

ATTENTIVE: SUBJECT TO CHANGE (SAMPLE)

LAW 402: PSYCHOLOGY AND LAW

Fall, 2020 (4 units); Section 02615R
Wednesdays, 4:30-7:50 p.m. (Online via Zoom)

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

- **Instructor:** Raket P. Larson, Ph.D.
- **Email:** rlarson@law.usc.edu
- **Office Hours:** Wednesdays (TBD), 2:00-3:00 p.m. (via Zoom) and by appointment
 - Office hours will be held remotely due to COVID-19. I am happy to talk to you via Zoom, phone, FaceTime, or another method that works for you. I will have regularly scheduled weekly office hours on Zoom as listed above. Use the "USC Zoom Pro Meeting" link to attend office hours.

COURSE MATERIALS

Readings: The following is a required textbook for the course:

Costanzo, M., & Krauss, D. (2018). *Forensic and legal psychology: Psychological science applied to law* (3rd edition). New York, NY: Worth Publishers.

There will also be supplementary readings assigned throughout the semester. The readings may also include articles from scientific journals, book chapters, court rulings, or current event news articles. We will discuss seminal papers, current debates within the field, and relevant case studies.

Lecture: Lecture will be held online via Zoom. You can access the meeting by going to "Tools" then "USC Zoom Pro Meeting."

Website: All course materials including announcements, the syllabus, readings, lecture slides, and exams will be available on Blackboard. You can log into the Blackboard website by going to <https://blackboard.usc.edu>.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course examines psychological theory and empirical research as it relates to the law. Policies, procedures, and practices within the criminal justice system will be evaluated using an interdisciplinary approach, drawing on perspectives from cognitive, developmental, social, and clinical psychology. Particular attention will be paid to the experiences of witnesses, victims, and offenders as illustrated through real-world case studies. The role of psychologists in each stage of the legal process will be highlighted. This course explores issues of responsibility and credibility, intentional and unintentional behavior, and clinical biases. Topics include police-community relations, witness credibility, confessions, cults, hostages, battered persons, and repressed memories.

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Course Objectives:

1. Examine policies, procedures, and practices within the criminal justice system using an interdisciplinary approach.
2. Evaluate the roles of forensic psychologists in the legal system.
3. Critically evaluate psychological theory and research as it relates to the law.

Student Learning Outcomes. By the end of the semester, students will:

1. Critically evaluate and debate theories and research in psychology and law.
2. Apply evidence-based knowledge to real-world case studies in the field of psychology and law.
3. Analyze the literature, current debates, and relevant research in the field of psychology and law.
4. Use an interdisciplinary approach to assess human cognition and behavior within a legal context.
5. Integrate course concepts by reflecting and writing about research and practice in psychology and law.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Discussion Board Posts. I will post a discussion topic for each assigned week. You will (a) provide an original thought of your own regarding the topic in question (5 points per week), and (b) respond to two other people's posts (5 points per week). Due dates for (a) and (b) are listed on the course syllabus and will be announced on Blackboard. Discussion board posts must be completed in the weeks in which they are assigned and they will not be posted in advance. Your comments should be substantive, thoughtful, provide some original insight, or raise questions about the topic raised. Specific instructions for (a) and (b) will be provided on Blackboard. **There will be 11 possible discussion board weeks. You must complete 10 discussion board posts to receive full credit.** Thus, you may skip one week's posts and still receive full points for requirement. Discussion board posts will account for **10%** of your final grade.

Essays. There will be two essays in which you will critically evaluate current research in the field. Each paper will be approximately 3-4 pages in length (typed, double spaced, 12-point font) and will worth **20%** of your final grade (10% each). Essay prompts will be provided and posted on Blackboard.

Midterm Exams. There will be three midterm exams in this course that will be administered online. You will know the format of each exam before you take it. Exams will typically be comprised of multiple choice/true false questions and a few short answer questions. They will cover information from lecture (including slides and videos) and reading assignments. A study guide will be provided for the exam. The midterms will account for **45%** of your final grade (15% each).

