



North Central State College

MASTER SYLLABUS | **2025-2026**

A. Academic Division: Liberal Arts

B. Discipline: Psychology

C. Course Number and Title: PSYC2170 Forensic Psychology

D. Assistant Dean: Laura Irmer

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 | Below Average |
| 67–69 | D+ | 1.33 | Below Average |
| 63–66 | D | 1.00 | Below Average |
| 60–62 | D- | 0.67 | Poor |
| 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

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|---------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|
| Academic Division: | Liberal Arts | Discipline: | Psychology |
| Course Coordinator: | Michelle Slattery | | |
| Course Number: | PSYC 2170-920 | Course Title: | Forensic Psychology |
| Semester / Session: | Spring 2026 / Session A | Start / End Date: | 1/12/2026 thru 3/6/2026 |

Instructor Information:

| | | | |
|------------------|--|-----------------|--|
| Name: | Michelle Slattery | Credentials: | MA in Clinical Psychology, with an emphasis in Marriage and Family Therapy |
| Phone Number: | 419-755-5676 | E-Mail Address: | mslattery@ncstatecollege.edu |
| Office Location: | n/a – Contact me to coordinate an on campus meeting location or a Zoom meeting time. | Office Hours: | Mondays through Zoom from 11am-2pm (link will be posted in Canvas) OR Contact me to coordinate a day and time which works for you! |

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

| Week | Topics | Assignments | Due Dates |
|------|--|---|----------------------|
| 1 | Course Overview Chapter 1 (Psychology and Law: A Cautious Alliance) | Course Orientation Work Introductory Assignments Chapter 1 Assignments | 1/16/26 |
| 2 | Chapter 2 (Lie Detection) Chapter 3 (Interrogations & Confessions) | Chapter 1 Assignments con't Chapter 2 Assignments Chapter 3 Assignments Chapter 3 DQ | 1/20/26 & 1/23/26 |
| 3 | Chapter 3 continued Chapter 5 (Criminal Profiling and Psychological Autopsies) | Chapter 3 Assignments con't Chapter 5 Assignments Chapter 5 DQ Exam #1 (CH 1, 2, 3, & 5) | 1/27/26 & 1/30/26 |
| 4 | Chapter 6 (Eyewitness Identification and Testimony) Chapter 7 (Child Sexual Abuse: Interviewing Children and Assessing the Recovered Memories of Adults) | Chapter 6 Assignments Chapter 6 DQ Chapter 7 Assignments | 2/3/26 & 2/6/26 |
| 5 | Chapter 8 (Competency to Stand Trial) Chapter 9 (Plea Bargaining, Jury Selection, and Trial Procedure) | Chapter 8 Assignments Chapter 9 Assignments Exam #2 (CH 6, 7, 8, & 9) | 2/10/26 & 2/13/26 |
| 6 | Chapter 10 (The Insanity Defense) Chapter 11 (Intimate Partner Violence, Battered Woman Syndrome, Rape Trauma Syndrome, and Posttraumatic Stress Disorder) Chapter 12 (Juries and Judges as Decision Makers) | Midterm Self-Assessment Chapter 10 Assignments Chapter 11 Assignments Chapter 12 Assignments | 2/17/26 & 2/20/26 |
| 7 | Chapter 13 (Child Custody Disputes) Chapter 14 (Workplace Law: Harassment, Discrimination, and Fairness) Chapter 15 (Predicting Violent Behavior: The Psychology of Risk Assessment) | Chapter 13 Assignments Exam #3 (CH 10, 11, 12, & 13) Chapter 14 Assignments Chapter 15 Assignments | 2/24/26 & 2/27/26 |
| 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 | 3/3/26 & 3/6/26 |

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II. Grading and Testing Guidelines (Subject to Change):

- Course Readings and Videos**
- Course Assignments, Reflections, & Writing Assignments** - many course chapters have brief assignment(s) to assist students with understanding and applying course content
- Discussion Questions** - class or small group interactions to expand and discuss course material
- Exams** – course exams are used to assess students over content from 3-4 chapters

Course Grade Calculation Overview (Tentative and Subject to Change):

| Assignment Category: | Quantity | Percentage of Course Grade: |
|--|----------|-----------------------------|
| Course Assignments, Reflections, and Writing Assignments | 24-28 | 50% |
| Discussion Questions/Discussion Board Posts (DQs) | 4 | 18% |
| Exams | 4 | 32% |

Academic Integrity, Plagiarism, Cheating, and AI

Many tools and resources exist to help and support students in their academic careers. Your course instructor has included resources to help with your learning and engagement with course content. While it may be beneficial for students to obtain additional information on course content beyond those provided in the course or by North Central State College, **when it comes to submitted coursework and assignments, students are held to and expected to adhere to NCSC Institutional policies and procedures, including the Academic Integrity (Plagiarism, Cheating, and AI) Policy**. Here is a link to the entire policy:

<https://ncstatecollege.edu/documents/President/PoliciesProcedures/PolicyManual/Final%20PDFs/14-65.pdf>

