

**University of South Florida Sarasota-Manatee  
Spring 2012**

**SOP 4751:**                      **PSYCHOLOGY APPLIED TO LAW**

**Meeting Time & Place:**      Blended Course with 4 in-person meetings: **1-9, 2-6, 3-19, & 4-23.**  
Meeting Time: **Mondays 3:00 pm to 5:45 pm**

**Prerequisites:**                      PSY 3213 with grade of "C" or better or CI

**Instructor:**                              Christine Ruva, Ph.D.  
Office: C249 Phone: 359-4629  
Mailbox: SMC Room C 263 e-mail: [ruva@usf.edu](mailto:ruva@usf.edu)  
Web Site: <http://luna.cas.usf.edu/~ruva/index.htm>

**Office Hours:**                              Monday 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. or by appointment.

**Required Texts.**                              Brewer, N. & Williams, K.D. (2007). *Psychology and law: An empirical perspective*. New York, NY: Guilford Press.

**Readings**                                      On BlackBoard and the course website you will find links to other assigned readings.

**Course Website**                      [http://luna.cas.usf.edu/~ruva/Psych&Law\\_Course\\_Spring2011.html](http://luna.cas.usf.edu/~ruva/Psych&Law_Course_Spring2011.html)

**Be sure to check your USF email regularly for class announcements.**

**How to login to your USF email:**

1. Login to blackboard via <https://mysites.usf.edu/default.aspx>
2. Stay on the Welcome screen
3. Click the link to "google mail." This will take you to your USF mail.

If you have questions about the course or its content, rather than emailing me, please post them in the **Q&A Discussion Forum** so everyone can benefit from the answers. How to do this:

1. Login to Blackboard
2. Click on our course
3. Select Discussion Board
4. Click the Q&A link to enter
5. Click "Create Thread" to post your question as a new thread, or continue an existing thread by responding with further questions or comments
6. Click **SAVE DRAFT** to save your thread and work on it later. If you save, **only you will see it.**
7. **Be sure to click SUBMIT to post the thread and allow me and others to view it.**

**If you require technical assistance, please contact the USF Help Desk:**

<p style="text-align: center;"><a href="mailto:help-ac@usf.edu">E-mail us at help-ac@usf.edu</a> Or call 813-974-1222 or 1-866-974-1222.</p>
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**Blackboard use.** Blackboard will be used for all components of the online portion of this course. In addition, Blackboard will be used to post student grades, for emailing students, and for broadcasting announcements by Dr. Ruva. Students are expected to check their email frequently (daily) and to respond to emails from Dr. Ruva in a timely fashion. Students are also responsible for checking Blackboard on a bi-weekly basis for class announcements.

- New student should use the Blackboard tutorials:
  - [http://www.sarasota.usf.edu/Academics/DE/current\\_students.php](http://www.sarasota.usf.edu/Academics/DE/current_students.php)
- Students needing technical assistance with Blackboard should use the following resources:
  - Live online help: <http://usfsupport.custhelp.com/cgi-bin/usfsupport.cfg/php/enduser/chat.php>
  - Toll-free Helpline: 866-974-1222

**Course Introduction.** This course is designed explore the application of Psychological Science to the Legal System and to demonstrate how emerging knowledge from research in Psychological Science is helping to solve forensic and legal problems. We will examine many areas in Psychology and Law in which Psychologists have applied theories and concepts of Psychology to important legal system problems or issues. We will explore the existing forensic or legal practices for each topic and explore their scientific bases. Students will be given a broad overview of the relevant topics, problems, and methodologies in the field of Psychology and Law.

**Course Goals and Objectives.** The main goal of this course is to provide students with knowledge and skills that will enable them to better understand the application of psychological research and theory to the legal system. Students upon completion of this course should be able to:

- (a) define relevant terms used in the field;
- (b) demonstrate knowledge of the methods used by Psychologist who examine forensic and legal issues;
- (c) demonstrate knowledge of the scientific bases of existing forensic and legal practices;
- (e) describe the research, methods, and theories relevant to Psychological Science and the Law;
- (f) describe the application of Psychological Science to specific real world problems;
- (g) describe the history of the study of the topics explored (e.g., eyewitness testimony and jury decision making).