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Final Exam. The final exam will be cumulative. Information regarding the format of the final exam will be announced in class and on Blackboard. A link to the final exam will be provided to you on Blackboard and will be due by **Tuesday, November 24, 2020 at 11:59 p.m.** The final exam will count towards **25%** of your final grade.

Summary of Course Requirements and Grades.

Item	% of Final Grade
Discussion Board Posts	10%
Essays (2)	20% (10% each)
Midterms (3)	45% (15% each)
Final Exam (cumulative)	25%

Class Percentage	Grade*
93%+	A
90 – 92%	A-
87 – 89%	B+
83 – 86%	B
80 – 82%	B-
77 – 79%	C+
73 – 76%	C
70 – 72%	C-
67 – 69%	D+
60 – 66%	D
0 – 59%	F

**Grades will be rounded to the nearest whole number.*

CLASS POLICIES

You are responsible for the standards that apply in this course, including knowing the information in this syllabus (e.g., make-up policy, test dates, grading policies) and course website. Please feel free to ask me questions but be aware that it is your responsibility to earn the points necessary for the grade you desire. I also encourage you to connect with other students in the course to study.

Missed Assignments. I understand that life happens, and on occasion, you may have trouble making a deadline through no fault of your own. However, it is your responsibility to notify me about any difficulties in turning in your assignments **before** the due dates. Assignments, discussion board posts, and exams are due on the date listed. You can always turn in assignments early. If you know in advance that you will have difficulty turning in an assignment by the due date for a reason that is **not** an emergency, you need to talk to me **at least two days** before it is due. Proper documentation should be provided to me (e.g., medical necessity). Discussion board posts cannot be submitted after the due date has passed. **Essays may be turned in late, but will be penalized -10% each day that it is late.** In short, if you know that something is going to disrupt your ability to turn some assignment in, **talk to me. I want you to succeed in this course.**

Make-Up Exams. You should do everything in your power to ensure you take the tests as scheduled. You need to take the final exam as scheduled. Make-up exams will be given only for serious illness, family crises or death, university business, or observance of religious holiday. **Proper**

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documentation is required (e.g., a note from a physician). **No exceptions.** You must make up the exam within one week of the original test date.

Academic Dishonesty. Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated and will result in a **minimum of zero** credit for that exam or assignment. It may also result in further disciplinary action (see college handbook). To learn more about plagiarism, visit www.plagiarism.org. Feel free to ask me questions as well about what may or may not constitute plagiarism. Originality of ideas, and the recognition of thinkers who influence our work, is a universal hallmark shared by members of the USC community. All work must be in accordance with USC standards of academic integrity. **Any work submitted must be your own work. Submitting work that belongs to someone else (i.e. was written and composed by someone other than yourself) as your own is plagiarism. Plagiarism includes: 1) using another student's ideas or paper; 2) buying a paper; 3) copying a paper from the Internet; and 4) failing to cite another person's ideas. In short, it is presenting a paper written by you that is not yours.**

Email. Email is the fastest, easiest and most reliable way to contact me and I strongly encourage you to email me with any questions, concerns or comments you may have. I check my email often, and will respond within 24 hours (and typically, much sooner). When emailing me, please follow these guidelines:

- Please put the course number (LAW 402) or “Psych and Law” in the subject heading so that I know the email is from a student and can prioritize responding to it.
- Make sure that your email is signed with your name.

Contesting Grades. Everyone makes mistakes, including me, so if you feel that I have made an error grading an essay or exam, please discuss the matter with me as soon as possible. If you wish to contest a grade that you have received, you have **one week** from the class it was passed back to contact me and let me know what and why you wish to contest your grade. Your appeal must contain why you think the answer you put was correct (and a better one than the one provided) and should be based on material from lecture or the readings.

