This course is designed to provide an overview to the interaction between psychology and the criminal law. We will focus primarily on the three major aspects in which psychologists are involved in the criminal justice system: competence to stand trial evaluations, mental state at the time of the offense (mens rea and the insanity defense), and the assessment of risk/prediction of future dangerousness. One of the guiding principals in forensic psychology, which will be reflected in this course, is the need to understand legal standards in order to tailor psychological knowledge and practice to the courts. As such, the content of the course will be evenly divided between understanding the legal issues involved and the practical application of psychological principals and knowledge. Likewise, readings and class time will be divided reviewing legal standards and case law and the psychological research, theories and techniques related to these issues. In additional, specific topics such as forensic psychological assessment, report writing, and expert testimony will be discussed.

Grading will be based on three factors:

60% - Term paper
20% - Mock trial
20% - Class Participation

Final papers will be due in class, on April 29.

Textbook:

Recommended:
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<th>Week</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Chapter</th>
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<td>Introduction (Law School students only)</td>
<td>1, 3 (pp 41-44)</td>
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<td>1/14</td>
<td>Principals of Forensic Assessment</td>
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<td>1/21</td>
<td>Competence to Stand Trial</td>
<td>6 (pp 119-139), 19 (pp 548-555)</td>
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<td>Other Competence Issues</td>
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<td>Criminal Responsibility</td>
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<td>Criminal Responsibility</td>
<td>8 (pp 202-215, 234-248), 19 (pp 558-567)</td>
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<td>3/4</td>
<td>Risk Assessment: Dangerousness</td>
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<td>No class - spring break</td>
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<td>3/18</td>
<td>Risk Assessment: Sex Offenders</td>
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<td>3/25</td>
<td>The Death Penalty</td>
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<td>4/1</td>
<td>Other Sentencing Issues</td>
<td>9 (pp 249-277), 19 (pp 567-576)</td>
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<td>4/8</td>
<td>Malingering/Defensiveness</td>
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<td>Report Writing</td>
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<td>4/22</td>
<td>Expert testimony</td>
<td>18 (pp 519-546)</td>
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<td>4/29</td>
<td>Mock Trial</td>
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<tr>
<td>5/6</td>
<td>Specialized psychological testing</td>
<td>3 (pp 45-52)</td>
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Readings

1/7 Introduction

1/14 Forensic Assessment

1/21-1/28 Competence to Stand Trial
Case Law:

Research:


2/4 Other Competence Issues
Case Law:

Research/Clinical Literature:

2/11-2/25 Criminal Responsibility
Case Law:
1. McNaughton’s Rule, 8 Eng. Rep. 718 (1843)

Research/Clinical Literature:


3/4 **Risk Assessment - Dangerousness**

**Case Law:**


**Research/Clinical Literature:**


3/11 **Risk Assessment - Sex Offenders**

**Case Law:**


**Research/Clinical Literature:**


3/25 **Death Penalty**

**Case Law:**

1. Furman v. Georgia, 408 U.S. 238 (1972)


**Research/Clinical Literature:**


4/1  Sentencing Issues

Research/Clinical Literature:

3. Psychological evaluation of Mike Tyson

4/8  Malingering


4/15  Forensic Reports


4/22  Expert Testimony

Case Law:


Research/Clinical Literature:


5/6  Specialized Psychological Testing

Research/Clinical Literature