- As noted in this policy:
The student's work should be the product of the student's own efforts, unless the student clearly indicates otherwise (for example through citations and references). Students should clarify any questions on proper citation with faculty. Academic honesty is an important element of mature, responsible learning. (North Central State College, 2023, 3357:13-14-65 Academic Integrity (Plagiarism, Cheating, and AI) Policy)
- **Thus, all coursework and assignments submitted are to be the student's own work and effort. Any questions about coursework should be directed to your course instructor.** Violations of this policy are handled through the Academic Integrity Procedure which can be found here:
<https://ncstatecollege.edu/documents/President/PoliciesProcedures/PolicyManual/Final%20PDFs/14-651.pdf>

1. Course Assignments, Reflections, and Papers

- Several chapter assignments/activities will be completed in this course. Some of these assignments will be brief reflection/reaction type of writing and others will be more formal paper assignments.
- Details and specific assignment information is located in Canvas.
- Late course assignments are accepted with 10% per day late deductions.
- Proofread and spell-check all assignments!** Make certain to use proper grammar, spelling and punctuation.
- Reviewing instructor feedback and comments on written assignments is a strong key for success in this class! Feedback can help you improve your future coursework.**

2. Discussion Questions/Discussion Board Posts (DQs)

- a. There are TWO due dates associated with discussion questions: ONE due date for your initial post to the topic and ONE due date for your response posts to initial posts made by others.
- b. **Because of the interactive nature of discussion boards, late discussion board posts are deducted by 3 points. This deduction applies to BOTH initial posts and response posts. So, if an initial post is late and response posts are late, 6 points will be deducted from your DQ point score.**
- c. There is no required length for discussion board posts, although make certain that you **thoroughly** and **thoughtfully** respond to any question or topic presented.
- d. Initial posts to the discussion prompt need to include a source citation (refer to the rubric for more information).
- e. Students are expected to RESPOND to a minimum of TWO initial posts made by classmates for each discussion topic.
- f. Refer to the discussion board information and rubric posted in Canvas.

3. Exams

- a. Four exams are assigned throughout the term.
- b. Each exam covers 4 chapters and **corresponding module information** for those chapters.
- c. Exams are comprised of multiple choice and short answer questions.
- d. **PRIOR arrangements need to be made with the instructor if a student wants to complete the exam after the exam due date noted in the course. Students who do not proactively correspond with the instructor about alternate exam arrangements will be subject to a 20% exam score deductions.**

IV. Examination Policy:

1. All exams must be completed by the assigned due date and time. **PRIOR arrangements need to be made with the instructor if a student wants to complete the exam after the exam due date noted in the course. Students who do not proactively correspond with the instructor about alternate exam arrangements will be subject to a 20% exam score deduction.**
2. Exams are open book/open note. **Exams are timed, so you should be familiar with the chapters PRIOR to starting your exam.**
 - a. Once you begin an exam, you MUST complete the exam.

V. Class Attendance and Homework Make-Up Policy:

1. Students are required to make posts to discussion boards, complete module assignments, take module quizzes, or course exams, and submit other course assignments by indicated due dates (refer to the Course Calendar), serving as a means of monitoring who is actively “attending” class. Students who do not log into the course and submit the required assignments on a regular basis may be reported for non-attendance.

Late Assignment Point Deductions:

- **Exams** – 20% grade deduction unless prior arrangements are made with the instructor
- **Discussion Questions/ Discussion Board Posts (DQs)** – 3 points deducted for late submissions (this applies to Initial Posts and Response Posts separately, as there are TWO due dates noted for all discussion questions).
- **Course Assignments, Reflections, and Papers** – 10% per day late

VI. Classroom Expectations:

All students are expected to demonstrate professional behavior and use language appropriate for the classroom learning experience. Behavior in the classroom (this includes online classroom formats) should convey respect for your classmates and the instructor; and foster an atmosphere conducive to learning.

1. Online Course Conduct: Netiquette, Emoticons and Conveying Feelings in an Online Environment

In face-to-face conversations, social signals, facial expression, and body language suggest how participants feel about a topic and discussion. Online course participants generally do not have the luxury of seeing or hearing their classmates directly. Others may interpret your messages and discussion posts differently due to the lack of in-person, face-to-face communication. As a result, online communities have developed tools to assist members in sharing their facial expressions, emotional reactions and other feelings. Please note that many of these techniques may be used in the Canvas Discussion Boards and with Email and Message tools.

2. Use proper grammar and spelling in your discussion posts, emails, messages and papers.

- a. You should write in complete sentences, capitalize the first word of every sentence, and utilize proper punctuation. For instance, the word “I” is always capitalized, so don’t just type “i”.
b. Note: Canvas has spell check in the Discussion Board to assist with these components.

3. Things you should NOT do in this online classroom:

- a. It is not acceptable to use slang (e.g. “sup” or “yo”)
- b. Omit all profanity from your online course interactions. Similarly, do not use symbols to represent expletives (*%\$!*)
- c. No texting abbreviations - use complete and standard spelling:

Examples: type out “you” NOT u
“are” NOT r
Use “to”, “two”, or “too” NOT 2
“later” NOT L8r
type out “in my opinion” NOT IMO