

University of Arkansas - Fort Smith
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General Syllabus

PSYC 37033 Introduction to Forensic Psychology

Credit Hours: 3

Lecture Hours: 3

Laboratory Hours: 0

Prerequisite: PSYC 11003 General Psychology, and ENGL 10203 Composition II, ENGL 14343 Honors Composition or ENGL 24603 Introduction to Writing Studies, and one of the following: HIST 21203 United States History II or PLSC 27533 American National Government or CRJU 10203 Introduction to the Criminal Justice System.

Effective Catalog: 2019-2020

I. Course Information

A. Catalog Description

Reviews behavioral theories and research and their relationship with the legal system; examines roles of psychologists in the criminal justice system. Includes an examination of the services of forensic psychologists such as expert witnessing, criminal profiling, trial consulting, legal decision making on child custody, jury selection, mental health services, and assessment methods of maladaptive behaviors in a forensic setting.

II. Student Learning Outcomes

A. Subject Matter

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Discuss concepts and principles of forensic psychology;
2. Critically examine the application of behavioral theories in the criminal justice system;
3. Appraise the services of and methods used by forensic psychologists in conducting and presentation of a criminal investigation.

B. University Learning Outcomes

This course enhances student abilities in the following areas:

Global and Cultural Perspectives

Students will reflect upon cultural differences and their implications for interacting with people from cultures other than their own.

Communication Skills (written and oral)

Students will communicate effectively with a variety of audiences in any setting.

Analytical Skills**Critical Thinking Skills**

Students will draw conclusions and solve problems.

III. Major Course Topics

- A. Forensic psychology
- B. Theories in psychology and behavioral research
- C. Legal system and criminal justice system
- D. Services of forensic psychologists
- E. Expert witnessing
- F. Criminal profiling, trial consulting
- G. Legal decision making on child custody
- H. Jury selection
- I. Mental health services
- J. Assessment methods of maladaptive behaviors