# Forensic Psychology I
## Fall 2005

**Schedule:** Tuesdays, 9:00-12:00 P.M., RM 19  
**Instructor:** Kim Gorgens, Ph.D.  
[drkim@pcisys.net](mailto:drkim@pcisys.net), 303-618-7864 or x 14160  
**Texts:**  
**Required:**  

**Readings:** Reading list at Alphagraphics (303-691-0626)

## Course Outline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Readings</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9/13</td>
<td>Introduction to Forensic Psychology</td>
<td>W&amp;S 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Readings 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>9/17</td>
<td>Last Day to Register</td>
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<tr>
<td>9/20</td>
<td>Legal System Overview</td>
<td>B&amp;B 3, W&amp;S 2</td>
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<td>Readings 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>9/27</td>
<td>Psychological Domains of Criminal Responsibility: Competency to stand trial, diminished capacity/specific intent, fitness to be executed, self-defense and syndrome defenses</td>
<td>W&amp;S 4-6</td>
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<td>Ann England, Esq., Formerly Federal PD Office, University of Colorado School of Law Professor, Speaker</td>
<td>B&amp;B 4</td>
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<td>Readings 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>10/4</td>
<td>Expert Opinion; Rules of Evidence; Legal Testimony &amp; Pragmatic Forensic Psychology</td>
<td>W&amp;S 3, 21-22</td>
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<td>Scott Baroway, Esq. &amp; Dr. Sheila Porter, Speakers</td>
<td>B&amp;B 8-9</td>
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<td>Readings 4</td>
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<td>10/11</td>
<td>Technologies: Polygraph &amp; Plethysmograph Testing</td>
<td>B&amp;B 9</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Chris Schaefer, Colorado Bureau of Investigation/CBI, Major Crimes Division, Speaker</td>
<td>Readings 5</td>
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**Course Description & Objectives:**

This course is the first in a yearlong series of three classes (Forensic Psychology I, II, and III) designed to provide an overview of the practice of clinical forensic psychology. The series of courses address psychological theory, research and clinical practice as applied within the context of American civil and criminal legal systems (with an emphasis on Colorado law). The courses are designed to combine an understanding of the law with the pertinent clinical information to enable a practitioner to work and communicate effectively within the context of the legal arena.

**Forensic Psychology I** addresses the structure and function of the American court system, both civil and criminal. The pertinent rules of criminal and civil procedure, the applicable rules of evidence as well as other legal/psychological concepts such as competence, criminal responsibility and other defenses (insanity, syndrome, etc.) are covered. Other substantive areas of study include polygraph/plethysmograph testing, trial consultation and inequities within the justice system. This course is designed to provide students with a working understanding of the civil and criminal legal systems as well as an appreciation of the interface between psychology and the law.

**Attendance & Participation:**

Your attendance and participation are expected and contribute substantially to your final grade. Note that you cannot earn an “A” in this course without earning participation points. Participation entails: 1) Being familiar with assigned readings and participating actively in class discussion and 2) Working effectively with your teammates in the preparation and delivery of your class presentation. Participation will account for more than 10% of your grade.
PRESENTATION:
You will assign yourself to one of several areas of interest on the first day of class. These 'areas of interest' will reflect the contemporary application of forensic psychology in different practice settings available to the M.A. or doctorate level practitioner. Your research and presentation should focus on job availability, prerequisite training, needs assessment, and any other material relevant to the discussion of that career path (contact information, etc.). You and your teammates will have no more than 10 minutes per teammate to present an overview of your research. Your grade will reflect your use of time, presentation of material, familiarity with subject matter, and the overall usefulness of the presentation. You will be provided with grading criteria in advance. You and your teammates will share the same grade.

EXAM:
The exam will take place on November 1ST and will be worth 100 possible points. The exam will be made up of 'short answer' questions. All material covered in class (including assigned readings and expert guest lecture materials will be relevant for your preparation).

GRADING (POSSIBLE POINTS):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exam</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Topic Presentation</td>
<td>80</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
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GRADE SCALE (CUMULATIVE %):

A = 93-100
A- = 90-92
B+ = 87-89
B = 83-86
B- = 80-82
C+ = 77-79
C = 73-76
C- = 70-72
D+ = 67-69
D = 63-66
F = BELOW 62
READING LIST

READINGS 1—INTRODUCTION TO FORENSIC PSYCHOLOGY


READINGS 2—LEGAL SYSTEMS OVERVIEW


READINGS 3—PSYCHOLOGICAL DOMAINS OF CRIMINAL RESPONSIBILITY: COMPETENCY TO STAND TRIAL, DIMINISHED CAPACITY/SPECIFIC INTENT, FITNESS TO BE EXECUTED, SELF-DEFENSE AND SYNDROME DEFENSES


READINGS 4—EXPERT OPINION; RULES OF EVIDENCE; LEGAL TESTIMONY AND PRAGMATIC FORENSIC PSYCHOLOGY

READINGS 4—CONTINUED


READINGS 5—TECHNOLOGIES: POLYGRAPH AND PLETHYSMOGRAPH TESTING; FORENSIC HYPNOSIS


READINGS 6—JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM; FAMILY LAW: CHILD ABUSE & CHILD CUSTODY ISSUES; CIVIL LIBERTIES


READINGS 7—DISPARITIES AND INEQUITIES IN THE JUSTICE SYSTEM; PROFESSIONAL ISSUES


READINGS 8—APPLICATION: TRIAL CONSULTATION & JURY SELECTION


NOTE: Readings with an (*) will be highlighted during class lecture but are NOT required reading for the class. The references are provided here for supplemental review by interested persons.