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One of the recommendations from the participants at the Villanova conference on Education and Training in Law and Psychology was that students complete a foundation course in legal psychology as a part of their graduate experience. This graduate proseminar in Legal Psychology is designed to expose you, over the course of two semesters, to contemporary and classic research in the major subareas of Legal Psychology and to relevant case law and statutes. Last semester we dealt with issues such as psychological evidence, competency issues, law enforcement, abuse and violence, discrimination, procedural justice, and pretrial issues. This semester we will cover topics such as eyewitness testimony, jury decision making, expert testimony, and criminal justice processes.
Course Requirements

Each week, we will discuss a set of readings selected to address a particular psycholegal topic. I expect that everyone will come to the seminar prepared to discuss the readings. To facilitate this goal, each week you should prepare a short paper in which you pose questions about and discuss your reactions to the week’s readings. This paper may take several forms. You may chose to synthesize the material presented in the week’s readings. You may offer suggestions for future research or point out inadequacies in the arguments proffered by the authors. Do NOT summarize the week’s readings—I too have read the articles so you may assume that I have read them when you are writing your papers. It is also unnecessary to present every reaction that you had to the week’s readings in your paper. Choose the best of your reactions and elaborate on them in your paper. Your papers will be evaluated based on the quality and the originality of the thoughts presented in your reactions. This reaction paper will be turned in at the end of each class period.

Because there is no major paper assignment in this class, your participation in our class discussions is one vehicle through which I can judge your mastery of the material presented in the articles. Thus, your grade in this course will be based on the quality of your reaction papers and on the quality of your participation in the class discussion. If at any time you have questions about your performance in this class, please feel free to discuss your performance with me.

January 9 Introduction
January 16 Eyewitnesses


January 23 Investigative Procedures and the Eyewitness


January 30 Lineups


TRIAL PROCEDURE AND EVIDENTIARY ISSUES

February 6 Trial Procedure

Guest Speaker: The Honorable Judge Salmon

February 13 Repressed Memory


February 20 Child Witnesses


Psychology, 59, 682-691.


February 27 Expert Testimony


March 6 DNA Evidence


March 13 SPRING BREAK

POST-TRIAL ISSUES

March 20 Judicial Instructions


March 27 Death Qualification


April 3 Death Penalty


Criminology, 74, 927-942.

April 10 Jury Dynamics

Guest Instructor: Brian Cutler


April 17 Psychology’s Influence on the Legal System