**Readings and Lectures.** The tentative schedule tells you which chapters you are responsible for and when to read chapters. Lectures and multi-media presentations will supplement the texts and assigned readings and will not necessarily follow along with the chapters. Note: Some chapters in your text book will be supplemented with recent journal articles covering material related to that chapter.

**Exams.** There will be **THREE** exams worth **100 points** each. The three examinations will cover the assigned readings, lectures, multi-media presentations, and classroom demonstration and exercises. Exams 1 through 3 will cover only the material in those sections. Exams will consist of **ESSAY and/or Short Answer questions**. If you are ill or have some other documentable, legitimate reason for missing an exam (see excused absences below), you may be permitted to take a make-up. However, you **must** notify me **NO LATER THAN 9:00 AM** the day of the exam (or earlier, see excused absences) or you will get **NO CREDIT FOR THE EXAM**.

Exams will take place from **3:00 pm to 4:45 pm** on the dates specified on the Tentative Outline (last page of syllabus). During exams, you will only be permitted to have pens, pencils, and

erasers at your desk. Please leave refreshments, book bags, and other materials in the front of the classroom or do not bring them at all. Turn off all cellular phones and beepers and please do not wear hats or any type of headphones/earplugs. You **may not leave the room** during an exam.

**Makeup Exam Procedures:** At USF S-M makeup exams are only administered on 4 predetermined dates (Fridays) and times during each semester. These dates and times cannot be altered for your individual schedule – NO EXCEPTIONS. Therefore, if you qualify for a makeup exam make sure to contact Dr. Ruva ASAP to schedule your exam.

**Excused Absences** will be given for **illness** only with a **doctor's excuse** (*this illness must be severe enough to prevent you from taking the exam – Your instructor alone will determine if your illness meets this criterion*), for the death of an immediate family member, for school sanctioned functions, or for observance of religious holy days. Doctor's excuse require that the student fill out a "Verification of Visit" form at the health center. Something similar should be done for students using private physician services and must state specifically what the illness was and the date/s of the illness. Death of an immediate family member requires a copy of the death certificate. Students who anticipate the necessity of being absent from class due to the observation of a major religious observance or a school-sanctioned event **must provide notice of the date(s) to the instructor, in writing, by the second class meeting.** If no notice is given the student will get no credit for the exam.

**Cheating** - DON'T!! Academic dishonesty will result in an "FF" for the course and a recommendation for disciplinary action by USF.

**Forums (Graded).** There will be a total of **FIVE** graded Forums/Discussion Boards worth **15** points each. These assignments will be based on assigned videos that accompany the lecture power points provided in Blackboard. These assignments will also require you to use information from your textbook, class powerpoints, personal experiences, and the web. In BlackBoard I will provide clear instructions of what is expected for each Forum. These assignments will be given during the weeks indicated on the tentative course schedule. There will be **NO MAKEUP FORUMS GIVEN.** These assignments are Due the following **Monday by 4:00 pm** (see tentative schedule). **LATE FORUMS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED FOR ANY REASON.** Only four of these Forum assignments will count toward your total points earned in the course. If a student completes more than the **4** required Forums his/her grade/s on the additional Forums will be multiplied by **.40** and then added to his/her total points as **EXTRA CREDIT.**

**Academic Honesty.** Academic honesty is an essential component of the academic process. Both students and faculty are expected to “live up to the highest ethical standards with respect to the origin of ideas, the accuracy of data, and like matters” (Bryant, 2002).

**Academic Dishonesty:** Per the USF Undergraduate Catalog (p. 47-49) Academic Dishonesty includes **PLAGIARISM**, which is defined as:  
“literary theft and consists of the unattributed quotation of the **exact words** of a published text, or the unattributed borrowing of **original ideas by paraphrase** from a published text. On written papers for which the student employs information gathered from books, articles, web sites, or oral sources, each direct quotation, as well as **ideas and facts that are not generally known to the public at large, or the form, structure, or style of a secondary source** must be attributed to its author by means of the appropriate citation procedure.”