Class Disruptions. Please demonstrate the utmost respect for your colleagues and me by ensuring that course disruptions do not occur, such as talking loudly unmuted or playing sound in the background. Please see the Zoom guide in this syllabus for more details.

Interpersonal Sensitivity. Because the subject matter of this course is sometimes sensitive or controversial, you are asked to **treat each other and the subject matter with respect and sensitivity.** You are further asked to respect other students’ right to privacy and confidentiality both inside and outside of the classroom. Please be advised that all discussions will be held in the spirit of acceptance, inclusion, and equity and that all participants are expected to respect each other and differing points of view.

Tips for Doing Well in this Course. It is important for me that you do well in this course. It is strongly recommended that you treat this class like you would a 15-week job that you **have** to have.

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- Know the policies of the class. Read and re-read the syllabus on occasion to remind yourself.
- Come to the lecture online. If you are unable to make the meeting time, watch the recording of the lecture.
- Testing yourself on the material is a more effective study technique than just reviewing it (Roediger & Karpicke, 2006). Distribute your learning instead of cramming. Get a good night's rest before exams.
- Pay attention and think critically.
- Do not miss a test date. Complete and turn in every assignment.
- Keep up to date with the assigned readings from your textbook. Read with a purpose. Make up questions before reading a section in an article. This facilitates later memory retrieval (e.g., Robinson, 1961).
- Ask questions! Make sure to use me as a resource. Ask questions before, after, or during class. See me in office hours and send me emails.
- It is important for me that you do well in this course. Please contact me if you are having any difficulty. Do not wait until it is so late in the semester that there are few to no options left.

Academic Accommodations. If you have any condition or disability that may impact your ability to adhere to the conditions stated in this syllabus and/or carry out the assigned course work, please contact me and/or the USC Office of Disability Services and Programs. They will review your concerns and determine, with you, what accommodations are necessary and appropriate (e.g., extra time, tutoring, notetakers, interpreters, etc.). All information and documentation is completely confidential.

USC Office of Disability Services and Programs

Website: <https://dsp.usc.edu/>

Phone: (213) 740-0776

Email: ability@usc.edu

NOTE: Please let me know if you require accommodations before the exam and essay due dates so I can accommodate you.

Important Semester Dates. Please keep the following important dates in mind during the semester.

- Last day to add course: TBD
- Last day to drop without a mark of "W" and receive a refund: TBD
- Last day to withdraw without a "W" on transcript or change pass/no pass to letter grade: TBD
- Last day to drop with a "W": TBD
- Last day of instruction: TBD
- Study days: TBD
- Final exam week: TBD
- Winter recess: TBD

Religious Observance. If you will require academic accommodations for a religious observance, please provide me with a written request to consider a reasonable modification for that observance day at least one week before the date requested. Contact me after class or by individual

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appointment to discuss the dates. When requesting a makeup quiz, exam, assignment or activity, state the specific reason for your request and the date(s) on which your religious obligation(s) will conflict with the course calendar requirement.

DISCLAIMER

This syllabus is meant to be suggestive, not absolute. Any and all of the information on this syllabus is subject to change at any time, including exam dates, grading policies, office hours, etc. Changes will be announced in class and on Blackboard.

Content warning. Much of the research and literature in psychology and law is founded on criminal cases involving violent crimes against women, children, people of color, and the LGBTQ community. It is important that I tell you this at the outset. Our discussions will sometimes involve discussing terrible crimes and violence in an open manner. A guide for mental support services has been provided below and will be posted on Blackboard.

Also in the interest of full disclosure: As we discuss matters of law, please be advised that I am not an attorney and cannot provide legal assistance or advice regarding legal strategy. I am not licensed to practice law in California or any other state.

I apologize for the endless list of rules and restrictions. I know that 99% of you would follow these rules even if I had not put them in such legalistic language.

Welcome to Psychology and Law! It is a pleasure to have you in the course! 😊

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MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES AND SUPPORT SERVICES

Many people experience persistent difficult or upsetting feelings at some point in their lives. Support services can also aid overall well-being and learning. Below is a list of resources that you or someone you know may find helpful.

