

PSYS 3090 F
PSYCHOLOGY & THE LAW, SPRING 2024

Tuesday and Thursday, 1:15-2:45 pm

Larry Rudiger with Andy Garff

office hours by appointment

Location: Cohen 102 and Online via MS Teams

This syllabus is subject to revision. Version 1, January 18, 2024.

This syllabus is also intended to be a very general outline of the course. Details are available in Brightspace.

Text: Wrightsman's Psychology and the Legal System, 10th Edition

ISBN: See URL in Brightspace

Readings: UVM library e-collection (via Brightspace)

Contacting Instructors: E-mail to **psys3360@uvm.edu** (**Note that this is NOT the current course number**). E-mail is checked daily, M-F, and usually on weekends. All e-mail messages must come from student's UVM accounts. **Do not send messages to instructor's individual e-mail accounts or with Brightspace's internal system.**

Learning Objectives: This is an advanced survey on the intersection of the legal system and psychological science. It is also an opportunity for you to read original research, reflect upon it, and develop applications to contemporary legal issues. As an advanced course, it emphasizes all 3 of the Department's learning goals for students who are earning a degree with a major in psychological science. They can be found here: <https://www.uvm.edu/cas/psychology/learning-goals-ba-and-b-s-psychological-science>

Format: In addition to the textbook, other materials are available through the Brightspace online course-management system.

Online assignments and discussions: Format and further details are available on Brightspace. Expectations vary by assignment type. In general, you will make an initial posting and then, we will discuss them after the deadline during our class meetings. Full credit is awarded for clear evidence of careful thought, adherence to instructions (including expectations about each assignment's length) and attention to detail (grammar, punctuation, citation format). Late work is accepted only in extraordinary circumstances.

Journal-article summaries: Articles will be from the library's electronic collection and available in Brightspace. You will read a selection of articles. Also, you will be working in a group that will lead a workshop based on one of the articles. Assignment format and further information will be available on Brightspace.

Final project: As a culmination of the entire semester, we will conduct a mock "job fair." It will be held during the scheduled final-exam time, via Teams; participation is required and the time/day are on the schedule.

Evaluation: Most assignments are graded on a 0-100 scale and then converted into points.

Online assignments (about the text and other readings, each worth 2%):

2 lowest **assignment*** grades dropped 60%

Initial group project (article-based "workshop" and associated assignments) 20%

Final project (online job fair, at final-exam time, and associated assignments) 20%

*Note that there are usually multiple assignments on each deadline. Unless announced, consider all deadlines to be firm.

Grading scale is the usual: A's = 90%, B's = 80% and so on.

Class meetings: class meetings in person and via MS Teams. Some class meetings (and the final exam) are held via MS Teams. Because this is a discussion-format course, attendance is expected at every scheduled class day.

Academic conduct: Attempting to pass off somebody else's work as your own is *cheating*. It's easy. Lots of people do it, but I have a zero-tolerance policy. Consistent with the UVM code, the highest level of ethical behavior is expected. All cases of possible misconduct will be reported (and, in the past, have been). There will be no points given for the assignment where misconduct is suspected until the investigation is complete. Substantiated misconduct may result in a grade of *XF*. Details on Brightspace. If in doubt, *ask first*.

Course schedule is in an Excel-format table stored in MS Teams and available in Brightspace.