PREREQUISITES:

University Requisite: 6 Hours in PSY including 101D or 1010

COURSE OVERVIEW:

Theory and research on the interface of psychology and the legal system (with an emphasis on social psychology). Specific topics include dilemmas faced by psychologists in the legal system; legality vs. morality; the socialization, training, and ethics of lawyers and police; perception memory and error in eyewitness testimony; hypnosis; lie detection and confessions; rights of victims and accused; rape and rapists; arrest and trial; jury selection; jury dynamics and deliberations; insanity and the prediction of dangerousness; sentencing; death penalty; rights of special groups; theories of crime.

METHODS OF COURSE INSTRUCTION:

All material for this course is print-based. Instructor and students communicate and exchange materials through postal mail. You may submit your assignments as e-mail attachments, but your graded assignments will be returned to you by postal mail.

TEXTBOOKS AND SUPPLIES:


NUMBER OF LESSONS:

The course has eight lessons, including a midcourse examination and a final examination. These lessons include:

- Lesson 1: The Nature of Justice
- Lesson 2: Legal System, Psychology of Crime and Police
- Lesson 3: Crime Investigation and Evaluating Suspects
- Lesson 4: Midcourse Examination
- Lesson 5: Pre-Trial Proceedings and Forensic Assessment in Civil and Criminal Cases
- Lesson 6: Trial and Juries: Selection and Processes
- Lesson 7: Crime Victims, Sentencing and Punishment
- Lesson 8: Final Examination
TYPES OF WRITING ASSIGNMENTS:

Each lesson writing assignment will contain numerous questions, of which you will be asked to answer six. The first lesson includes material that asks you to supply relatively short answers to a series of questions—these will count as the answer to one main question.

There are two components to an answer that receives an “A” grade. First, it should demonstrate that you have carefully read and understood the material, and second, it should include your own opinion or point of view. You can go even one step further by doing a little research on your own outside of the assigned readings.

GRADING CRITERIA:

Your final grade for the course will be weighted on the following factors:

- Lesson Assignments 10%
- Midcourse Exam 20%
- Final Exam 20%