- **USC Counseling and Mental Health** - (213) 740-9355; available 24/7 on call
 - <https://studenthealth.usc.edu/counseling/>
 - Free and confidential mental health treatment for students, including short-term psychotherapy, group counseling, stress fitness workshops, and crisis intervention.
- **USC Relationship and Sexual Violence Prevention and Services (RSVP)** - (213) 740-9355(WELL), press "0" after hours – available 24/7 on call
 - <https://studenthealth.usc.edu/sexual-assault/>
 - Free and confidential therapy services, workshops, and training for situations related to gender-based harm.
- **USC Office of Equity and Diversity (OED)** - (213) 740-5086 | **Title IX** - (213) 821-8298
 - <https://equity.usc.edu/>; <https://titleix.usc.edu/>
 - Information about how to get help or help someone affected by harassment or discrimination, rights of protected classes, reporting options, and additional resources for students, faculty, staff, visitors, and applicants.
- **USC Reporting Incidents of Bias or Harassment** - (213) 740-5086 or (213) 821-8298
 - https://usc-advocate.symplicity.com/care_report/
 - Avenue to report incidents of bias, hate crimes, and microaggressions to the Office of Equity and Diversity | Title IX for appropriate investigation, supportive measures, and response.
- **USC Student Basic Needs - basicneeds@usc.edu** - basicneeds@usc.edu
 - <https://studentbasicneeds.usc.edu/>
 - Provides resource information to address food, housing, and financial insecurity. The website also has resources for COVID-19 specific needs.
- **National Suicide Prevention Lifeline** - 1(800) 273-8255; available 24/7 on call
 - <https://suicidepreventionlifeline.org/>
 - Free and confidential emotional support to people in suicidal crisis or emotional distress 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
- **National Alliance of Mental Health (NAMI)** - 1(800) 950-NAMI; In a crisis, text "NAMI" to 741741
 - <https://www.nami.org/Home>

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- Provides education on mental health and support services.
- **Mental Health Resources for Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC)**
 - <https://www.massgeneral.org/psychiatry/guide-to-mental-health-resources/for-bipoc-mental-health>
 - This website has an inclusive list of mental health provider directories, online support services, and self-guided virtual resources tailored for BIPOC.
- **The Trevor Project** - 1(866) 488-7386; available 24/7 on call. Confidential online instant messaging (see website) and text messaging also available (Text START to 678-678).
 - <https://www.thetrevorproject.org/>
 - Provides support, crisis intervention and suicide prevention services for LGBTQ+ young people under age 25.
- **Resources for LGBTQ+ Individuals Compiled by GLAAD**
 - <https://www.glaad.org/resourcelist>
- **RAINN - National Sexual Assault Hotline** - 1(800)-656-HOPE(4673); available 24/7 on call for free, confidential service
 - <https://www.rainn.org/>
- **Civil Rights Organizations**
 - <https://www.civilrightsproject.ucla.edu/resources/civil-rights-organizations>
 - This UCLA website contains links to a variety of civil rights and advocacy organizations.
- **Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)** - 1(800) 662-HELP (4357); available 24/7 on call for free, confidential services in English and Spanish
 - <https://www.samhsa.gov/find-help/national-helpline>
 - Provides support and services for individuals and families dealing with substance abuse issues.
- **Mental Health Resources for Veterans, Service Members, and Their Families**
 - Veteran's Crisis Hotline - available 24/7 on call for free, confidential support - 1(800) 273-8255 and press 1, text to 838255, or chat online at [VeteransCrisisLine.net/Chat](https://www.veteranscrisisline.net/Chat).
 - <https://www.mentalhealth.va.gov/>

