Forensic Psychology ~ Online/Livestream
Dr. Middlebrook
Stephen F. Austin State University
Hybrid – Livestream / Online [Monday or Wednesday, 1:00 – 2:15 PM]
Robert T McKibben Education Building

Assistant Professor: Sylvia Middlebrook, Ph.D., BCBA-D
Office: McKibben 215E
Office Hours: MT 3:00 – 5:00 pm; R 12:00 – 1:00 pm; Zoom (optional, or by appt.)
Phone: (936) 468-4402 Psychology Dept. main number
Email: middlebrs@d2l.sfasu.edu
Graduate/Teaching Assistant: Jackie Charles – charlesjj@d2l.sfasu.edu
Monique Jones – jonesms6@d2L.sfasu.edu


*Supplemental readings throughout the semester – provided online.

Course Description: This course addresses the research and application of psychological knowledge to various areas of forensic psychology. Principles and concepts relevant to psychology and the legal system, as well as cognitive, biological, psychological, and social factors, are explored. Topics may include, but are not limited to: roles and responsibilities of forensic psychologists, aggression and violent crime, mass murders and serial killers, the psychology of terrorism, cults, eyewitness testimony and accuracy, false confessions, competency to stand trial, sanity and the insanity plea, juries and the courtroom, police psychology and investigations, the role of mental illness in the court system, risk assessment, psychopathy, and intimate partner violence.

Prerequisite: Advanced Standing; previous course/background information in Abnormal Psychology preferred.

Course Credit – PSCY 4325 Forensic Psychology: (3 credits) Forensic Psychology is designed to introduce students to the study of forensic psychology through covering the terminology, concepts, principles, skills, cases, and issues related to the intersection of psychology with the legal and criminal justice systems. The course typically meets 150 minutes (2.5 hours) a week in two 75-minute segments or three 50-minute segments for 16 weeks and a 2-hour final examination period.

Students have significant weekly reading assignments, writing assignments, are expected to take regular tests, and a final examination. Out-of-class activities average at a minimum 6 hours of work each week in a 16-week course. Online course sections contain extensive written content that includes the same information students in a face-to-face lecture sections receive, requiring that
students engage in the online learning modules and other course-related activities (reading the textbooks and other supplementary materials, completing assignments and discussions, taking quizzes, etc.). For every hour a student spends engaging with the online content, he/she spends at least two hours completing associated activities and assessments. For a 16-week hybrid online course, 15% - 50% of the course is live via Zoom. For the live portion of the course, we will plan to meet weekly via live Zoom meetings, which will be announced in advance and held during the originally scheduled time on Monday or Wednesday 2:30-3:45 PM. The Zoom link will be posted prior to the time of the class meeting. Students are expected to follow and read the modules in D2L, read the textbook, read all supplementary information and articles, and complete the corresponding assignments, discussions, and quizzes.

Program Learning Outcomes:

Students will be able to understand and apply psychological principles to personal, social, and organizational issues.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PLO</th>
<th>Proficiency Level</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The student will demonstrate familiarity with the major concepts,</td>
<td>Advanced</td>
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<td>theoretical perspectives, empirical findings, and historical trends in psychology.</td>
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<td>The student will understand and apply basic research methods in</td>
<td>Advanced</td>
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<td>psychology, including research design, data analysis, and</td>
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<td>interpretation.</td>
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<td>The student will respect and use critical and creative thinking,</td>
<td>Advanced</td>
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<td>skeptical inquiry, and, when possible, the scientific approach to</td>
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<td>solve problems related to behavior and mental processes.</td>
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<td>The student will understand and apply psychological principles to</td>
<td>Advanced</td>
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<td>personal, social, and organizational issues.</td>
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<tr>
<td>The student will value empirical evidence, tolerate ambiguity, act</td>
<td>Advanced</td>
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<td>ethically, and reflect other values that are the underpinnings of</td>
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<td>psychology as a science.</td>
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Student Learning Objectives:

