DEREE COLLEGE SYLLABUS FOR:

PS 4249 FORENSIC PSYCHOLOGY-LEVEL 6                                           3/0/3
(Revised Spring 2015)                                 UK CREDITS: 15

PREREQUISITES:                                         PS 3018 Research methods in Psychology-Level 5
                                                      PS 3032 Testing and Assessment-Level 5

CATALOG DESCRIPTION:                                  A systematic examination of the applications of psychology to
                                                      legal issues including criminal profiling, insanity defence,
                                                      competency to stand trial, commitment to and release from
                                                      mental institutions, jury selection, eyewitness testimony,
                                                      expert witness testimony as well as child custody disputes.

RATIONALE: This course is expected to serve as a resource for students in
                                                      their effort to attain a more in-depth understanding of how
                                                      psychological expertise can be applied to problems faced by
                                                      judges, attorneys, police officials, and, in general, anyone
                                                      who must deal with issues related to justice. Designed primarily
                                                      (but not exclusively) for psychology majors, the course
                                                      examines the psychologist’s role in a number of processes
                                                      related to civil, criminal, or administrative justice.

LEARNING OUTCOMES: As a result of taking this course, the student should be able to:

1. Define the areas of testimony and expertise of forensic psychologists
2. Critically discuss controversial professional matters such as certification and licensing of forensic experts.
3. Discuss the basic issues pertaining to the commitment to and release from mental institutions, insanity
   defence, competency to stand trial, jury selection, and expert witness testimony
4. Critically evaluate and analyse the methodology and application of criminal profiling
5. Understand and evaluate custody disputes where the doctrine of “the best interests of the child” is being applied
6. Compare the psychological profiles of victims and violators
7. Compare and analyse the differences between children and adults as eyewitnesses.
8. Synthesize their knowledge of legal doctrines and psychopathology to discuss the legal rights of offenders
   who present some type of psychopathology

METHOD OF TEACHING AND LEARNING: In congruence with teaching and learning strategy of the
                                              college, the following tools are used:
                                              ➢ Classes consist of lectures, discussions, in-class activities, and case study discussions.
Office hours
Use of Blackboard site

**ASSESSMENT:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>In-class practical exercises - formative</th>
<th>0%</th>
<th>Review, analysis and discussion of case studies</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Case analysis and preparation of Amicus Brief (approximately 3,000 words) - summative</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>Describe a legal case and synthesize evidence to defend a particular party with convincing arguments.</td>
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<tr>
<td>In-class final examination (2 hours, comprehensive) - summative</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>Essay questions (choice: 3 out of 5)</td>
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The formative assessment relates to learning outcomes 1, 4-7
The case analysis assesses learning outcomes 3, 6, 7, 8
The final exam assesses learning outcomes 1-5

**READING LIST:**

1. **Required Material**

2. **Further Reading:** Readings to supplement the basic material covered in the textbook.


**RECOMMENDED MATERIAL:**

Law and Human Behavior
WWW RESOURCES:

American Psychological Association
www.apa.org

APA, Division on Psychology & Law
www.unl.edu/ap-ls

British Psychological Association
www.bps.org

National Institute of Mental Health
www.nimh.nih.gov

World Health Organization
www.who.int

American Academy of Forensic Psychology
www.aafp.ws

American Board of Forensic Psychology
www.abfp.com

INDICATIVE CONTENT:

1. The Science of Forensic Psychology
2. Correctional psychology and the Police
3. Commitment to and Release from Mental Institutions
4. The Insanity Plea
5. Competency to Stand Trial
6. Children and Adults as Eyewitnesses
8. The Role of Psychology in Domestic Disputes
9. Criminal Profiling
10. Psychopathology and Crime
11. Discrimination