

Note:

Course content may be changed, term to term, without notice. The information below is provided as a guide for course selection and is not binding in any form, and should not be used to purchase course materials.

COURSE SYLLABUS

CJUS 620

FUNDAMENTALS OF FORENSIC PSYCHOLOGY

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will introduce the student to an understanding of psychology's use in assisting the law with clinical forensic cases. Focus will involve both practical and research applications in clinical and social-cognitive psychology. Additional topics will include admissibility of psychologists to provide expert testimony in the courts; assessment of various mental states to meet legal requirements for competency, insanity, abuse syndromes, and various other psychological harm; working in the criminal justice system; and child custody and dependency issues.

RATIONALE

Criminal Justice 620 is the foundational course in the Master of Science in Criminal Justice Forensic Science track. As such, the student in this course explores various intersections of psychology and criminal justice.

I. PREREQUISITE

For information regarding prerequisites for this course, please refer to the [Academic Course Catalog](#).

II. REQUIRED RESOURCE PURCHASE

Click on the following link to view the required resource(s) for the term in which you are registered: <http://bookstore.mbsdirect.net/liberty.htm>

III. ADDITIONAL MATERIALS FOR LEARNING

- A. Holy Bible
- B. Computer with basic audio/video output equipment
- C. Internet access (broadband recommended)
- D. Microsoft Office

IV. MEASURABLE LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- A. Frame forensic psychology in the context of criminal justice.
- B. Compare Christian worldview constructs to forensic psychology.
- C. Show the importance of forensic psychology in criminal investigations.
- D. Analyze the use of forensic psychology in the legal system.

V. COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND ASSIGNMENTS

A. Textbook readings and lecture presentations

B. Course Requirements Checklist

After reading the Course Syllabus and [Student Expectations](#), the student will complete the related checklist found in Module/Week 1.

C. Discussion Board Forums (3)

Discussion boards are collaborative learning experiences. Therefore, the student is required to create a thread in response to the provided topic for each forum. Each thread must be at least 400 words, demonstrate course-related knowledge, at least 1 Holy Bible reference, and a minimum of 3 properly formatted citations. In addition to the thread, the student is required to reply to 2 other classmates' threads. Each reply must be at least 250 words, at least 1 Holy Bible reference, and requires a minimum of 1 properly formatted citation.

D. Journal Article Reviews (2)

The student will critically review 2 recent peer-reviewed articles in a *minimum* of a 2 pages. The student must pay particular attention to the identification of the premise and supporting points of the articles, a synthesis of the 2 articles, and a critical evaluation of the premise(s) and supporting points of the articles. The paper must follow current APA guidelines. The page count does not include the title page, abstract, reference section, or any extra material. See the assignment instructions and grading rubric for additional instructions and guidance. The student must follow the article focus prompts in the assignment instructions closely.

E. Research Paper

The student will be given some flexibility to write a brief Research Paper focused on one of his/her Journal Article Reviews and/or may build upon a topic or chapter from the Linebach & Kovacsiss text. The research paper must be 8–10 pages and must follow current APA guidelines. The page count does not include the title page, abstract, or reference section. It must include 10–15 sources with at least 1 source being the Holy Bible and no more than 2 sources being books. The student must incorporate a Christian worldview throughout your paper or have a specific section of your paper dedicated to Christian Worldview. See the assignment instructions and grading rubric for additional instructions and guidance.

F. PowerPoint Teaching Lesson

The student will create a 12–15-slide PowerPoint presentation with a title slide and reference slide (*The title slide and the reference section slide(s) will not count toward the 12–15-slide minimum*) based upon his/her associated Journal Article Reviews and Research Paper. Each slide must have 100–150 words of bulleted or paragraph speaker notes. A minimum of 5 scholarly sources and the Holy Bible must be used. Additionally, the student must use animations, transitions, and graphics to reflect graduate level research. See the assignment instructions and grading rubric for additional instructions and guidance.

G. Quizzes (8)

Each quiz will cover the Reading & Study material for the module/week in which it is assigned. Each quiz will be open-book/open-notes, contain 10–20 multiple-choice and essay questions, and have a 1-hour time limit.

VI. COURSE GRADING AND POLICIES

A. Points

Course Requirements Checklist	10
Discussion Board Forums	
Thread (3 at 20 pts ea)	60
Replies (3 at 20 pts ea)	60
Journal Article Review (2 at 50 pts ea)	100
Research Paper	280
PowerPoint Teaching Lesson	180
Quizzes (8 at 40 pts ea)	320
Total	1010

B. Scale

A = 940–1010 A- = 920–939 B+ = 900–919 B = 860–899 B- = 840–859
 C+ = 820–839 C = 780–819 C- = 760–779 D+ = 740–759 D = 700–739
 D- = 680–699 F = 0–679

C. Disability Assistance

Students with a documented disability may contact Liberty University Online's Office of Disability Academic Support (ODAS) at LUOODAS@liberty.edu to make arrangements for academic accommodations. Further information can be found at www.liberty.edu/disabilitysupport.

COURSE SCHEDULE

CJUS 620

Textbooks: Harmening & Gamex, *Forensic Psychology* (2016).
Linebach & Kovacsiss, *Psychology in the Justice System* (2016).

MODULE/ WEEK	READING & STUDY	ASSIGNMENTS	POINTS
1	Harmening & Gamex: ch. 1 Linebach & Kovacsiss: chs. 1–2 1 presentation	Course Requirements Checklist Class Introductions DB Forum 1 Thread Quiz 1	10 0 20 40
2	Harmening & Gamex: chs. 2–3 Linebach & Kovacsiss: ch. 6 1 presentation	DB Forum 1 Replies Quiz 2	20 40
3	Harmening & Gamex: chs. 4–5 Linebach & Kovacsiss: chs. 4, 9 1 presentation	DB Forum 2 Thread Journal Article Review 1 Quiz 3	20 50 40
4	Harmening & Gamex: chs. 6–9 Linebach & Kovacsiss: ch. 3 1 presentation	DB Forum 2 Replies Quiz 4	20 40
5	Harmening & Gamex: chs. 10–11 Linebach & Kovacsiss: ch. 5 1 presentation	Journal Article Review 2 Quiz 5	50 40
6	Harmening & Gamex: chs. 12–13 Linebach & Kovacsiss: ch. 7 1 presentation	Quiz 6	40
7	Harmening & Gamex: chs. 14–15 Linebach & Kovacsiss: chs. 8, 11 1 presentation	DB Forum 3 Thread Research Paper Quiz 7	20 280 40
8	Harmening & Gamex: ch. 16 Linebach & Kovacsiss: chs. 12–13 1 presentation	DB Forum 3 Replies PowerPoint Teaching Lesson Quiz 8	20 180 40
TOTAL			1010

DB = Discussion Board

NOTE: Each course module/week begins on Monday morning at 12:00 a.m. (ET) and ends on Sunday night at 11:59 p.m. (ET). The final module/week ends at 11:59 p.m. (ET) on **Friday**.