1. Students will be able to communicate an understanding of the scientific research and theories pertaining to forensic psychology.
2. Students will be able to explain the diagnostic system utilized to classify anti-social behaviors and psychiatric disorders specifically related to legal offenses.
3. Students will be able to communicate an understanding of the different diagnostic categories of alleged offenders, forensic assessments, the trial process, and sentencing phase.
4. Students will be able to distinguish between civil and criminal cases, and will have an understanding of the role of mental illness in the courtroom.
5. Students will develop and improve their critical thinking skills within the domain of psychology in general, and forensic psychology, in particular.
6. Students will learn to better communicate their knowledge and opinions regarding topics relevant to forensic psychology effectively during classroom discussions.
Course Requirements:

You must have access to the Internet, and be familiar with or learn to use Brightspace by D2L in order to take this course. For assistance, call Brightspace support at 936-468-1919. http://www.sfasu.edu/life-at-sfa/health-safety/health-clinic/coronavirus/students/student-guide-for-brightspace

1. **Participation**: This is a fast-paced, advanced level course that will cover substantial amounts of information in each chapter/module/livestream session. Consistently accessing and referring to Brightspace by D2L is extremely important to your understanding of the concepts and information in this course.

   *It is recommended that you log onto Brightspace by d2L daily to read the modules and to complete required discussions, assignments, and quizzes. The amount of time you devote online should be comparable to the amount of time that you would spend in class and studying for the course if it were in a face-to-face format.

   **Important information will be posted on the d2L home page in News Items.** This includes notifications regarding: Assignments, Discussions, Quizzes, Deadlines, etc. Additionally, interesting supplementary information relevant to the study of Abnormal Psychology will be posted in News Items.

2. **Read the assigned chapters before starting the module**, and be prepared to participate in discussions, complete assignments and quizzes, and ask questions and/or make relevant observations. Students are expected to read the textbook, as well as information in each of the online modules and all assigned supplemental materials.

   Reviewing your reading materials after completing the module will enhance your retention of important information, and will assist you in completing the Quizzes. **You will need the textbook in order to successfully complete this course.** Note: Although every effort will be made to extensively cover information, you are responsible for material from the text whether or not it is specifically covered in the livestream discussion or online module.

3. **Quizzes**: There is a multiple choice quiz at the end of each chapter or at the end of several chapters combined (online module or modules). The quizzes are **non-cumulative**. Quizzes are of varying lengths, depending on the amount of information in the chapter/module. More information will be posted on Brightspace by d2L regarding the timing of the quizzes; however, the amount of time students have to take the quiz depends on how many items are on the quiz. All Quizzes are online.

   **Quiz availability will open at a designated time, and students will have a generous “window” of availability** in which to take the quizzes. If there is more than one quiz, you do not have to take all the quizzes at the same time.

   **Note**: when taking Quizzes, you may refer to your book; however, you may not work in conjunction with other students or be in communication with other students in any manner when taking quizzes. Items and answers are randomized so your item #1 would not be the same as that of classmates, nor will the answers be in the same order as those of your classmates.
Make-up quizzes are not usually offered, depending on circumstances, and generally are not approved unless verification of a medical excuse or emergency can be provided, or unless the absence is due to a university-approved student activity. If you know you are going to be absent for one of these activities, please notify the Professor as soon as possible. If at all possible, it is preferable to take the quiz during the designated window of availability.

Be sure to allow enough time to take the quizzes. Do not wait until the last minute. Allow for possible difficulties you might encounter with internet connectivity or other problems.

**Important note:** Be prepared for your quizzes ahead of time. You will not have enough time to “look up” the answer to each question while you are taking the quiz. The point of quizzes is to assess students’ comprehension of the material, not how quickly they can ‘look up’ answers in the text or online. Relying too heavily on your book or other resources can use up your Quiz time quickly; so, pay close attention to remaining time while taking the Quiz.

4. **Assignments:** There are a number of assignments and discussions posted throughout the semester to evaluate your understanding and to assess your analysis of the text, content topics, compelling cases, and supplemental readings. You are expected to write on a level that is commensurate with that of an upper level university student. Grading will be based on content, clarity, and organization, as well as grammar and spelling. When appropriate, proper citations (APA) are required. Assignments will be available in dropbox on Brightspace by d2L.

The general expectation is that written work is be **double-spaced in Times New Roman, 12 point font**, with one inch margins. Students must submit completed assignments as a **Word Document only** to the d2L dropbox.

**Your name** must be typed at the top of each homework assignment. Assignments without names cannot be credited. Also, points may be deducted for work that is carelessly completed or difficult to comprehend.

