California School of Professional Psychology/Alliant University

Graduate Pro Seminar in Forensic Psychology and the Law

Course Syllabi and Outline

Course Title: Introduction to Forensic Psychology & Law

Course Listing: Graduate School Department & Division of Psychology

Faculty: Joseph A. Davis, Ph.D., LL.D.

Location, Dates, Other: Main Academic Campus (all classes and lectures)
Friday, December 4, 11 and 18 (5:30 - 9:00 pm)
Saturday, December 5, 12 and 19 (8:30 am - 4:30 pm)

Academic Advising: By appointment only (before or after class)
Other times by pre-arrangement with instructor


(Admissible Evidence in Neurology, Psychiatry and Psychology/Behavioral Sciences sections only)


The course will introduce the student of behavioral science/psychology to the following:

- Overview of Adversarial System in Forensic Mental Health Services (FMH)
- Applying the Psychological Autopsy: Application and Protocol (Case Suitability)
- Mental State at the Time of the Offense (Insanity and NGRI)
- American Law Institute 2 Prong Test, Other Legal Insanity Standards
- Competency to Stand Trial (CST) Protocol
- Prediction and Dangerous in Criminal Behavior (Monahan, Garofalo, Others)
- Predatory Behavior: Stalking and Stalking related Laws
- Criminal Personality Profiling, a.k.a., Criminal Investigative Analysis
- Evaluation, Assessment and Testing Application Protocols
- Critical Incident Stress Debriefing (CISD)
- Workplace Violence Consulting and Prevention Protocols
- Expert Testimony Preparation and the “Hired Gun”
- Medico-legal Case Consulting

Faculty Contact: Dr. Joseph A. Davis, Post Office Box 712371, San Diego, CA 92171
Off Campus Office Phone: 268-3610
Email: davis_scientific@juno.com
Campus: c/o Psych. Department

Background: Dr. Davis holds a M.S. and Ph.D. in clinical psychology and a LL.D. in law. He completed his education and training in forensic mental health assessment, psychology and law at the University of Virginia at the Institute of Law, Psychiatry & Public Policy in Charlottesville. His pre-doctoral practicum experience included forensic assessment inpatient experience at Central State Forensic Hospital in Petersburg (now FCI-Petersburg, Virginia). Dr. Davis is a former Commonwealth’s Psychologist (clinical-forensic) in Public Service for the State of Virginia where is conducted numerous MSO and CST evaluations for the state over a several year period. He is a member of the Editorial Board of the multidisciplinary Journal of Forensic Psychology (Hawthorne Press) and the Journal of Clinical Forensic Medicine (United Kingdom).

Meetings: Winter Semester, Friday, 5:30-9:00 p.m.; Saturday 8:30-3:30
Lecture: All lectures are Friday and Saturday and held on the main campus
Course Work: To be turned in at the last meeting of the course
Case Study: Case Study in Behavioral Forensics from the text or readings
Format: Each lecture and session will begin with an agenda. Each evenings agenda will focus on assigned readings from the course text and supplemental readings or handouts. Media, video, slides and transparencies will also be used with lecture materials.
Course Overview in FP & L:

*Contemporary Issues in Forensic Psychology and the Law* is a graduate level course designed to introduce the student in clinical, counseling or community psychology to the fields of forensic psychology, forensic mental health, psychological criminology and behavioral forensics and its medicolegal research and application to the resolution of problems at law (criminal, civil or other). Nomenclature regarding law and mental disorder/disease/defect will be reviewed with particular emphasis on the diagnosis, evaluation and assessment, prevention and intervention, consultation, victimology and expert testimony regarding criminal behavior, forensic psychopathology and the law.

The course will examine specific areas of the medico-legal system that utilize the services of social or behavioral scientists, clinical researchers, clinicians, criminologists, psychologists and psychiatrists interfacing with the law.

Objectives and Course Goals for Contemporary Issues in FP & L (FMH):

Upon completion of the course, the graduate student of clinical, counseling or clinical community psychology will possess a general understanding of criminal behavior from several different medicolegal positions, theories and models of thought. The clinical student will have a general understanding of the adversarial system and criminal responsibility or culpability from a legal standpoint in terms of how each model examines and explains such behavior and how it has determined and shaped the understanding our understanding of violent behavior, criminal responsibility and mental illness in the field of clinical-forensic mental health inpatient and outpatient services and forensic institutional settings. The student will ultimately demonstrate the ability to do critical research, write and synthesize data, integrate and apply theory to cases involving criminal behavior with respect to resolving problems at law.

