Instructor: Kristin A. Bullwinkel  
Email: KBullwinkel@wilsonorcutt.com  
Office: 201 Great Road, Acton, MA 01720  
Office Hours: Call or email for time to speak or meet  
Telephone: 508-254-1422  
Schedule (class times and day(s)): Mondays – 6:15 p.m. – 9:15 p.m.  
Room: Stokes Hall 111S  

Boston College Mission Statement  

Strengthened by more than a century and a half of dedication to academic excellence, Boston College commits itself to the highest standards of teaching and research in undergraduate, graduate and professional programs and to the pursuit of a just society through its own accomplishments, the work of its faculty and staff, and the achievements of its graduates. It seeks both to advance its place among the nation's finest universities and to bring to the company of its distinguished peers and to contemporary society the richness of the Catholic intellectual ideal of a mutually illuminating relationship between religious faith and free intellectual inquiry.  

Boston College draws inspiration for its academic societal mission from its distinctive religious tradition. As a Catholic and Jesuit university, it is rooted in a world view that encounters God in all creation and through all human activity, especially in the search for truth in every discipline, in the desire to learn, and in the call to live justly together. In this spirit, the University regards the contribution of different religious traditions and value systems as essential to the fullness of its intellectual life and to the continuous development of its distinctive intellectual heritage.  

Course Description  

Understanding the relationship between law and psychology in the U.S. in integral to both disciplines. Both the law and psychology affect, and are affected by each other as well as other disciplines. The relationship has been and continues to be an evolutionary one. This course shall explore the law-psychology relationship through readings and cases. Complex issues with no easy solutions will challenge students. Just some of the topics to be covered will be jury selection and psychology, expert witnesses, eyewitnesses, and the use of scientific evidence.  

Course Objectives  

This course is designed to provide students with a basic knowledge of the legal and psychological approaches to human behavior and how they interact, to learn to analyze and critically evaluate ideas, arguments and points of view. Students will demonstrate knowledge gained across cultural settings and will learn the impact of culture, gender, and age in the law and its relation to psychology as demonstrated by how different aspects of the law are applied to different individuals.
Grading

The course will consist of a midterm and a final examination. Each examination consists of true/false, multiple choice, short answer and essay questions. All material covered in class (which may or may not be covered in written materials), material in the text and handouts will be covered in each examination.

Class participation may assist the final grade or in the event of a lack of participation, adversely affect the grade. Therefore, to accomplish a better grade, attendance is required.

Extra Credit Paper – Current Events Analysis - Find a current event article in newspaper or news magazine that relates to the concepts, research, and/or ideas from the field of psychology and law. Prepare a written summary of the news item, including a description of relevant “psycholegal” issues from the course, textbook, and/or lectures. Turn in a copy of the dated and referenced news article stapled to each written summary. Most important is how you connect the news article to concepts and issues covered in the course and/or textbook.

WCAS Grading System

The undergraduate grading system consists of twelve categories: A (4.00), A- (3.67), excellent; B+ (3.33), B (3.00), B- (2.67), good; C+ (2.33), C (2.00), C- (1.67), satisfactory; D+ (1.33), D (1.00), D- (.67), passing but unsatisfactory; F (.00), failure; I (.00), incomplete; F (.00), course dropped without notifying office; W (.00), official withdrawal from course. The graduate grading system is A (4.00), A- (3.67), Excellent; B+ (3.33), B (3.00), good; B- (2.67), C (2.00), passing but not for degree credit; F (.00), failure.

Grade Reports. All students are required to log into the web through Agora to access their semester grades. Students must utilize their BC username and password to log on. If your username or password is not known the HELP Desk located in the Campus Technology Resource Center (CTRC) in O’Neill Library will issue a new one. The CTRC requires a valid picture ID (a BC ID, driver’s license or passport) to obtain your password.

Text(s)/Readings (Required)

The required text for this class is Wrightsman’s Psychology and the Legal System, by Greene and Heilburn, Eighth Edition. It is available for purchase at the bookstore. Students should read the required chapter prior to attending class and be prepared to participate in class. In addition to the required text, from time to time handouts will be distributed. Handouts will consist of recent case law and/or discussion pertinent to the topic being examined at the time. At the end of each chapter of the text, and from time to time on handouts, are Questions and Case Problems. Students should be prepared to discuss this portion of the chapter as well.

If you have an interest in a current or past event or issue related to the legal system, please feel free to bring the particular issue forward and we will discuss same.
Text(s)/Readings (Recommended)

Throughout the semester, cases may be provided to the students for review and discussion.

Important Policies
http://www.bc.edu/content/bc/schools/advsudies/guide/academicinteg.html

Written Work
Graduate and undergraduate students are expected to prepare professional, polished written work. Written materials must be typed in the format required by your instructor. Strive for a thorough, yet concise style. Cite literature appropriately, using APA, MLA, CLA format per instructors decision. Develop your thoughts fully, clearly, logically and specifically. Proofread all materials to ensure the use of proper grammar, punctuation, and spelling. You are encouraged to make use of campus resources for refining writing skills as needed [http://www.bc.edu/libraries/help/tutoring.html].

