



Wayland Baptist University
Hawaii Campus
School of Behavioral and Social Sciences

Wayland Baptist University exists to educate students in an academically challenging, learning focused, and distinctively Christian environment for professional success, and service to God and humankind.

PSYC 3314: Psychology and the Law

Term: Fall I 2024 Section Number: HI01

Instructor: Dr. Willie Finley Jr.

Contact Information: Phone: (808) 778-6935 (cell phone—please be patient in awaiting my response, as I am in the public school system, during the day and may not be able to return calls immediately)

Email: willie.finley@wayland.wbu.edu

Office Hours: TBA

Class Time and Location: Mondays (5:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.) on the Kapolei campus. Classroom TBA.

Catalog Description: This course is an interdisciplinary analysis of psychology, ethics, justice, eye witness testimony, law enforcement, and other topics involving the legal system.

Prerequisite: N/A

Textbook: *Wrightsman's Psychology and the Legal System (9th Edition)* by Edith Greene and Kirk Heilbrun ISBN: 9780357088579

Optional Materials: Brief video clips, website links, and other possible readings.

Course outcome competencies: The student will understand and be able to:

- 1) Demonstrate knowledge of various models and theories for understanding psychology's role in the legal systems from state, national, and international levels.
- 2) Be able to look at the legal system both objectively and critically in terms of what makes it effective and what areas might need improvement.
- 3) Demonstrate knowledge of the difference between legal terms and psychology terms and why psychology is so important when it comes to understanding criminals, jurors, prosecutors, attorneys, and other parties involved.
- 4) Understand the effects of testimonies, confirmation bias, profiling, and other factors that may impact making conclusions.
- 5) Demonstrate how psychology and the law can help strengthen the community.

Attendance: Students enrolled at one of the University's external campuses should make every effort to attend all class meetings. All absences must be explained to the instructor—who will then determine whether the omitted work may be made up. When a student reaches a number of absences deemed excessive by the instructor, the instructor will advise the student and file an unsatisfactory progress report with the campus dean. Any student who misses 25% or more of the regularly scheduled class meetings will receive a grade of 'F' in the course. Additional attendance policies for each course, as defined by the instructor in the course syllabus, are considered a part of the University's attendance policy.

Additional Attendance Policies: Students are responsible for obtaining any information missed during the lectures. Students are also responsible for being up-to-date with readings and quizzes and for turning in assignments on time, due to limited class time, students are encouraged to attend all lectures.

Services for the Disabled: In compliance with the Americans with

Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), it is policy of Wayland Baptist University that no otherwise qualified person with a disability be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subject to discrimination under any educational program or activity in the university. The Coordinator or Counseling Services serves as the coordinator of students with a disability and should be contacted concerning accommodation requests at: (806) 291-3765. Documentation of a disability must accompany and request for accommodations.

Course Requirements: Students are expected to attend all class sessions; since meeting times are held only once a week, vast material will be covered. If a student is absent—excused or unexcused—it is his/her responsibility to get notes from another classmate. Again, because of the scarcity in meeting times, it is the student's responsibility to stay on top of the readings.

To ensure the student understands the barebones of the readings and lectures, small weekly quizzes will be given either at the end of class or, on some occasions, to be taken home and completed by the students. The quizzes are more application in nature and should not alarm the student, as they only serve as reminders of what he/she might need to further study. Make-ups will not be issued without a valid excuse.

Later in the semester, the student will write a 5 to 8-page paper which can cover court cases, one of the legal and/or psychological concepts covered in class, a law that was borne as a result of a case based on mental health, current events revolving around psychology and the law, etc. The topics are endless, but students should contact the instructor if there are pressing topics they would love to research related to psychology and the law. character going through the stages of death. The research paper should adhere to the APA style (for example, use of citations), and students are encouraged to attend tutoring if they need assistance. Lastly, there will be two tests issued over the course of the semester. The students are encouraged to participate in discussions, take notes (if need be), and be punctual.

Method of determining course grade:

As stated above, the bulk of the course will consist of three exams, a short paper, quizzes, and regular attendance/participation. The University has a standard grade scale:

A= 90-100, B=80-89, C=70-79, D=60-69, F=below 60, W=Withdrawal, WP=Withdrew passing, WF=Withdrew failing, I=Incomplete. An incomplete may be given within the last two weeks of a long term or within the last two days of a microterm to a student who is passing but has not completed a term paper, examination, or other required work—for *reasons beyond the student's control*. A grade of "Incomplete" is changed if the work required is completed prior to the last day of the next long (10 to 15 weeks) term, unless the instructor designates an earlier date for completion. If the work is not completed by the appropriate date, the 'I' will be converted to an 'F.'

Instructor's Policy on Academic Dishonesty: All tests, papers, quizzes, et cetera should solely be the work of the student. While group studying is encouraged, sharing work will not be tolerated. Furthermore, there will be zero tolerance for plagiarism. Depending on the severity, using another's ideas as one's own could result in a rewrite, zero, and/or referral to the dean. To avoid the risk of stealing another's ideas, all works should be cited using APA formatting (and this includes paraphrasing). All written assignments will require a reference page.

Appealing Grades: Students shall have protection through orderly procedures against prejudices or capricious academic evaluation. A student who believes that he or she has not been held to realistic academic standards, just evaluation procedures or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course by using the student grade appeal process described in the Academic Catalog. Appeals may not be made for advanced placement examinations or course bypass examinations. Appeals are limited to the final course grade, which may be upheld, raised, or lowered at any stage of the appeal process. Any recommendation to lower a course grade must be submitted through the Executive Vice President/Provost to the Faculty Assembly Grade Appeals Committee for review and approval. The Faculty Assembly Grade Appeals Committee may instruct that the course grade be upheld, raised, or lowered to a more proper evaluation.

Tentative Schedule (subject to change!):**Week 1 (8/12): Orientation; Chapters 1 and 2****Week 2 (8/19): Chapters 1 and 2 Continued; Quiz 1; Chapters 2 and 3/Review****Week 3 (8/26): Chapters 4 and 5 (Quiz 2)****Week 4 (9/2): Exam 1****Week 5 (9/9): Chapters 5 and 6 (Quiz 3)****Week 6 (9/16): Chapters 7 and 8; Quiz 4), Papers Due (Collab)****Week 7 (9/23): Chapters 7 and 8 Continued****Week 8 (9/30): Exam II****Additional Information:**

Important Notes: Again, be aware that this is a **tentative** schedule. If the class needs to spend more time on an interesting topic, adjustments will be necessary. Also, please be sure to read any and all announcements on the quizzes and/or Blackboard.

The method of grade determination will be via the following point system:

Class Participation: 50 pts

Attendance: 100 pts

Quizzes (20 pts a piece): 100 pts (Please note: A number of these quizzes might be exercises that build upon each other, so it is very important to complete all of them)

Exams (2 total): 225 pts each

Paper: 300 pts

As a result, here is the class grading scale (mirroring the University's):

900-1000= A

800-899=B

700-799=C

600-699=D

599-Below=F