Topics of specific interest and coverage in FP & L:

- Interface between the Behavior Forensic Science and Law
- The Psychological Autopsy or Retrospective Behavioral Profile Analysis
- Equivocal Death Analysis: The Questionable Death Investigation
- Applied Criminology and Forensic Psychopathology: Theory & Practice
- Models of Understanding the Mentally Disordered Offender
- Insanity Evaluation Overview: Mental Status at the Time of the Offense and the MSO Evaluation, Diminished Capacity, Standards and Legal “Prongs”
- Overview: Competency to Stand Trial and the CST Evaluation
- Guilty But Mentally Ill Concept: The GBMI Alternative and Insanity Reform
- Rorschach, MMPI, Mental Status Examination, Other Tests in Forensic Settings
- Expert Testimony: Preparation, Fees, Medicolegal Consultation
- Inpatient Forensic Mental Health Services and the Correctional System
- Preparing for Court and providing Expert Witness Testimony
- Preparing the Professional Dossier and Curriculum Vitae for Court
- Workplace Violence Consultation, Threat Assessment, Risk Analysis
- Pre-Employment Screening, Violence Prevention and Intervention
• Critical Incident Debriefing, and Victimology

Cases in Review for this FP & L Course:

• Insanity: British Legal System Documentary on Mental Illness and Law
• Crimes of Violence: Demographics and “Psychological Criminality"
• Leopold and Loeb Case and Insanity Trial
• Jeffrey Dahmer Case and Insanity Trial
• John Hinckley Insanity Trial
• Author Bremer Case: Political Assassin and Stalker
• Mark David Chapman: Stalker and Celebrity Murderer of John Lennon
• Teresa Saldana Case: Victimology and Stalking
• Al Ross Case: Psychopath
• Marilyn Monroe Case, Psychological Autopsy and “Suicide”
• HBO Special, Workplace Violence: Murder 9-5

USIU Course Attendance: In accordance with USIU policy. Make it your responsibility to contact me if you can’t make each class and lecture.

Exceptional Case Analysis Project and Study (ECAPS): (1) An case study and analysis (ECAPS) of sufficient scholastic quality, depth and scope is required. A case pertaining to the course subject must be chosen or provided by the instructor. APA Style must be followed. Case studies must be at least 7-10 pages in length with at least 5-7 cited references. Papers must be typed, double spaced with abstract. Late papers WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED after final class date (December 19th). If you want your case study returned, please provide a self-addressed stamped envelope to enclose and return your work after December 19th.

FP & L Course Research Log: (1) Students are required to keep a record of their library or research time. The log must be turned in on the last meeting of the course with your case study papers.

Assignment (three-parts A, B, and C): To be turned in on final class date

Part A - Mental State at the Time of the Offense (MSO) Insanity Evaluation (Render Clinical Opinion, Disposition, Support Findings and Provide Recommendations)

Part B - Competency to Stand Trial (CST Evaluation) (Render Opinion and Support Clinical Finding, Disposition and Provide Recommendations)

Part C - Dangerousness Assessment (Threat Assessment Model, Render Clinical-Forensic or similar Diagnostic Opinion)

Assignment 2:

ECAPS: One clinical-forensic case study of sufficient depth, quality and format. Minimum 7-10, typed double spaced, 5-7 cites, 2 copies turned in to the instructor. The John Hinckley Case
and/or other Insanity Trial (or similar) will be chosen for this course. FP & L Course Grading of Assignments and Breakdown: No make-ups are given.

NOTE: All assignments are expected to be handed in on the due date as required.

Assignment Grading Option One or Two:

ASSIGNMENT OF GRADE OPTION ONE:

Forensic Evaluation and Application of Legal Standard 60%

A. MSO (20% Legal Standard and Finding)
B. CST (20% Legal Standard and Finding)
C. Dangerousness (20% Finding and Recommendation)

ECAPS 40%

ASSIGNMENT OF GRADE OPTION TWO:

Grading Option Two: You can opt to take the Final Examination (essay-type) instead of the Forensic Evaluation and Application of the Legal Standard (Option One).

Assignment Grading Option Two:

ECAPS 50%

Brief Essay Examination from Book, Handouts and Class Lecture 50%

Final Grading Disposition:

A  =  100-95
A - =  94-90
B + =  89-87
B  =  86-84
B - =  83-80
C + =  79-77
C  =  76-74
C - =  73-70
D + =  69-67
D  =  66-64
D - =  63-60
F  =  59-00

* Push Points. Students who have borderline grades will be awarded push points (2) at the discretion of the course instructor to bring their grade to the next highest level ONLY if exceptional participation is noted and your attendance shows has no absences.
Survey of Forensic Psychology and Law, Insanity, Competency to Stand Trial, American Law Institute (ALI) Model Penal Code, Criminal Mind, Criminal Psychopathology.

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Tentative Reading Assignments: Forensic Psychology and Law Lecture: Dangerousness, Violence, Corrections and Detention of the Mentally Ill, Inpatient Forensic Mental Health Services, Stalking, Psychopathy and Sociopathy

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Tentative Reading Assignments in Forensic Psychology and Law: The expert witness, expert testimony, jury selection, Forensic Psychological Assessment, Testing Instruments used in Forensic Evaluation, the Psychological Autopsy, Case Studies in Equivocal Death Analysis and Investigation

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Tentative Reading Assignments in Forensic Psychology and Law:

Dr. Joseph A. Davis Lecture and Reading Agenda for FP & L: Stress and Trauma, Critical Incident Debriefing, Crisis Response Training, NOVA, Overview of Workplace Violence, Levels of Violence, “Domestic Terrorism”, Workplace Violence Consultation, Threat Assessment, Risk Analysis, Prevention Programs.

