



North Central State College

MASTER SYLLABUS

2026-2027

- A. Academic Division: Liberal Arts
- B. Discipline: Psychology
- C. Course Number and Title: PSYC2170 Forensic Psychology
- D. Assistant Dean: Laura Irmer, MFA, MA
- E. Credit Hours: 3
- F. Prerequisite(s): PSYC1010
- G. Last Course/Curriculum Revision Date: Spring 2025 Origin date: 11/14/2011
- H. Textbook(s) Title:
Forensic and Legal Psychology
 - Authors: Costanzo & Krauss
 - Copyright Year: 2021
 - Edition: 4th
 - ISBN # E-book ISBN: 9781319352172 **OR**
 - Paperback Rental ISBN: 9781319244880
- I. Workbook(s) and/or Lab Manual: None
- J. Course Description: This course will examine the relationship between psychology and different components of the criminal justice system. An introduction to the field of forensic psychology will be provided and examination of some different types of criminal behavior will occur. Applications of psychological principles to the resolution of problems within the criminal justice field will also be explored.
- K. College-Wide Learning Outcomes:

College-Wide Learning Outcome	Assessments - - How it is met & When it is met
Communication – Written	
Communication – Speech	
Intercultural Knowledge and Competence	
Critical Thinking	Case evaluation(s) completed during the second half of the term.
Information Literacy	
Computation	

L. Course Outcomes and Assessment Methods:

Upon successful completion of this course, the student shall:

Outcomes	Assessments – How it is met & When it is met
1. Discuss and define forensic psychology.	Class activities, written assignments and exams – beginning of the term.
2. Analyze the relationship between psychology and the law.	Class activities, written assignments and exams – throughout the term.
3. Describe the different roles and responsibilities of forensic psychologists.	Class activities and exams – overview information at the start of the term, more specific roles and responsibilities during the second half of the term.
4. Evaluate selected techniques of criminal investigation and trial procedures linked to forensic psychology.	Class activities, written assignments and exams – weeks 2-8 of the term.
5. Explain the role of the forensic psychologist related to insanity and competency.	Class activities and exams – approximately halfway through the term.
6. Classify the concepts of dangerousness and risk assessment.	Class activities and exams – towards the end of the term.
7. Analyze selected psychological disorders in the current edition of the DSM	Class activities, written assignments and exams – throughout the term as applicable to case examples, especially at the end of the term.

M. Recommended Grading Scale:

NUMERIC	GRADE	POINTS	DEFINITION
93–100	A	4.00	Superior
90–92	A-	3.67	Superior
87–89	B+	3.33	Above Average
83–86	B	3.00	Above Average
80–82	B-	2.67	Above Average
77–79	C+	2.33	Average
73–76	C	2.00	Average
70–72	C-	1.67	Average
67–69	D+	1.33	Below Average
63–66	D	1.00	Below Average
60–62	D-	0.67	Below Average
00--59	F	0.00	Failure

N. College Procedures/Policies:

North Central State College believes that every student is a valued and equal member of the community.* Every student brings different experiences to the College, and all are important in enriching academic life and developing greater understanding and appreciation of one another. Therefore, NC State College creates an inclusive culture in which students feel comfortable sharing their experiences. Discrimination and prejudice have no place on the campus, and the College takes any complaint in this regard seriously. Students encountering aspects of the instruction that result in barriers to their sense of being included and respected should contact the instructor, assistant dean, or dean without fear of reprisal.

- *Inclusive of race, color, religion, gender, gender identity or expression, national origin (ancestry), military status (past, present or future), disability, age (40 years or older), status as a parent during pregnancy and immediately after the birth of a child, status as a parent of a young child, status as a foster parent, genetic information, or sexual orientation*

Important information regarding College Procedures and Policies can be found on the syllabus supplement located at

<https://ncstatecollege.edu/documents/President/PoliciesProcedures/PolicyManual/Final%20PDFs/14-081b.pdf>



North Central State College
SYLLABUS ADDENDUM

Academic Division:	Liberal Arts	Discipline:	Psychology
Course Coordinator:	Dr. Bill Kimberlin		
Course Number:	PSYYC-2170	Course Title:	Forensic Psychology
Semester / Session:	Fall 2026 / Session B	Start / End Date:	10/19/2026 Thru 12/11/2026

Instructor Information

Name:	Dr. Bill Kimberlin	Credentials:	B.S./M.A./Psy.D.
Phone Number:	NA	E-Mail Address:	wkimberlin@ncstatecollege.edu
Office Location:	Remote	Office Hours:	Zoom Meetings when Requested.

I. Topical Timeline / Course Calendar (Subject to Change):

Weeks	Topics	Assignment	Due Date
1	Course Overview Chapter 1 (Psychology and Law)	Course Orientation Work Introductory Assignments Chapter Assignments	10/19/26 10/20/26
2	Chapter 2: Lie Detection Chapter 3: Interrogations and Confessions	Chapter 2 Assignments Chapter 3 Assignments Chapter 3 DQ	10/21/26- 10/23/26
3	Chapter 3 (Continued) Chapter 5: Criminal Profiling and Psychological Autopsies	Chapter 3 Assignments cont. Chapter 5 Assignments Chapter 5 DQ Exam #1 (CH 1,2,3, & 5)	10/27/26 &10/29/26
4	Chapter 6: Eyewitness Identification and Testimony. Chapter 7: Child Sexual Abuse (Interviewing Children and Assessing Recovered Memories of Adults)	Chapter 6 Assignments Chapter 6 DQ Chapter 7 Assignments	11/03/26 &11/05/26
5	Chapter 8: Competency to Stand Trial Chapter 9: Plea Bargaining, Jury Selection, Trial Procedures.	Chapter 8 Assignments Chapter 9 Assignments Exam #2 (CH 6, 7, 8, & 9)	11/10/26 &11/13/26
6	Chapter 10: The Insanity Defense. Chapter 11: Intimate Partner Violence, P.T.S.D., Battered Women Syndrome Chapter 12: Juries and Judges as Decision Makers.	Midterm Self-Assessment Chapter 10 Assignments Chapter 11 Assignments Chapter 12 Assignments	11/17/26 &11/19/26

Weeks	Topics	Assignment	Due Date
7	Chapter 13: Child Custody Disputes. Chapter 14: Workplace Law; Harassment, Discrimination, and Fairness Chapter 15: Predicting Violent Behavior: The Psychology of Risk Assessments.	Chapter13 Assignments Exam #3 (CH 10, 11, 12, & 13) Chapter14 Assignments Chapter 15 Assignments	11/23/26 for Exam. 11/24/26 chapters
8	Chapter 16: Corrections: Sentencing, Imprisonment, and Alternatives. Chapter 17: The Death Penalty.	Chapter 16 Assignments Chapter 17 Assignments Exam #4 (CH 14, 15, 16, &17) Optional Extra Credit	12/01/26- 12/11/26

II. Grading and Testing Guidelines:

Final Grade Calculation

Activity	Qty	Points	Percentage
Course Assignments, Reflections, and Writing Assignments	24-28		50%
Discussion Questions/Discussion Board Posts (DQ)	4		20%
Exams	4		30%

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Outcomes Assessments – How it is met& When it is met

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