There is no make-up for assignment deadlines that are missed, again depending on circumstances such as a medical need or emergency. Students are provided with ample time for completion of homework assignments prior to the due dates. More information will be posted on Brightspace by d2L regarding the specific assignments, discussions, and quizzes.

**Important Note:** All assignments and work must be submitted to Brightspace by d2L in a **Word document**. Assignments cannot be “scanned in” or handwritten, or in a pages or jpeg format since these are not compatible with d2L parameters and cannot be opened. Students must type their names on all assignments for credit.

**Helpful links for writing:**

https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/apa_style/apa_formatting_and_style_guide/general_for_mat.html
http://www.easybib.com/guides/students/writing-guide/iv-write/a-formatting/apa-paper-formatting/
https://libguides.sfasu.edu/psychology#/?_k=6iazkw

5. **Discussion Posts (participation):** There will be frequent discussion posts to facilitate student engagement, interaction, and understanding, to process ideas and opinions of classmates, to discuss interesting cases or conditions, and to promote course participation. These are short and require a quick turn-around (typically 24-48 hours). Points are earned for reading material/watching videos
associated with discussion post and for answering the related questions as directed in the discussion post. Points are also earned for responding to a classmate’s post when required. **There is no make-up for missed Discussion posts** (depending on circumstances) as the class will have moved on to the next topic.

Points are deducted for the following: discussion post offers vague or irrelevant information or opinion; discussion post has numerous and obvious grammatical and spelling errors; discussion post only re-states what a classmate has already posted without adding student’s unique interpretation or additional information; discussion post does not use relevant course concepts and/or terms.

**Note:** it is not necessarily appropriate to disclose detailed personal matters in discussion posts or in class discussions. **Students should use discernment and discretion is regard to personal disclosures.**

6. The Professor reserves the right to take attendance during livestream Zoom meetings. A small number of points may be given for attending Zoom meetings, answering questions or participating in livestream discussions, and responding to questions via Chat or Pols.

7. **Important note and caution:** This course may include videos, power-point slides, clinical information/scenarios, etc., with mature themes, and may contain discussion of sensitive content related to psychological disorders, disturbing crimes/psychological mind-set of criminals, unsolved crimes, maladaptive or anti-social behaviors, trauma related to victimization, and discussion of controversial topics such as capital punishment, etc. This is an advanced level course with mature content.

**Students should consider these factors when determining if they are appropriate candidates for this course.** Students experiencing difficulty have the option of exploring and/or accessing services available via Counseling Services at (936) 468-2401, or other mental health services. More information can be found at:  http://www.sfasu.edu/counselingservices

8. **Important E-mail Information:** E-mail from your personal e-mail account (gmail; Hotmail; yahoo, etc.) that is sent to the Professor’s sfasu.edu e-mail address is often directed to “Junk Mail” because it is not recognized by the server; thus, e-mails sent to my sfasu.edu address may not be received.

It is **very important** for students to use the d2L address for e-mail communication with Dr. Middlebrook (middlebrs@d2l.sfasu.edu), as well as for our graduate assistants.

Again, to reiterate, students should **check Brightspace by d2L daily** for important announcements, e-mails, assignments, discussion posts, quiz info, helpful links, etc. **You are responsible for all information posted on Brightspace by d2L, and it is to your advantage to use it.**

9. We will meet via Zoom most weeks on Mondays and some weeks on Monday & Wednesday at our scheduled time: 1:00 – 2:15 PM. A Zoom link will be posted on the D2L home page under News Items. Attendance will be taken randomly several times during the semester and a small number of participation points may be given. Attendance is not required, but is strongly encouraged. We discuss interesting current cases, and review information from the textbook. Meeting in person via Zoom can assist with your understanding of Forensic Psychology, and can help aid comprehension of the concepts in the textbook as well as current topics in Forensic Psychology.
Grade Distribution: [tentative and subject to change]
Quizzes ~310
Syllabus Quiz 10
Assignments TBA ~80
Discussions TBA 70

Total possible points: approximately 470

Grade Distribution:
A = 90% - 100%; B = 80% - 89%; C = 70% - 79%; D = 60% - 69%; F < 60%

There are ample opportunities for students to earn points; thus, grades are firm. Ultimately, as the student, your dedication and effort are reflected in the grade you earn.