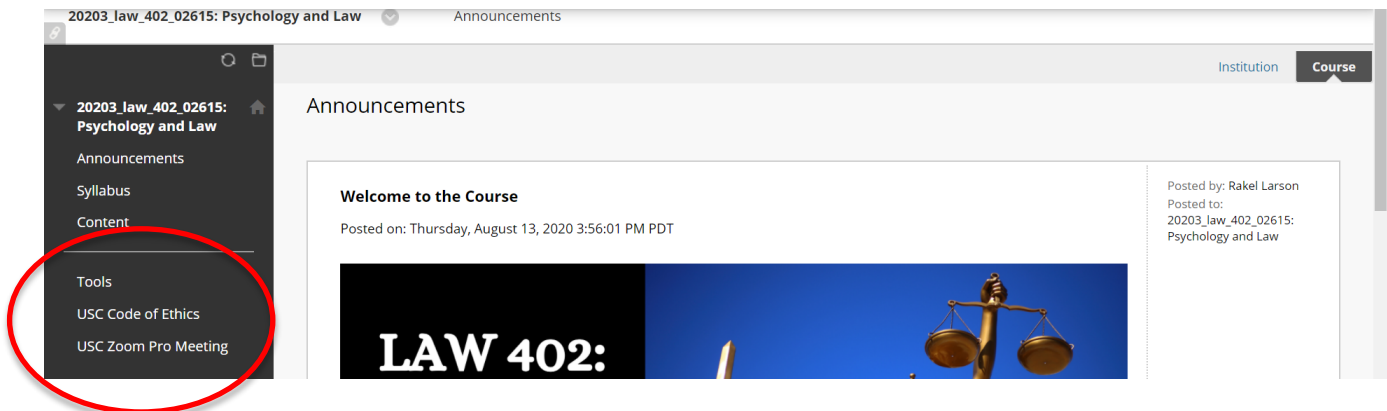
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LAW 402: PSYCHOLOGY AND LAW (Fall, 2021) Class Guide for Using Zoom

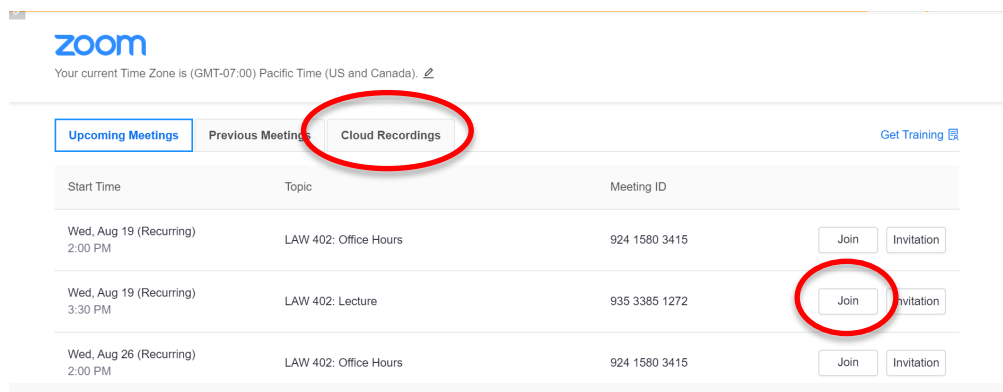
Given the COVID-19 pandemic, class will be held online instead of in person. The following guide is to help you orient to Zoom, broadly, and this course, in particular.

Zoom Links

- There will use two recurring links for lecture and office hours. The links will be posted on Blackboard. I will allow you to enter individually during the online office hours. You will be placed in a waiting room upon clicking on the link.
 - To access the Zoom link, go to the following on Blackboard.
 - Click on "USC Zoom Pro Meeting" in the toolbar on the left side of the screen. This will lead you to the links for office hours and lecture. You can get to the same link by going to "Tools" then USC Zoom Pro Meeting".



- This is where you will find the link for the upcoming lectures and office hours as well as recordings of past lectures.