**Plagiarism Detection:** The University of South Florida has an account with an automated plagiarism detection service which allows instructors to submit student assignments to be checked for plagiarism. I reserve the right to submit assignments to this detection system. Assignments are compared automatically with a huge database of journal articles, web articles, and previously submitted papers. The instructor receives a report showing exactly how a student's paper was plagiarized. **Any plagiarism in this course will result in an “FF” for the class and a recommendation for disciplinary action by USF SM.**

**Grading.** Grading for this course will be on an accumulated point scale as follows: Exams 1 through 3 are each worth **100** points and your 4 Forum worth a total of **15** points each. Therefore, the total possible points a student can earn in the class (not including extra credit) are **360**.

A = 335+    A- = 324-334    B<sup>+</sup> = 313-323    B = 299-312    B<sup>-</sup> = 288-298    C<sup>+</sup> = 277-287  
C = 263-276    C<sup>-</sup> = 252-262    D<sup>+</sup> = 241-251    D = 227-240    D<sup>-</sup> = 216-226    F= 215 or less

--- MARCH 24<sup>th</sup> IS THE LAST DAY TO WITHDRAW WITHOUT ACADEMIC PENALTY---

<u>COURSE WORK</u>	<u>PERCENT OF TOTAL POINTS</u>
Exams	83%
Graded Forums/Discussion Boards	17%

### **Extra Credit.**

**Sona Experiment Points:** I will accept up to **10 extra-credit points** from the Psychology Department's sponsored research studies. You are responsible for signing up for experiments and monitoring your extra-credit points. Also note that most of these experiments will take place in Tampa. Sign up for these research studies can be found on the web at the following address: <http://usf.sona-systems.com/>. For more information on this opportunity and a description of your rights and obligations as a research participant you can visit the following web site: <http://psychology.usf.edu/links/participate/>

**Forums/Discussion Boards:** You will also have an opportunity to earn extra-credit (up to 6 points) by completing more than the 4 required Forums.

### **Other Policies and Procedures**

**Disabilities Accommodation.** Students are responsible for registering with the Office of Students with Disabilities Services (SDS) in order to receive academic accommodations. Reasonable notice must be given to the SDS office (typically 5 working days) for accommodations to be arranged. It is the responsibility of the student to provide each instructor with a copy of the official Memo of Accommodation. Contact Information: Pat Lakey, Coordinator, 941-359-4714, [plakey@sar.usf.edu](mailto:plakey@sar.usf.edu), [www.sarasota.usf.edu/Students/Disability/](http://www.sarasota.usf.edu/Students/Disability/)

**Academic Disruption.** The University does not tolerate behavior that disrupts the learning process. The policy for addressing academic disruption is included with Academic Dishonesty in the catalog: [www.ugs.usf.edu/catalogs/0607/adadap.htm](http://www.ugs.usf.edu/catalogs/0607/adadap.htm). Occurrences of academic disruption should be addressed by the professor (depending on the situation, the student may be asked to leave or security may be called). Following the incident, the professor should establish with the student terms for continued course participation, and the professor should also submit a report to the dean. The consequences to the student can range from an administrative reprimand to suspension from USF.

**Student Responsibilities.** Every student is responsible for all materials in assigned readings, posted in Blackboard and on their course website, and provided in class. Students are expected to come to all class meetings on time. Extra time will not be given to students who arrive late for the exams.

### Emergency Preparedness

It is strongly recommended that you become familiar with the USF Sarasota-Manatee Emergency Action Plan <http://www.sarasota.usf.edu/Alpha/ready/EAP.pdf> and of the Safety Preparedness site <http://www.sarasota.usf.edu/Alpha/ready/index.html>

