FORENSIC PSYCHOLOGY

WPH B27
Tuesdays 3:30pm- 7:20 p.m.

Professor: Jasmine A. Tehrani, Ph.D.
E-Mail: jtehrani@usc.edu
Office Hours: After class on Tuesdays

Teaching Assistant: Ryan Essex
E-Mail: essex@usc.edu
Office Hours: 12pm- 1pm Tuesdays
location: DNI 275, B5-6 (the Dornsife Neuroimaging Center)

Course Description

Forensic psychology is the interface between psychology and the law. This is a fascinating area of study that receives a considerable amount of attention publicly and in the academic arena. The readings and guest speakers will expose you to a variety of perspectives about forensic psychology and, hopefully, will broaden your perspective, and encourage you to think critically about this topic.

Required Text Reading

Journal articles and other published reports will also be assigned for the course.

Grading: Grades will be based on four examinations: three midterms and one final. Every exam will cover lectures and assigned readings. Lecture material will be emphasized. Accordingly, if you miss a class you should obtain notes from a peer. Do not ask for lecture notes for the professor or the teaching assistant. Each exam will be worth a total of 50 points and will be in multiple-choice and essay format. The exams, including the final, will not be cumulative. Bring a green scantron form and blue book to each exam.

Do not wait until the end of the semester to “argue points” on an earlier exam. And, please keep in mind, your grade could go either way (i.e., up or down).
Course grades will be on a scale, out of a possible 200 points.
188-200: A 154-159: C+
174-179: B+ 140-147: C-
168-173: B 101-139: D
160-167: B- 100 or below: F

**Missed Exams:** There will be no make up examinations in this course. If you miss an examination, you will receive a score of zero on that exam. Exceptions to this policy will only be considered in the event of a serious, unavoidable emergency (e.g., medical emergency). If you miss an exam you must contact the professor within 24 hours of the exam by e-mail, and written proof of a serious emergency (e.g., letter from doctor, copy of police accident report) will be required for an excuse ultimately to be considered.

**Blackboard:** Please check the course webpage on Blackboard. Lecture overheads, grades and other important announcements will be posted there.

**Disability Services:** Students requesting academic accommodations based on a disability are required to register with Disability Services and Programs (DSP) each semester. A letter of verifications for approved accommodations can be obtained from DSP when adequate documentation is filed. Please be sure the letter is delivered to me as early in the semester as possible. DSP is open Monday- Friday, 8:30-5:00. The office is in Student Union 301 and their phone number is (213) 740-0776.

**Extra Credit:** There will be two different methods through which students can earn a total of 10 extra credit points.

1. There will be an opportunity to earn bonus points throughout the semester by participating in psychological research through the Psychology Department Subject Pool.

For each hour of participation in approved projects, you will earn one point to be added onto your course point total. You may accumulate a maximum of 10 points. One hour of research participating would equal credit for one point. This is true extra credit in that it is added in after the course grade cut offs have been determined.

The Subject Pool TA is Miao Wei weimiao@usc.edu Should you have questions regarding this, contact Miao.

All monitoring of your extra credit will be conducted by the subject pool TA. Extra credit points assigned to this course will be posted on Blackboard. You must correct any errors with the Subject Pool TA (not the professor or course TA).
2. Students who wish to earn extra credit also have the option to write a 12 page extra credit paper on any lecture topic. The paper MUST include and be based on at least 3 different academic journal articles (i.e., not Time magazine or book chapters). In order to receive the full 10 points, the paper must meet minimum requirements: 12 pages in length, double spaced with 12 point font, based on at least 3 journal articles and reference page should be included so that sources can be verified. The paper will be due on the last day of class, December 4, 2012. No late extra credit papers will be accepted.

Course Requirements

1. Come to class. You are responsible for all materials presented in the lectures and the readings as well as guest speakers. Please come to class on time, and silence cell phones/Black Berrys, etc. Announcements are made and it is your responsibility to make sure that you hear and receive them. There will be one break. Please demonstrate respect and courtesy toward your classmates and to all the guest speakers, even if you disagree with their position. Do not start preparing to leave (e.g., rustling papers and books, before class has ended). If you are sitting in the back of the room and you are having trouble hearing, please move down closer to the front of the room. The last day of class is Tuesday, December 4, 2012.

2. Do the readings. They provide the foundation for what will be discussed in class; however, the lectures are pulled from many different sources of information and will not follow the textbook. In addition, some of the issues you read about in the book are important but may not be covered in the same detail in class. From time to time, journal articles will be assigned as well.

3. Examinations. There will be a total of four (4) exams covering all the course materials through that point in the semester. In addition, there will be a

   Final Exam on Tuesday 12/18/12, 2:00pm to 4:00pm (note the time change). The final exam data cannot be changed- No exceptions. This is a university policy. Please check now to see if you have scheduling conflicts with the final exam.

The examinations will consist of multiple choice and essay questions. The final exam will not be cumulative. There will be an exam review the lecture prior to the exam date. There will be no make-up exams. Each exam is worth 50 points. Concerns regarding how your exam was graded should be brought to the attention of the professor no more than two weeks after your exam is returned to you. Do not wait until the end of the semester to “argue points” on an earlier exam. Keep in mind that your grade could go either way (i.e., up or down).
Each of the four examinations (multiple choice and essay questions) will be worth a total of **50** points.

4. Class Participation. You are encouraged to make comments and ask questions during lectures. Guest speakers may expect and want there to be questions and interaction with the class. So feel free to ask questions of them.

**Schedule**

This course is very ambitious, and it is entirely possible that we will not complete all of the material outlined. The schedule presented is, therefore, tentative and provided to assist you in planning your reading.

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<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topics of Discussion</th>
<th>Readings</th>
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<td>Introduction to Forensic Psychology and History</td>
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<td>9/4/12</td>
<td>Introduction to Criminal and Civil Systems</td>
<td>Chapter 4</td>
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<td>Psychology and Law Enforcement</td>
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<td>Insanity (Criminal Responsibility)</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>10/2/12</td>
<td>Mental Illness and Crime</td>
<td>Forensic Evaluations of the Mentally Ill</td>
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7. 10/9/12  Malingering
   Suicide and Psychological Autopsies   Chapter 6
   Midterm Review

8. 10/16/12  **Midterm Examination #2**
   Drugs and Crime- Legal issues
   Battered Woman Syndrome

9. 10/23/12  Sex Offenders and Sexually Violent Predators   Chapter 6

10. 10/30/12  Violence and Dangerousness Evaluations   Chapter 6
    Psychopathy, Part I

11. 11/6/12  Psychopathy, Part II
    Midterm Review

12. 11/13/12  **Midterm Examination #3**
    Civil Commitment

13. 11/20/12  Juvenile Offenders
    Child Custody Evaluations   Chapter 9
    Guest Lecture: Mr. Matthew Hale, Alternate Deputy Public Defender

14. 11/27/12  Ethical and Legal Considerations in Forensic Practice
    Interrogations and Confessions   Chapter 11
    Trial Consultation   Chapter 12

15. 12/4/12  Sentencing Issues and the Death Penalty   Chapter 15
    CourseWrap Up
    Final Examination Overview
    **EXTRA CREDIT PAPER DUE**

**Final Exam Tuesday 12/18/12  2:00PM to 4:00PM**
**NOTE TIME CHANGE!!**
**Final Exam is not cumulative**