Lecture Recordings

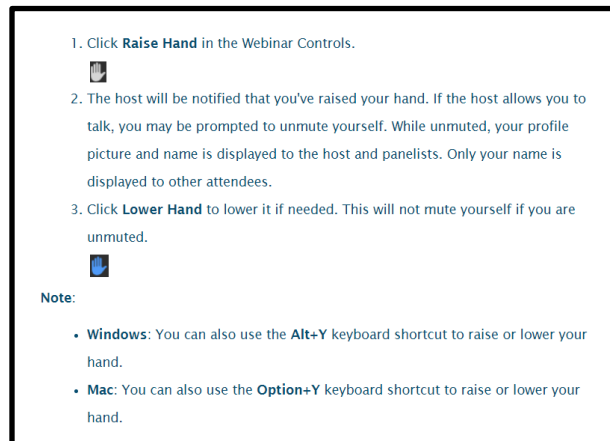
- Each lecture will be recorded and posted on Blackboard. Please allow 24 hours after our class meeting time for it to be posted on Blackboard.
- If you have a sensitive or personal matter to discuss with me, please keep this recording issue in mind. I am happy to talk to you before or after class, during office hours, or at another time.

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- Office hours will not be recorded.
- We are only meeting once a week so that means we have a large chunk of time for lecture. Zoom fatigue is a real phenomenon! As such, we will take short breaks during the lecture. I will stop the recordings when we take these breaks.

Muting

- I will automatically mute everyone upon entering the Zoom meeting room. This is to reduce ambient background noise that may make it difficult for other students to hear the lecture.
- If you'd like to ask a question or make a comment during lecture, you have three options:
 1. Unmute yourself and ask the question in lecture.
 2. Use the "Raise Hand" feature. I will ask you to unmute yourself so you can speak.



3. Comment or ask the question in the Chat box.
 - Public chats to "Everyone" can be viewed by all participants in the class, including me. Restrict this chat feature to discuss course content. You may respond to your colleagues' questions and comments here as well.
 - The public chats to "Everyone" will also be included in the recordings.
 - Please be respectful of your colleagues in public and private chats. I want to keep this feature open as I think it will aid our discussions, but I will shut it off if there are problems with people engaging in inappropriate behavior.

Troubleshooting

- [Zoom Support](#) can be accessed at this link.
 - Upload the most recent version of Zoom. Use Zoom through your USC Blackboard account.
- [Blackboard Support](#) can be accessed at this link.
- If you have any specific problems accessing course content on Blackboard or via Zoom, please feel free to contact me at rlarson@law.usc.edu

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LAW 402: TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE*

WK	LECTURE DATE	LECTURE TOPIC	READINGS	EXAMS AND ASSIGNMENTS	DISCUSSION BOARDS
1		Syllabus	C&K: Ch. 1	--	Discussion Board 1A: Post your original idea on topic for Week 1 (DUE: No later than TBD, by 11:59 p.m.)
		Introduction to Psychology and Law; Defining Justice			Discussion Board 1B: Responses on colleagues' posts for Week 1 (DUE: No later than TBD, by 11:59 p.m.)
2		Policing; Police Community-Relations	APA (2020)	--	Discussion Board 2A: Post your original idea on topic for Week 2 (DUE: TBD, by 11:59 p.m.)
		Witness Participation	Morgan & Oudekerk (2019, p. 8-9)		Discussion Board 2B: Responses on colleagues' posts for Week 2 (DUE: TBD, by 11:59 p.m.)
3		Eyewitness Memory and Testimony	C&K: Ch. 7	--	No Discussion Board this Week
4		Eyewitness Memory and Testimony (cont.)	Wells et al. (2020)	--	Discussion Board 3A: Post your original idea on topic for Week 4 (DUE: TBD, by 11:59 p.m.)

