SPRING, 2025

John Jay College of Criminal Justice
City University of New York

Psychology 476.01
Seminar in the Psychological
Analysis of Criminal Behavior
and the Criminal Justice System

Monday 10:50-1:30 (double period)

Louis B. Schlesinger, Ph.D.
Ext. 8779 Room 10.63.07
(973) 762-6431 (212) 237-8779
LSchlesinger@jjay.cuny.edu
LBSchlesinger@AOL.com
Office hrs: Monday 2:15-3:15
and by appointment

Course Description and Objectives: The objective of this advanced seminar is to analyze criminal behavior and various problems confronting the criminal justice system from a psychological perspective. The topics to be covered will include the relationship between law and psychology, forensic assessment and issues in the law-psychology interface, criminal behavior and criminal law, psychopathology and psychodynamics of crime, sex offenses, stalking syndromes, juvenile offenders, and civil law issues that confront forensic psychologists.

Course requirements and grading criteria: Since this is a capstone course, you must have pre or co-requisites. Regular attendance is required. Three absences will result in a lower grade, and four absences are grounds for failing the course. Tape recording is prohibited. There will be a mid-term and final examination covering classroom lectures and discussions and reading assignments. One term paper (APA style) will be assigned, using a case study format, the details to be discussed in class. Do not use AI in preparing your term paper. You will be required to make an oral report to the class on your term paper, the details will be discussed in class. The final grade will be determined primarily by averaging the mid term (25%) and term paper (25%) with the final (50%). Borderline grades will be influenced by class participation, which is strongly encouraged. I will follow CUNY guidelines regarding Inc grades.

Textbooks and Readings (Not required to purchase; 2 hard copies on reserve in library; also an e book as well through library).

Schlesinger, L.B. (2007) (Ed.). Explorations in criminal psychopathology: Clinical syndromes with forensic implications (2nd Ed.). Springfield, IL: Charles C. Thomas.
ISBN 13-978-0-398-07688-7

Readings (on reserve in library, password is forensic)

Schlesinger, L.B. (2005). Forensic Psychology. In S.N. James & J.J. Nordby (Eds.). Forensic Science: An introduction to scientific and investigative techniques (pp. 573-592). Boca Raton, FL: CRC Press.

Schlesinger, L.B. (2004). Classification of antisocial behavior for prognostic purposes: Study the motivation, not the crime. Journal of Psychiatry and Law, 32, 191-219.

Schlesinger, L.B. (2018). Psychopathic personality: Concept, disorder, diagnosis. In R.N. Kocsis (Ed.). Applied criminal psychology: A guide to forensic behavioral science (2nd ed.). (pp 49-67). Springfield, IL: Charles C. Thomas.

DSM-5-TR (2022). Cultural formulation, pp. 749-759.

Supplemental texts (not required to purchase--copies will be available at the library, for your reference).

Schlesinger, L.B. (2021). Sexual murder: Catathymic and compulsive homicides (2nd Ed). Boca Raton, FL: CRC Press.

Schlesinger, L.B. & Revitch, E. (1997). Sexual dynamics of antisocial behavior 2nd Ed.). Springfield, IL: Charles C. Thomas.

Specific Learning Objectives

This course serves as a capstone for Forensic Psychology majors.

1. Students should be able to apply forensic psychology concepts and psychological theory to criminal behavior and the criminal justice system.

2. Students should be able to differentiate between forensic clinical psychology practice and general clinical psychology practice.

3. Students should be familiar with the psychological and legal components of a number of commonly requested forensic psychological evaluations of criminal behavior.

4. Students should understand how professional psychologists conduct psychological evaluations of criminal behavior for the courts.

5. Students should be able to demonstrate effective written communication skills.

6. Students should be able to discuss how professional psychologists provide expert psychological testimony for the courts.

7. Students should be able to apply critical thinking skills to the course materials, such as the impact of cultural stereotypes on assessments or consideration of measurement use and abuse.

Extra Credit

Students may earn extra credit by attending a lecture on the topic of forensic psychology. The student simply needs to get the lecture pre-approved by the professor and get the flyer or announcement of the lecture signed by the speaker.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Policies

Students with disabilities will be provided reasonable academic accommodations if determined eligible by the office of Accessibility Services (OAS). Students must initiate contact with the OAS and follow their procedures.

