PSY 457: CRIMINAL BEHAVIOR * SYLLABUS CSUCI 2011 SPRING

“Reason obeys itself; and ignorance submits to whatever is dictated to it.”
Thomas Paine

Mondays: 7:00pm to 9:50pm CLASSROOM: MANZANITA 1142

General Information
Instructor: Claudio A. Selamé, Ph.D
Office Hours: Professional Building 1129 – MONDAYS 2:45 to 3:45 PM by Appointment
Phone: 805-487-8945
E-mail: Claudio.selame@csuci.edu
Guest Speakers: To be announced

Course Objectives
Through satisfactory completion of this course students should be able to:
Describe the causes of crime from the major psychological perspectives (e.g. cognitive-behavioral, social-learning, psychodynamic, etc.);
Classify types of crime and criminals according to psychological & criminological theory and research;
Describe the major tenets of sociological and environmental theories of crime;
Describe the major tenets of individually oriented and integrated theories of crime;
Describe the major tenets of biological, genetic and developmental theories of crime;
Analyze the reasons people become criminals and determine which theories best account for different kinds of criminal behavior;
Describe the major activities of forensic psychologists in the criminal justice system;
Discuss the relative effectiveness of various types of treatment for criminal behavior;
Discuss the contributions of various assessment techniques used in forensic psychology.

Assigned Readings
Text: Psychology and the Legal System, 6th Edition, by Wrightsman, Greene, Nietzel & Fortune. I suggest that you read the whole text because it compliments and supplements what we will be covering in class. In addition to the text, there might be other assigned readings that you will be tested on. I will also be providing handouts in class from time to time and you could be tested on those as well.
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REQUIREMENTS:

I. Character Study and Case Presentation:
   Each student will prepare a seven to ten-page character study of a famous or not so famous criminal case and will include the following chapters and content:
   1] How did you become interested in the case?
      Provide a summary of the case with all its pertinent details.
   2] The general development of case and its implications and consequences both legally and psychologically.
   3] Psychological theories and facts pertinent to the case or person (s) involved. How those facts match or explain the behavior whether it was considered criminal or not?
   4] Conclusion. You personal reflections and opinions based on the information presented and in your own experiences, training and ideas.

       Class Presentation: each student will present to the class their own study.
       TOTAL THIS SECTION: 15% of the grade. This section graded as a unit.

II. Professionalism/Participation/Attendance.
    15 attendance sessions: 1 point each=15 points
    TOTAL THIS SECTION: 15 POINTS= 15 % OF GRADE

While there is some overlap between material presented in the readings and lectures, lecture topics are not necessarily covered in the reading assignments. Each student should attend every class, be up to date on the readings, and actively participate in discussion.

III. Mock Trial. This project will serve as our midterm exam. It will be explained later during the course.
    TOTAL THIS SECTION: 15% of grade

IV. Chapter Quizzes:
    TOTAL THIS SECTION: 55% of the grade
    Beginning week two there will be an EXAM due covering material from previous chapter reading assignment. Each session exam will be available on Blackboard after 8:50 PM the same day of the lecture. Each student must take 15 quizzes given during the course. Read at least one book chapter per week, preferably before class. Sometimes we might not be able to discuss every chapter topic during class. There are over 450 topics to be covered in this class. However, every chapter topic is material that can be included in a quiz. Please make sure the connection is firm preferably on Campus. Study and prepare before each test.
GRADING: Exams/Assignments
Chapter Quizzes: 55%
Character Study Final Paper: 15%
Professionalism/ Participation /Attendance: 15%
Mock Trial: 15%
Total: 100%

Course grades will be assigned as follows:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>90-100</td>
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<td>B</td>
<td>80-89</td>
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<td>C</td>
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<td>D</td>
<td>60-69</td>
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<td>E</td>
<td>0-59</td>
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EXCELLENT  VERY GOOD  GOOD  ADEQUATE  INADEQUATE

- Students with Learning Disabilities
Students with disabilities that interfere with learning and who need accommodation should make requests to Kristen Brooks, Disability Accommodation Services, East Bell Tower, Room 1796 (805-437-8510) or Accommodations@csuci.edu. Please discuss approved accommodations with me. Let me know two weeks before any tests if you will be taking the test with special accommodations and bring me the necessary paperwork.