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WK	LECTURE DATE	LECTURE TOPIC	READINGS	EXAMS AND ASSIGNMENTS	DISCUSSION BOARDS
		Forensic Evidence	C&K: Ch. 4		Discussion Board 3B: Responses on colleagues' posts for Week 4 (TBD, by 11:59 p.m.)
5		Children as Victims and Witnesses	C&K: Ch. 6	MIDTERM 1: Weeks 1-4 (DUE: No later than TBD, by 11:59 p.m.)	Discussion Board 4A: Post your original idea on topic for Week 5 (TBD, by 11:59 p.m.) Discussion Board 4B: Responses on colleagues' posts for Week 5 (DUE: TBD, by 11:59 p.m.)
6		Repressed and Recovered Memories	Case Study: <i>Taus v. Loftus</i> (Corwin & Olafson, 1997)	--	Discussion Board 5A: Post your original idea on topic for Week 6 (DUE: TBD, by 11:59 p.m.) Discussion Board 5B: Responses on colleagues' posts for Week 6 (DUE: TBD by 11:59 p.m.)
7		Ethics, Therapy, & the Law	Case Study: <i>Tarasoff v. Regents of the Univ. of Calif.</i>	--	Discussion Board 6A: Post your original idea on topic for Week 7 (DUE: TBD by 11:59 p.m.)
		Predicting Dangerousness	C&K: Ch. 15	--	Discussion Board 6B: Responses on colleagues' posts for Week 7 (DUE: TBD, by 11:59 p.m.)
8		Criminal Profiling; Psychopathy	C&K: Ch. 5	MIDTERM 2: Weeks 5-7 (DUE: TBD, by 11:59 p.m.)	No Discussion Board this Week

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WK	LECTURE DATE	LECTURE TOPIC	READINGS	EXAMS AND ASSIGNMENTS	DISCUSSION BOARDS
9		Toxic Relationships; Cults	--	ESSAY 1 (DUE: No later than TBD by 11:59 p.m.)	Discussion Board 7A: Post your original idea on topic for Week 9 (DUE: TBD by 11:59 p.m.)
		Deception Detection	C&K: Ch. 3		Discussion Board 7B: Responses on colleagues' posts for Week 9 (DUE: TBD, by 11:59 p.m.)
10		Interrogations and Confessions	C&K: Ch. 2; Case Study: <i>California v. Catarino Gonzalez</i>	--	Discussion Board 8A: Post your original idea on topic for Week 10 (DUE TBD, by 11:59 p.m.)
					Discussion Board 8B: Responses on colleagues' posts for Week 10 (DUE: TBD by 11:59 p.m.)
11		Competency to Stand Trial	C&K: Ch. 8	MIDTERM 3: Weeks 8-10 (TBD, by 11:59 p.m.)	Discussion Board 9A: Post your original idea on topic for Week 11 (DUE: TBD by 11:59 p.m.)
		Insanity Defense	C&K: Ch. 10		Discussion Board 9B: Responses on colleagues' posts for Week 11 (DUE: TBD by 11:59 p.m.)
WK	LECTURE DATE	LECTURE TOPIC	READINGS	EXAMS AND ASSIGNMENTS	DISCUSSION BOARDS

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12		Jury Selection	C&K: Ch. 9	--	Discussion Board 10A: Post your original idea on topic for Week 12 (TBD by 11:59 p.m.)
		Jury Decision-Making	C&K: Ch. 12		Discussion Board 10B: Responses on colleagues' posts for Week 12 (TBD by 11:59 p.m.)
13		Corrections: Punishment, Recidivism, and Alternatives	C&K - Ch. 16	ESSAY 2: (DUE: No later than TBD by 11:59 p.m.)	Discussion Board 11A: Post your original idea on topic for Week 13 (DUE: TBD by 11:59 p.m.)
		Death Penalty	C&K - Ch. 17		Discussion Board 11B: Responses on colleagues' posts for Week 13 (DUE: TBD, by 11:59 p.m.)
14		STUDY DAYS			
15		Final Exam Week	--	FINAL EXAM: (DUE: No later than TBD, by 11:59 p.m.)	--

**Course schedule is subject to change. Any changes will be announced in class and posted on Blackboard. Supplemental readings will be provided to you.*