Additional Course Information:

It is important for college students to demonstrate appropriate online etiquette when responding to Professors and/or to peers. For more information and for tips on Netiquette (appropriate e-mail and discussion board etiquette), copy & paste the following link into your browser, or control + click on the following link: https://bowvalleycollege.libguides.com/c.php?g=10214&p=52001

Online course interaction/behavior must not interfere with the instructor's ability to conduct the course or the ability of other students to learn from the instructional program (refer to Student Conduct code, policy D-34.1). Though students have the opportunity to participate in and to engage in online discussions, it is not necessarily appropriate to disclose personal information.

Replies to discussion posts by the Professor and/or classmates are expected to be courteous and respectful at all times.

IMPORTANT COURSE GUIDELINES: Following these few guidelines will help to maximize the PSYC 4325 hybrid – online/livestream experience for you and your classmates:

- Read the assigned material (textbook chapters and online modules), and **turn in all required work by the due date**. Allow ample time in order to avoid last minute snags or complications with connectivity.
- Allow sufficient time to take Quizzes. Although a generous window of accessibility for the Quizzes is offered, it is wise to take them well before the cut-off date/time.
- Participate in online discussions by following directions and answering the questions in the discussion prompt. Respond to classmates with relevant, courteous, and respectful comments. Use appropriate grammar and punctuation as would be expected of an upper-level college student.
- Students are expected to demonstrate conscientious and responsible behavior, and to use mature and courteous language with the Professor and classmates which is appropriate for the university learning experience.
*Remember: as your Professor, I am dedicated to assisting you in ways which will ensure that this course provides a meaningful learning experience, and that you will be successful! Most students have a particular interest in the content and activities that are provided in this course, and have provided positive feedback about the hybrid format. Careful consideration has been given regarding how to make this course engaging, interesting, informative, and student-friendly.

Please don’t hesitate to call, e-mail (middlebrs@d2l.sfasu.edu), or to make an appointment with me via phone call, e-mail, or Zoom, if you have questions or concerns. I strive to return e-mails expediently and to be as accessible as possible. Jackie Charles and Monique Jones, our Graduate Assistants, are also helpful and accessible, so feel free to contact them with questions as well. Remember that while I am happy to be as helpful as possible, as the student, you are ultimately responsible for your success in this course.

Additional information:

SFASU values students’ mental health and the role it plays in academic and overall student success. SFA provides a variety of resources to support students' mental health and wellness. Many of these resources are free, and all of them are confidential.

On-campus Resources:
SFASU Counseling Services
www.sfasu.edu/counselingservices
3rd Floor Rusk Building
936-468-2401

SFASU Human Services Counseling Clinic
www.sfasu.edu/humanservices/139.asp
Human Services Room 202
936-468-1041

Crisis Resources:
Burke 24-hour crisis line 1(800) 392-8343
Suicide Prevention Lifeline 1(800) 273-TALK (8255)
Crisis Text Line: Text HELLO to 741-741

Academic Integrity (A-9.1): "Academic integrity is a responsibility of all University faculty and students. Faculty members promote academic integrity in multiple ways including instructions on the components of academic honesty, as well as abiding by University policy on penalties for cheating and plagiarism." -- Stephen F. Austin State University Policies. The policy can be accessed for your review at: http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic_integrity.asp

Definition of Academic Dishonesty
Academic dishonesty includes both cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes but is not limited to (1) using or attempting to use unauthorized materials to aid in achieving a better grade on a component of a class; (2) the falsification or invention of any information, including citations, on an assigned exercise; and/or (3) helping or attempting to help another in an act of cheating or plagiarism. Plagiarism is presenting the words or ideas of another person as if they were your own. Examples of plagiarism are (1) submitting an assignment as if it were one's own work when, in fact, it is at least partly the work of another; (2) submitting a work that has been purchased or otherwise obtained from an Internet source or another source; and (3) incorporating the words or ideas of an author into one's paper without giving the author due credit.

Please read the complete policy at http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/student_academic_dishonesty.pdf
Withheld Grades from Course Grades (Policy 5.5)
At the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic unit head, a grade of WH will be assigned only if the student cannot complete the course work because of unavoidable circumstances. Students must complete the work within one calendar year from the end of the semester in which they receive a WH, or the grade automatically becomes an F, except as allowed through policy [i.e., Active Military Service (6.14)]. If students register for the same course in future semesters, the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course for the purpose of computing the grade point average.

