

Mary Baldwin College
PSYC 249 FORENSIC PSYCHOLOGY II
Fall 2020 Online

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Required Texts: **Wrightsmen's Psychology and the Legal System**, (2014), 8th edition, Greene and Heilbrun, **ISBN: 10: 1-133-95656-3 ISBN: 13: 978-1-133-95656-3**

Prerequisites: PSYC248 - Forensic Psychology I

Course Description: Forensic Psychology is broadly defined as the application of psychological principles and research to legal issues. Forensic psychologists work as researchers, consultants to law enforcement, expert witnesses, trial consultants, mediators, and more. This is the second forensic psychology course in a two-part series. This second course focuses on the applied side of the discipline; students will learn about the complex roles that forensic psychologists frequently play within the legal system. They will learn about criminal behavior, how forensics assessments are conducted and who looks out for the rights of victims and special groups, and how. Forensic psychologists are involved with civil issues like child custody disputes and they often assist during the trial process and the sentencing. Throughout the semester the legal and moral implications of the forensic psychologists work will be discussed. Students will have the opportunity to view taped trials and read trial transcripts to help them understand the real-world implications of the issues and phenomena discussed in the class.

Course Requirements:

- 1.) Most weeks students will be required to respond to **Discussion Board Question (DBQ)** relating to that week's material. You should respond to the original question/issue and then comment on at least one or your classmate's postings. As long as you submit adequate responses and turn in your DQ's on time you will receive full credit for these assignments. Worth 20% of final grade.
- 2.) **Movie Review** – Students will be required to view and critique a movie with a legal and/or courtroom theme. The intent is to examine and comment on whether or not the issues and practices in the movie are presented correctly or incorrectly--according to the material from our course. (Worth 10% of your final grade)
- 3.) **Exams** – There will be a midterm and a final exam. They will be a combination of short answer and essay questions. Each exam is worth 25% of your final grade.

- 4.) **Quizzes** – Most weeks there will be a short chapter quiz covering assigned reading material. You will need to complete the quiz by the end of the week which for our purposes will be midnight on Sunday. Quizzes will be worth 20% of your grade.

Course Schedule:

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Reading Assignment</u>	<u>Assignments Due</u>
Week 1 8/24	Introductions	Intro DB
Week 2 8/31	Psychology and the Law Chapters 1	Chapter 1 DBQ Quiz
Week 3 9/7	The Legal System Chapter 2	Chapter 2 DBQ's Quiz
Week 4 9/14	Psychology of Crime Chapter 3 Psychology of Police Chapter 4	Chapter 3 and 4 DBQ's Quiz
Week 5 9/21	Eyewitness to crimes and accidents Chapter 5	Chapter 5 DQ's Quiz
Week 6 9/28	Psychology of victims Chapter 6	Chapter 6 DBQ's Quiz
Week 7 10/5	Evaluating Criminal Suspects Chapter 7	Chapter 7 DBQ's Quiz
Week 8 10/12	Traditional Prosecutions Chapter 8 Alternatives to Traditional Prosecutions Chapter 9	Midterm Exam Chapters 1 - 9
Week 9 10/19	Forensic Assessment in Juvenile and Criminal Chapter 10	Chapter 10 DBQ's Quiz
Week 10 10/26	Forensic Assessment in Civil Cases Chapter 11	Movie Review
Week 11 11/2	Preparing for Trials Chapter 12	Chapter 12 DBQ's Quiz

Week 12 11/9	Jurors and juries Chapter 13	Chapter 13 DBQ's
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Week 13 11/16	Punishment and Sentencing Chapter 14	Chapter 14 DBQ's
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Thanksgiving Break 11/23 – 11/30 No Assignments

Week 14 11/30 – 12/4	Juvenile and Adult Corrections Chapter 15 Final Exam	Chapter 15 DBQ's Chapters 10 - 15
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Final Exam Due 12/4

Honor Code:

Students are expected to abide by the Mary Baldwin College honor code and conduct themselves accordingly. Any form of plagiarism, cheating, or dishonesty will be reported to the Dean.

Late Policy:

Without prior notification and a valid excuse, late assignments will be marked down half a letter grade for every week they are late. Keeping your instructor informed is critically important!

Extension Policy:

At the student's request, extensions may be granted to those who have not completed all the course work by the MBC declared deadline for the given semester. However, students must have completed at least half of the required work in a good faith effort and/or have extenuating circumstances in order to be approved for an ET.

E-mail Activation:

All MBC students are required to activate their MBC issued e-mail accounts. These accounts will be the primary source for communication from the instructor and are thus crucial for your success in this course.

Source Documentation and Group Work:

When students reference an outside source in their written work they will be required to state the author's name(s) and the year of publication. Reference pages are only required with the Research Paper.

With the exception of exams students are permitted to help one another on their written assignments. Each student must complete her or his assignment individually (e.g. you can't collaborate on a paper) but peer support and review is often helpful and strongly encouraged.