

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 640

Psychology and the Legal System

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course applies the methods and theories of psychology to the criminal justice (legal) system. Specifically, students will gain an understanding of how the field of psychology and psychological research has been applied in law enforcement, the judicial process, and the corrections process. Issues of morality, the criminal personality, eyewitness testimony, the use of psychological evaluation, jury selection, criminal profiling, child custody evaluation, police, and inmate counseling are among topics covered. Since this course focuses on the criminal justice system, it will not include civil litigation.

RATIONALE

Criminal Justice 640 is an important course in the Master of Science in Criminal Justice Forensic Science track. As such, students in this course explore various intersections of psychology and the legal system.

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. Computer with basic audio/video output equipment
- B. Internet access (broadband recommended)
- C. Blackboard [recommended browsers](#)
- D. Microsoft Office
- E. Holy Bible

IV. MEASURABLE LEARNING OUTCOMES

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

1. Identify the various functions of the legal system and psychology and integrate a Christian worldview
2. Apply psychological principles to the legal/forensic system
3. Assess current states of scientific literature in forensic psychology.
4. Synthesize the dimensions of forensic psychology within its related sub-fields..

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 (4)

There will be 4 Discussion Board Forums throughout this course. Discussion boards are collaborative learning experiences. Therefore, the student is required to provide a thread in response to the provided topic for each forum. Each thread must be 500–700 words (with citations to support assertions for full credit to be possible and demonstrate course-related knowledge. In addition to the thread, the student is required to reply to 2 other classmates' threads. Each reply must be 200-300 words. Both the thread and the replies must cite course-specific and non-course-specific material.

D. Chapter Application Paper (2)

The student will write two (2) chapter application papers. Each paper is to be between 3-5 pages. Students should pay particular attention to the identification of the premise and supporting points of the chapter, a synthesis of the information from the chapter, and a critical application of the premise(s) and supporting points from the chapter to an issue in facing psychology and the legal system. 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. Students should follow the article focus prompts in the assignment instructions closely.

E. Topic Research Paper (2)

The student will write two (2) topic research papers. The student will be given some flexibility to write a research paper focused on the topic indicated for the week the Topic Research Paper is due. The research paper shall be a minimum of 8 to 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 two (2) books. The student should have a specific section in the paper dedicated to a synthesis of Christian Worldview and their topic. See the assignment instructions and grading rubric for additional instructions and guidance.

F. Quizzes (4)

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 25 multiple-choice (worth 1 point each) and 5 essay questions (worth 5 points each), and have a 1-hour time limit.

VI. COURSE GRADING AND POLICIES

A. Points

Course Requirements Checklist	10
Discussion Board Forums (4 at 50 points each)	200
Chapter Application Paper (2 at 100) pts ea)	200
Topic Research Paper (2 at 200 pts ea)	400
Quizzes (4 at 50 pts ea)	200
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. CJUS Policy

The nature of the criminal justice community demands that persons involved be of a high level of integrity, and education is not merely academic in nature, but is holistic. Students enrolled in CJUS courses will be held to a high standard. Self-control is imperative for CJUS practitioners. If not “merely” to honor Christ, your family, and this academic institution, on a purely pragmatic level, in anticipation of future employability in the career field of your choice, conduct yourselves so as not to place yourselves in difficult and embarrassing situations.

D. 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 640

MODULE/ WEEK	READING & STUDY	ASSIGNMENTS	POINTS
1	Costanzo & Krauss: ch. 1 1 lecture note 2 presentations	Course Requirements Checklist Class Introductions DB Forum 1 Quiz 1	10 0 50 50
2	Costanzo & Krauss: chs. 2–3 2 lecture notes 3 presentations	Chapter Application Paper 1	100
3	Costanzo & Krauss: chs. 4–5, 14 3 lecture notes 4 presentations	DB Forum 2 Quiz 2	50 50
4	Costanzo & Krauss: chs. 6, 13 2 lecture notes 3 presentations	Chapter Application Paper 2	100
5	Costanzo & Krauss: ch. 7 1 lecture note 2 presentations	Topic Research Paper 1	200
6	Costanzo & Krauss: chs. 8–9 2 lecture notes 3 presentations	DB Forum 3 Quiz 3	50 50
7	Costanzo & Krauss: chs. 11–12 2 lecture notes 3 presentations	DB Forum 4 Quiz 4	50 50
8	Costanzo & Krauss: chs. 16–17 2 lecture notes 3 presentations	Topic Research Paper 2	200
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**.