- **1 (800) Hotline:** The USF hotline at 1 (800) 992-4231 is updated with pre-recorded information during an emergency. The hotline can also be operated by staff during an emergency if the situation necessitates that additional information, direction or resources need to be communicated and the personnel can be put in place in advance, such as in the event of a hurricane or ongoing emergency
- **Fire Alarm Instructions:**  
At the beginning of each semester please note the emergency exit maps posted in each classroom. These signs are marked with the primary evacuation route (red) and secondary evacuation route (orange) in case the building needs to be evacuated.  
Emergency Evacuation Procedures: [http://www.sarasota.usf.edu/Alpha/ready/EAP\\_FAQ.pdf](http://www.sarasota.usf.edu/Alpha/ready/EAP_FAQ.pdf)
- **Contingency Plans**  
The University requires professors to have a contingency plan for continuing course instruction, if possible, in the event of continued natural disruption (e.g., significant hurricane damage to the area or a pandemic affecting the area). Since all courses at USFSM are supported by Blackboard, the most feasible plan would be to move instruction more completely online. Also, advisable would be a plan to extend deadlines as appropriate.  
[http://sarasota.usf.edu/Academics/AcadAffairs/Handbook/USFSM\\_FH\\_EmergencyGuidelinesAcademicContinuity.pdf](http://sarasota.usf.edu/Academics/AcadAffairs/Handbook/USFSM_FH_EmergencyGuidelinesAcademicContinuity.pdf)

**TENTATIVE OUTLINE FOR LECTURES AND READINGS  
PSYCHOLOGY APPLIED TO LAW (PSY 44931, Section 522)**

<b>Week &amp; Date</b>	<b>Topics</b>	<b>Assigned Readings</b>
<b>Week 1: 1/09</b>	Introduction to Psychology and Law ( <b>Welcome Forum</b> ) * <b>On-campus Meeting from 9:00 am to 11:45 am</b>	Chapter 1
Week 2: 1/16	Investigative Interviewing	Chapter 2
Week 3: 1/ 23	Eyewitness Recall, Testimony, & Identification	Chapters 4 & 6 White Paper (Wells et al., 1998)
Week 4: 1/30	Children’s Recall and Testimony ( <b>Forum 1</b> )	Chapter 5
<b>Week 5: 2/06</b>	<b>EXAM 1 (chapters. 1, 2, 4, 5, 6 &amp; Eyewitness White paper)*</b>	
Week 6: 2/13	False Memory- Repressed Memory Debate	Chapter 7
Week 7: 2/20	False Confessions ( <b>Forum 2</b> )	White Paper (Kassin et al., 2009)
Week 8: 2/27	Deception Detection ( <b>Forum 3</b> )	Chapter 3
Week 9: 3/05	Simulation, Realism, and the Study of the Jury	Chapter 10
No Class: 3/12	<b>SPRING BREAK – ENJOY!</b>	
<b>Week 10: 3/19</b>	<b>EXAM 2 (chapters. 3, 7, 10, &amp; False Confession White Paper)*</b>	
--- MARCH 24 <sup>th</sup> IS THE LAST DAY TO WITHDRAW WITHOUT ACADEMIC PENALTY---		
Week 11: 3/26	Comprehension of Judicial Instructions	Chapter 12
Week 12: 4/02	Pretrial Publicity and Its Influence on Jury Decision Making ( <b>Forum 4</b> )	Chapter 8
Week 13: 4/09	The Psychology of Jury and Juror Decision Making ( <b>Forum 5</b> )	Chapter 11
Week 14: 4/16	Helping Experimental Psychology Affect Legal Policy Content Analysis of Mock-Jury Deliberations	Chapter 14 Online Article
<b>Week 15: 4/23</b>	<b>EXAM 3 (chapters. 8, 11, 12, 14, &amp; Content Analysis)*</b>	

*Note: (**Forum**) Indicates that there will be a graded Forum(Discussion Board) assigned that day that is based on the lecture, readings, and videos for that week. These assignments are due the following **Monday by 4:00 pm**. **Late Forums will not** be accepted for any reason. **NO makeup Forums** will be given for any reason. See Forum instructions for other criteria (e.g., when first post is due) you must meet.*

*Note: \*All Exams will be given in-person. That is, the class will meet in our scheduled room at our scheduled time for all exams and the first class meeting. Exams will begin at **3:00 pm** and end at **5:00 pm**. Our **first class meeting** will take place from **3:00 pm to 5:45 pm** (2 hours and 45 minutes)*