Scholarship and Academic Integrity
It is expected that students will produce original work and cite references appropriately. Failure to reference properly is plagiarism. Scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not necessarily limited to, plagiarism, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, cheating on examinations or assignments, and submitting the same paper or substantially similar papers to meet the requirements of more than one course without seeking permission of all instructors concerned. Scholastic misconduct may also involve, but is not necessarily limited to, acts that violate the rights of other students, such as depriving another student of course materials or interfering with another student’s work.

Request for Accommodations
If you have a disability and will be requesting accommodations for this course, please register with either Dr. Kathy Duggan (dugganka@bc.edu), Associate Director, Connors Family Learning Center (learning disabilities or AHD) or Dean Paulette Durrett, (paulette.durrett@bc.edu), Assistant Dean for students with disabilities, (all other disabilities). Advance notice and appropriate documentation are required for accommodations. http://www.bc.edu/content/bc/libraries/help/tutoring/specialservices.html.

Attendance
Class attendance is an important component of learning. Students are expected to attend all classes and to arrive by the beginning of and remain for the entire class period. When an occasion occurs that prevents a student from attending class, it is the student’s obligation to inform the instructor of the conflict before the class meets. The student is still expected to meet all assignment deadlines. If a student knows that he or she will be absent on a particular day, the student is responsible for seeing the instructor beforehand to obtain the assignments for that day. If a student misses a class, he or she is responsible for making up the work by obtaining a classmate’s notes and handouts and turning in any assignments due. Furthermore, many instructors give points for participation in class. If you miss class, you cannot make up participation points associated with that class. Types of absences that are not typically excused include weddings, showers, vacations, birthday parties, graduations, etc. Additional assignments,
penalties and correctives are at the discretion of the instructor. If circumstances necessitate excessive absence from class, the student should consider withdrawing from the class. In all cases, students are expected to accept the decision of the instructor regarding attendance policies specific to the class.

Consistent with our commitment of creating an academic community that is respectful of and welcoming to persons of differing backgrounds, we believe that every reasonable effort should be made to allow members of the university community to observe their religious holidays without jeopardizing the fulfillment of their academic obligations. It is the responsibility of students to review course syllabi as soon as they are distributed and to consult the faculty member promptly regarding any possible conflicts with observed religious holidays. If asked, the student should provide accurate information about the obligations entailed in the observance of that particular holiday. However, it is the responsibility of the student to complete any and all class requirements for days that are missed due to conflicts due to religious holidays.

There may be circumstances that necessitate a departure from this policy. Feel free to contact the WCAS at 617-552-3900 for consultation.

**Deadlines**
Assignments are due at the beginning of the class period on the specified dates. Late assignments will be graded accordingly.

**Course Assignments (readings, exercises and/or experiences)**
In addition to the schedule and chapters listed below, students will receive articles and cases from time to time to read and outline to prepare for the next class. Some of the topics to be covered include jury behavior, behavior of lawyers, eyewitness testimony, insanity plea, expert witnesses, marriage, divorce, custody, criminal profiles and negotiation. It is suggested that there is about two hours of preparation time between classes.

The course schedule is presently planned as follows:

**August 31, 2015** – Week 1 – Welcome! Initial discussion of how course is designed, discussion will be based upon Chapter 1.

**September 1, 2015** – LABOR DAY - NO CLASS.

**September 14, 2015** - Week 2 – Continue with Chapter 1. Overview of the legal system. Discussion will be based upon Chapter 2 and a general discussion of criminal law.

**September 21, 2015** - Week 3 – Class will focus on Chapter 3 of the text and handouts.

**September 28, 2015** - Week 4 – Class will discuss the role of police in our society and crime investigation. Focus on Chapter 4 and Chapter 5 of text.

---

1 Depending on class discussions and timing, the order and timing of the topics covered may extend into class times either before or after the stated date.

October 13, 2015 – TUESDAY NIGHT CLASS - Week 6 – The investigation and evaluation of crime will be discussed. Witnesses and suspects. Victims of crime – what happens psychologically after a crime has been committed upon a person? How does being a “victim” of crime affect different types of people? Focus on Chapters 6 and 7 of text.

October 19, 2015 – Week 7 – MIDTERM EXAMINATION2


November 2, 2015 – Week 9 – Forensic assessment in criminal cases. Please be prepared to discuss chapters 9 and 10 of the text.

November 9, 2015 – Week 10 – Forensic Assessment in civil cases and the role of psychology in our judicial system will be the focus. What happens in a trial – is there a place for psychology in the law? Chapters 11 and 12 will be examined.


**Extra Credit Current Analysis Due no later than beginning of class
NOVEMBER 23, 2015**


November 30, 2015 – Week 13 – Adult v. Juvenile crimes and treatment – should there be a difference – why or why not? Please be prepared to discuss Chapters 14 and 15 of the text.

December 7, 2015 – Week 14 - Last class. Material covered in this class is not covered in the text and/or handouts and will be on the final examination. Please bring your questions for the final exam.

December 14, 2015 – Week 14 – FINAL EXAMINATION

---

2 Examinations may be reviewed, but may not be provided to students, unless and/or until all students have completed the examination.