- Academic Honesty
Academic dishonesty includes such things as cheating, inventing false information or citations, plagiarism and/or helping another student commit such dishonest acts. It usually involves an attempt by a student to show possession of a level of knowledge or skill that he/she does not possess. As your course instructor I have the initial responsibility for dealing with academic dishonesty in this class if I suspect it has occurred.

Assuming reasonable evidence that a student has been academically dishonest in this class I will discuss this with the student first, if possible. Be advised that if I become convinced that a student is guilty of academic dishonesty there will be an appropriate academic penalty which could include failure of the course. In addition, I will file a report with the Vice President for Academic Affairs about the student. I strongly suggest that all students make themselves familiar with the University’s Policy Statement regarding Academic Dishonesty. If in doubt, ask me. Don’t take unnecessary risks.
**Schedule**
What follows is an approximation only. It is subject to change as we work our way through the semester.

*Course Program*

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>TOPIC</th>
<th>ASSIGNMENT</th>
<th>DUE**</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WEEK 1</td>
<td>01/24/11   Impossible Choices</td>
<td>Wrightsman 1</td>
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<td>WEEK 2</td>
<td>01/31/11   Legal &amp; Players</td>
<td>Wrightsman 2</td>
<td>Q 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>WEEK 3</td>
<td>02/07/11   Psychology Crime</td>
<td>Wrightsman 3</td>
<td>Q 2</td>
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<td>WEEK 4</td>
<td>02/14/11   Psychology police</td>
<td>Wrightsman 4</td>
<td>Q 3</td>
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<td>WEEK 5</td>
<td>02/21/11   Witnesses</td>
<td>Wrightsman 5</td>
<td>Q 4</td>
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<td>WEEK 6</td>
<td>02/28/11   Identification</td>
<td>Wrightsman 6</td>
<td>Q 5</td>
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<td>WEEK 7</td>
<td>03/07/11   In Between</td>
<td>Wrightsman 7</td>
<td>Q 6 SPs Begin</td>
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<td>WEEK 8</td>
<td>03/14/11   Forensics</td>
<td>Wrightsman 8</td>
<td>Q 7</td>
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<td>WEEK 9</td>
<td>03/21/11   Forensic Civil</td>
<td>Wrightsman 9</td>
<td>Q 8 No Class</td>
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<tr>
<td>WEEK 10</td>
<td>03/28/11   Trial</td>
<td>Wrightsman 10</td>
<td>Q 9</td>
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<td>WEEK 11</td>
<td>04/04/11   Jury Trial I</td>
<td>Wrightsman11</td>
<td>Q 10</td>
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<td>WEEK 12</td>
<td>04/11/11   Jury Trial II</td>
<td>Wrightsman12</td>
<td>Q 11 MTP</td>
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<td>WEEK 13</td>
<td>04/18/11   Victims</td>
<td>Wrightsman 13</td>
<td>Q 12</td>
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<td>WEEK 14</td>
<td>04/25/11   Children &amp; Law</td>
<td>Wrightsman 14</td>
<td>Q 13</td>
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<td>WEEK 15</td>
<td>05/02/11   Punishment</td>
<td>Wrightsman 15</td>
<td>Q 14,</td>
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<td>WEEK 16</td>
<td>05/09/11   Student Presentations</td>
<td>Q 15</td>
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<td>05/16/11</td>
<td>Finals Week</td>
<td>All Papers Due at Midnight</td>
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All written assignments must be typed using APA format with full notations. Please see me if you are not familiar with APA format. If you have a serious problem meeting a deadline or taking a quiz, contact me as soon as possible.

**SPs=Student Presentations; MTP=Mock Trial Project; Paper= character study paper**