Students with Disabilities (Policy 6.1)
To obtain disability related accommodations, alternate formats and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), Human Services Building, and Room 325, 468-3004 / 468-1004 (TDD) as early as possible in the semester. Once verified, ODS will notify the course instructor and outline the accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided. Failure to request services in a timely manner may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/ and http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic-accommodation-for-students-with-disabilities.pdf. Please talk with Dr. Middlebrook the first week of the semester if you are requesting disability services.

Early Alert Intervention Program: Students experiencing significant behavioral, attendance, and/or academic difficulties may be considered for referral to student services to provide additional assistance or intervention.

*The instructor reserves the right to change or modify this syllabus, including the format, the course content, and/or the calendar based on students’ level of comprehension, mastery of material presented, and/or other circumstances.

Course Hour Justification. Note: PSY 4325 “Forensic Psychology” (3 credits) is designed to introduce students to the field of forensic psychology by covering psychological concepts, principles, and skills with the individuals and practices involved in the criminal justice system. Students have significant weekly reading assignments, and are expected to take regular tests, and a final examination. These activities average at a minimum 6 hours of work each week to prepare outside of classroom hours.

Forensic Psychology
Stephen F. Austin State University
Sylvia Middlebrook, Ph.D., BCBA-D, Associate Professor
Office 215E, McKibben Bldg.

*Tentative Schedule: The Professor reserves the right to change the course calendar based on students' level of comprehension, mastery of material presented, and/or other circumstances.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week of</th>
<th>Course Topic</th>
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| 1       | Welcome to Forensic Psychology!  
Syllabus Review;  
Introductions of Class, and Intro. to Forensic Psychology |

*Test dates are tentative.*
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Chapters</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Week of 08/30/2021</td>
<td>Ch. 1 History &amp; Current Issues in Forensic Psychology</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Week of 09/06/2020</td>
<td>Ch. 2 Roles &amp; Responsibilities of Forensic Psychologists</td>
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<td>Ch. 3 Aggression &amp; Violent Crime</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Week of 09/13/2021</td>
<td>Ch. 11 Capacity and Incapacity (Incompetence to Stand Trial)</td>
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<td><strong>Quiz 1: Chapters 1 – 3 + Ch. 11 (tentative)</strong></td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Week of 09/20/2021</td>
<td>Ch. 5 Mass Murderers &amp; Serial Killers</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Week of 09/27/2021</td>
<td>Ch. 5 Mass Murderers &amp; Serial Killers (continued)</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Week of 10/04/2021</td>
<td>Ch. 6 The Psychology of Terrorism, Cults, &amp; Extremism</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Week of 10/11/2021</td>
<td>Ch. 7 Law Enforcement &amp; Police Psychology</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Week of 10/18/2021</td>
<td>Ch. 8 Investigations</td>
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<td><strong>Quiz 2: Chs. 5, 6, 7, &amp; 8 (tentative)</strong></td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Week of 10/25/2021</td>
<td>Ch. 9 Eyewitness Testimony &amp; Accuracy</td>
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<td>Ch. 10 Psychology of False Confessions</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>Week of 11/01/2021</td>
<td>Ch. 10 Psychology of False Confessions (continued)</td>
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<td>Ch. 12 Juries &amp; the Courtroom</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>Week of 11/08/2021</td>
<td>Ch. 13 Repressed Memories &amp; Novel Syndromes</td>
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<td><strong>Quiz 3: Chapters 9, 10, 12, 13, 14 (tentative)</strong></td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>Week of 11/15/2021</td>
<td>Ch. 14 Forensic Psychology &amp; the Workplace</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>Week of 11/22/2021</td>
<td>Happy Thanksgiving!</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>Week of 11/29/2021</td>
<td>Ch. 15 Forensic Psychology Applied to Children &amp; Families</td>
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<td>Ch. 16 Treatment &amp; Rehabilitation in Forensic Psychology Wrap-up</td>
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| Week of 12/06/2021 | Final Exam: Wednesday, 12/08/2021; 1:00 – 3:00 PM  
Quiz 4: Ch. 14, 15, 16 |

**Dates/materials covered in the above schedule are tentative and subject to change.**

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