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Course Wrap-up and Final Examination in FP & L:

1. Turn in Assessment (MSO, CST and TA Workups)
2. Turn in Course Research Log
3. Turn in ECAPS (Forensic Case Study)

Lecture Series and Dates (Forensic Psychology and the Law)

FP & L Dates: (Friday Evenings), Dec. 4, 11, 18 (5:30 - 9:00 pm) (3 Sessions)
Dates: (Saturday AM & PM), Dec. 5, 12, 19 (8:30 am - 3:30 pm) (3 Sessions)
Lunch from 12:00 -1:00 pm (Saturday sessions)
Final Session: Saturday, 8:30 am to completion of exam/other

Class Date(s) and Lecture Coverage:

1. Friday, PM Opening Session, December 4th: 5:30 - 9:00 pm

PM Session: Introduction to Course and Course Overview
- FP & L: Research, Theory and Application
- Administrative Matters, Syllabi, Grading and Student Responsibilities
- Role of the Behavioral Scientist and the Field of "Investigative Psychology"
- "A Mental Quincy": Probing the Mind of the Notorious, Infamous and the Dangerous
- Mental Illness, Defect, Disease or Disorder & Law: What’s in a Label or Diagnosis?
- Competency to Stand Trial (CST): Theory and Application to the Adversarial System. Example: The "Unabom Case": U.S. v Theodore (Ted) Kaczynski
- Mental State at the Time of the Offense (MSO): Not Guilty by Reason of Insanity (NGRI); Guilty But Mentally Ill (GBMI); the 1984 Insanity Reform Act; Applications to the Adversarial System: Wisconsin v. Dahmer; U.S. v. Hinckley

2. Saturday, AM Session, December 5th: 8:30 am - 12:00 pm (Lunch 12:00-1:00)
AM Session Lecturer: Dr. Jim Madero, Professor of Psychology (8:30 to 1:00 pm)
• Topic: Workplace Violence Prevention, Intervention, and Assessment

Saturday, PM Session, December 5th: 1:00 - 3:30 pm

Davis (PM Session): Prediction of Dangerousness and Violent Behavior
• Research on Prediction of Dangerousness. Can We be 100% Accurate?
• Conducting a Threat Assessment: What are the ingredients to assessing a threat?

3. Friday, PM Session, December 11th: 5:30 - 9:00 pm

Davis: Carry over from the 5th (if necessary) on Conducting a Threat Assessment
• Stalking Case Assessment: "Obsession, Fixation, Violent Attachment, and Credible Threat". Stalkers and stalker victims: Who are they?
• Workplace Violence and the Occupational Threat of Crime

4. Saturday, AM Session, December 12th: 8:30 am - 12:00 pm (Lunch 12:00-1:00)

Guest Lecturer: Steve Albrecht, DBA, CPP, President, Albrecht Training & Development; Co-Executive Director, the TAP Group, San Diego
• Domestic Violence: Prevention, Intervention, Statistics, Documentation, Evidence

Saturday, PM Session, December 12th: 1:00 - 3:30 pm

Davis: Criminal Investigative Analysis: Criminal-Psychological Personality Profiling
• Antecedents, Behavioral Forensics, Victimology, Crime Scene to the Courtroom. Serial Homicide: Patterns, Motives and Signature Crime.

5. Friday, PM Session, December 18th: 5:30 - 9:00 pm

Continued by Davis: Criminal Investigative Analysis: Criminal-Psychological Personality Profiling. Antecedents, Behavioral Forensics, Victimology, Crime Scene to Courtroom
• Serial Homicide: Patterns, Motives and Signature Crime.
• Serial Case Examples: Jeffrey Dahmer Case, Clairemont Serial Case (Prince), Ivan Milat Case (Australia), William Suff (Riverside), Ricky Lee Green Case (Texas)
• Serial Bombers, Arsonists and Mental Illness

Davis: Sex Offenders and Criminal Profiling to Theory, Protocol and Application
• Case Examples: Dallas Ski Mask Rapist, Pedophiles, Other cases
• The DSM and the Dx of Paraphilia: "Deviance, Crime and Behavioral Forensics"

Davis: The Psychological Autopsy to Theory, Protocol and Application
• Equivocal Death Analysis (EDA): An Issue of Questionable Death?
• Related cases and applications
6. Saturday, AM Session, December 19th: 8:30 am - 12:00 pm (Lunch 12:00-1:00 pm)

Davis: Critical Incident Stress Debriefing, PTSD, Trauma and Management
- CISD Theory, Application and Protocol: Debriefing Victims and First-Responders
- Case Study in Man-made Trauma: Mass Murder in Today's Society
- Case Study in Man-made Trauma: Oklahoma City Bombing in 1995

Saturday, PM Session, December 19th: 1:00 pm - 3:30 pm

Davis: Expert Testimony, Cross Examination and the Behavioral Scientist
- Scientific and Circumstantial Evidence and the Adversarial System
- Semper Paratus! Preparation, Fees, Depositions and Courtroom Appearances

Course Wrap-up of FP & L: Turn in all required assignments for FP & L

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