

**Psychology 3710: 590251(h)1.13796(o)1.1379660**

- Exams will cover the material from the lecture, videos, text book, readings, and in-class discussions. Keep in mind that some questions will require you to apply learned information to real world situations.

In the event that you miss an exam or do poorly on one of the exams, you can take the optional Final Exam to replace your lowest or missing test grade. The Final Exam (Friday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> 12:30 – 2:30) is completely optional and it cannot hurt your grade. If your final exam grade ends up being your lowest grade, it will be dropped.

### Class Assignments

Activity assignments (Writing/Oral Assignments) (2 assignments- 50 points each) - There will be four different writing assignments that will correspond with in-class activities. You are to choose and complete 2 of the 4 assignments. Descriptions are provided later in the syllabus. Part of the graded portion of the work will be your oral participation in class on the day that the assignment is due. You will lose points on the assignment if you are not in class- NO EXCEPTIONS. Since you are allowed to choose 2 of 4 assignments participation in class should not be a problem.

Assignments have specific due dates that are listed on the class schedule. You will be

- Do not use too many quotes – paraphrase!
- Plagiarism will not be tolerated.

**Summary of Course Requirements and Grading:**

	<u>Points</u>	<u>Percentage of grade</u>
Exams	300	75%
Class Assignments	100	25%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Letter Grades**

A	93+% > 370 points	C	73-76%	290-305
A-	90-92% 358-369	C-	70-72%	278-289
B+	87-89% 346-357	D+	67-69%	266-277
B	83-86% 330-345	D	63-66%	250-265
B-	80-82% 318-329	D-	60-62%	238-249

### Tentative Class Schedule/Outline

Date	Topic	Assignments
Jan 7	Introduction	
9	Legal Dilemmas	Chap 1
14	Legal Dilemmas/Psychologists and the law	
16	Psychologists and the law	
21	The Legal System	Chap 2
23	<b><u>ACTIVITY DAY- ASSIGN #1 DUE</u></b>	
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**Writing Assignment #1 - Analyzing the ethical dilemmas associated with recent changes in the law.**

Below are four legislative issues that have made news. Analyze one of the issues in a 4-5 page typed paper.

In your paper, identify which legal dilemmas are relevant to the current issue. For each relevant legal dilemma, describe the argument that could be made for each side. Is there any scientific evidence to support one side or the other? (To answer this you'll have to do some outside research.) Provide a dialectic analysis of the current issue (i.e., the decision in the case leaned toward which ethical view?) Then describe how you,

**Writing/Reading assignment #2:**

Read two articles available on blackboard:

Beyond all reason. Case study of Bobby Thompson, a 10-year old murderer

John Wayne Gacy Case study of a serial killer.

Turn in a 4-5 page paper which does the following:

Use the information from Chapter 3 to attempt to explain the crimes of John Wayne Gacy and Bobby Thompson. Which theories of criminality best explain each murderer? Are there similarities and differences in the backgrounds of the two?

#### **Writing Assignment #4: Death Penalty Issues**

For this writing assignment you chose a topic and are given the task of arguing for and against a position. Construct the best arguments for the position and then construct the best arguments against your position. In other words, present both sides of the argument in your 4-5 page paper.

Hint: As you argue your case you might want to keep in mind the main criteria that people use to support the death penalty.

1. Should juveniles (those under the age of 18) be given the death penalty? I am not asking you to argue in favor or against the death penalty but whether it should apply to people who commit crimes before becoming an adult.
2. Should mental retardation be a sufficient reason for a murderer NOT to be considered for the death penalty?
3. In Arizona, a panel of judges (not jurors) made a determination about whether or not a person should receive the death penalty. The Supreme Court struck down this practice and required that jurors make that decision.
4. In your book, there was considerable discussion about how procedures for death qualification might result in a biased jury. One proposed solution is to have bifurcated death penalty trials where "regular" jurors decide on guilt or innocence, and death qualified jurors convene only to decide on sentencing of those who are found guilty. Should this method be adopted?