BB)
7	3/1	Criminal Suspects	Chapter 7
	3/3	Discussion 4: Confessions	Discussion 4 Materials (BB)
8	3/8	EXAM 2	Chapters 5 – 7
	3/10	Traditional Prosecutions	Chapter 8
9	3/15 & 3/17	SPRING BREAK: NO CLASS	
10	3/22	Alternative Prosecutions	Chapter 9
	3/24	Discussion 5: Plea Bargaining	Discussion 5 Materials (BB)
11	3/29	Criminal Forensic Assessment	Chapter 10
	3/31	Discussion 6: Juvenile Offenders	Discussion 6 Materials (BB)
	4/1	Drop Deadline	
12	4/5	Civil Forensic Assessment	Chapter 11
	4/7	Discussion 7: Damages	Discussion 7 Materials (BB)
13	4/12	EXAM 3	Chapters 8 – 11
	4/14	Preparing for Trials	Chapter 12 Object Anyway Podcast (Batson v. KY)
14	4/19	Jurors & Juries	Chapter 13
	4/21	Discussion 8: Juries	Discussion 8 Materials (BB)
15	4/26	Punishment & Sentencing	Chapter 14
	4/28	Corrections	Chapter 15
16	5/3	EXAM 4	Chapters 12 – 15
	5/5	Review	
	5/12	FINAL [4:00 – 6:45 pm]	Cumulative