Cultural Formulation: Diversity, Equity, Inclusion

Understanding the cultural context (including race, religion, ethnicity, sexual orientation) of various disorders and behaviors is extremely important and will be covered as it relates to forensic practice. Please refer to pages 859-879 in the DSM-5 TR (2022) for a discussion of these issues. A copy is on reserve.

This class supports a learning environment which includes diversity of thought, perspectives, identities and experiences. CUNY prohibits harassment of any individual, or posting any material that is scandalous, libelous, offensive or otherwise against University policies. Please see CUNY policy of Notice of Non-discrimination, Policy on Sexual Misconduct, and Procedures for Implementing Reasonable Accommodations and Academic Adjustments. If a student has any concern, please discuss with the instructor, program director or the college's Chief Diversity Officer.

Academic Honesty

John Jay College of Criminal Justice is committed to the highest standards of academic honesty. Acts of academic dishonesty include--but are not limited to--plagiarism, cheating, bribery, academic fraud, sabotage of research materials, the sale of academic papers, the falsification of records, etc. An individual who engages in these or related activities or knowingly aids another who engages in them, is acting in an academically dishonest manner and will be subject to disciplinary action in accordance with the bylaws and procedures of the City University of New York. Full credit must be given to any and all sources that have contributed to the formulation of ideas, methods, interpretations, and findings. Plagiarism may be intentional or unintentional. Lack of dishonest intent does not necessarily absolve a student of responsibility for plagiarism. It is the student's responsibility to recognize the difference between statements that are common knowledge (which do not require documentation) and restatements of the ideas of others. Paraphrase, summary, and direct quotation are acceptable forms of restatements, as long as the source is cited. Care must be taken to document the source of any ideas or arguments (from the Graduate Center Student handbook, 05-06 pp. 35-37). For additional information regarding academic honesty and dishonesty, please refer to the John Jay and CUNY websites (http://www.jjay.cuny.edu/academics/654.php).

Letters of Recommendation

I will be happy to provide a letter of recommendation. However, remember a letter that has impact should be able to reflect more than the student took the course and received a good grade, as this is obvious from the student's transcript.

Course Schedule

MONDAY Jan 27	Introduction. Philosophical differences between law and science (goals, values, approaches, methods); fundamentals of the CJS; criminal law/civil law; psychological findings and legal evidence; psychological research as legal evidence; legal research for the psychologist. (read Schlesinger, 2005).
Feb 3	Forensic assessment. Evaluation of the criminal defendant; clinical v forensic approach in the analysis of behavior; malingering, amnesia, simulation, dissimulation, Ganser Syndrome, psueudomalingering, psychological testing, criminal psychopathology and criminal dynamics (chapters 11, 15; DSM-5 Cultural formulation, pp 749-759).
Feb 10	Criminal behavior and criminal law. Major mental disorders; schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, the delusional disorders, organic disorders.(chapters 4, 12).
Tue Feb 18	Criminal behavior and criminal law (continued). Personality disorders: psychopathic, sociopathic, antisocial, narcissistic, manipulative, borderline, multiple personality disorders; impulse control disorders, factitious disorders, substance abuse, pathological gambling. (chapters 2, 3, 13, 14; Schlesinger, 2018).
Feb 24	Psychopathology of homicide; mental state at time of offense The motivational spectrum in the classification of crime; socially determined, situational, impulsive, catathymic, compulsive offenses; Sexual, serial and mass murder. (read Chapter 1).
Mar 3	The paraphilias and sex offender
Mar 10	**MID TERM**
Mar 17	Sex crimes and sexual psychopath laws, issues of prediction, treatment, rehabilitation. (read chapter 5).

Mar 24 FILM: Sadistic v non-sadistic sex offenses.

April 7 Stalking syndromes and stalking laws. (chapters 7, 9).

April 21 Civil law issues, including civil cases that develop from criminal cases. Civil commitment, civil competencies; workers compensation, PTSD.

April 28 **TERM PAPERS DUE**

May 5 Workers compensation/malingering and fraud.

May 12 Juvenile offenders and the JJS/CJS. History, statutory offenses, waiver hearing, child abuse, child custody.

Emerging roles for the forensic psychologist. Consultation to non-forensic mental health professionals and consultation to law enforcement. Knowledge of criminal psychopathology, criminal psychodynamics; psychological profiling.

FINAL EXAM: ON SCHEDULED DATE AND TIME