

- Forensic Psychology FORS 2450
- Fall 2014 Syllabus



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Office Hours	
Campus Office Hours:	Monday: 2-5pm Tuesday: 2-5pm Wednesday: 1-4 pm Thursday: By appointment only Friday: 9-10am
Online Office Hours:	Same as above

About Your Instructor

I have spent my career working in criminal investigations and testifying as an expert witness in criminal and civil trials. I was a forensic interviewer before coming to Odessa College. I interviewed child victims of sexual and physical abuse, those who witnessed violent crimes such as murder, suicide or domestic violence, and mentally handicapped adults. I also testified as an expert witness in the areas of child abuse, child sexual abuse, the disclosure process, delayed outcries in abuse cases and memory and suggestibility of child victims. I worked with federal and local law enforcement, child protective services, prosecutors, nurses, mental health professionals and advocates to help give abuse victims a voice.

Preferred Method of Communication:

I prefer to be contacted via email or text since I am in class most of the time. If you email and I do not respond please text or call me, as your email may have been sent to my junk folder.

Expectations for Engagement for Instructor:

As an instructor, I understand the importance of clear, timely communication with my students. In order to maintain sufficient communication, I will

- provide my contact information at the beginning of the syllabus;
- respond to all messages within 24 hours if received Monday through Thursday, and within 48 hours if received Friday through Sunday; and,
- notify students of any extended times that I will be unavailable and provide them with alternative contact information (for me or for my supervisor) in case of during the time I am unavailable.

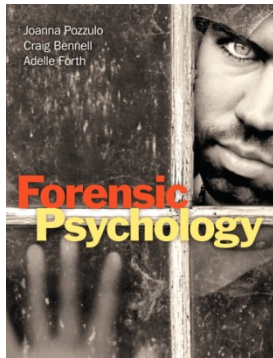
As an instructor, I understand that my students will work to the best of their abilities to fulfill the course requirements. In order to help them in this area, I will

- provide clear information about grading policies and assignment requirements in the course syllabus, and
- communicate any changes to assignments and/or to the course calendar to students as quickly as possible.

As an instructor, I understand that I need to provide regular, timely feedback to students about their performance in the course. To keep students informed about their progress, I will

- post grades for discussion postings within one week of the discussion thread closing.
 - provide grades for major assignments within 2 weeks of the due date or at least 3 days before the next major assignment is due, whichever comes first.
- **Textbook Information and Required Hardware/Software**

Textbook(s):



Forensic Psychology

Joanna Pozzulo, Craig Bennell, Adelle Forth

Hardware:

Please make sure you have access to a computer with speakers and one that you can watch videos.

Software:

Please make sure you have access to Microsoft Word and Power Point for presentations.

- **Information About the Course**

Course Description

Survey of current perspectives and technologies in the analysis of criminal mind suggested by crime scene evidence; introduction applications of forensic psychology including the history and current practice of criminal profiling in the apprehension of serial killers as sexual predators. Lab fee required.

Course Prerequisites:

PSYC 2301

Course Topics:

Introduction to forensic psychology

Interviews and interrogations

Victim interviews

Profiling

Serial Killers and the crime scene

- **Grading**

<i>Type of Assignment</i>	<i>Percentage/Points</i>	<i>Learning Objective</i>
Participation	20%	
Final Project	30%	
Tests/Exams	30%	
Assignments	20%	
100%		TOTAL

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- **Student Course Participation**

As a student, I understand that I am responsible for keeping up with the course. To help with this, I will

- identify alternative computer and internet access in case my primary computer crashes or my internet service is unavailable;
- recognize that the college provides free wi-fi and computer labs during regular campus hours to help me with accessing my course; and,
- understand that my instructor does not have to accept my technical issues as a legitimate reason for late or missing work if my equipment or service is unreliable.

As a student, I understand that it is my responsibility to communicate quickly with the instructor any issue or emergency that will impact my involvement with or performance in the class. This includes, but is not limited to

- getting “kicked off” of the system during tests or quizzes;
- having trouble submitting assignments; and
- dealing with a traumatic personal event.

As a student, I understand that it is my responsibility to understand course material and requirements and to keep up with the course calendar. While my instructor is available for help and clarification, I will

- seek out help from my instructor and/or from tutors;
 - ask questions if I don’t understand; and
 - access my course several times during the week to keep up with assignments and announcements.
- **Course Policies**

Disclaimer

This syllabus is tentative and subject to change in any part at the discretion of the instructor. Any changes will be in accordance with Odessa College policies. Students will be notified of changes, if any, in timely manner.

Original Effort

The work submitted for this course must be original work prepared by the student enrolled in this course. Efforts will be recognized and graded in terms of individual participation and in terms of ability to collaborate with other students in this course.

Digital Protocol

Cell phones must be placed on either *vibrate* or *silent* mode and are to be accessed in emergency cases only. The use of laptops or any other digital device is permitted in order to facilitate note-taking relative to instruction. Any written assignments will be submitted electronically on Blackboard. **The electronic recording of the time on Blackboard will be considered the time of assignment submission. Take necessary steps to ensure that your assignments are submitted on “Blackboard” time.** Back-up and/or additional copies of all assignments submitted is encouraged. **Computers/printers are available to OC students in the LRC (301-303); therefore, not having access to a computer due to technical issues (crash; corrupted files) will not be considered as an acceptable reason for not completing assignments.** If there is a loss of server connection with Odessa College due to maintenance, then an email will be sent to student with pertinent information and status reports. Assignments submitted electronically need to be **WORD documents (doc or docx).**

Attendance Policy

Students are expected to attend class regularly. Attendance will be recorded using a “sign-in” sheet. Excessive absences will be grounds for disciplinary action, and will be determined on a case-by-case basis. If you are more than 15 minutes late to class or leave class early without notifying the instructor, this will count as an absence. Students are permitted _____ absences before a loss of _____ point(s) _____.

AVID

This course has been identified as a course by Career, Technical, and Workforce Education as one in which teaching and learning strategies adopted by AVID will be implemented. As a student in the legal program, you will be expected to develop an understanding of the strategies, to model the strategies, to maintain fidelity of implementation, and to examine how these strategies may impact your effectiveness as a professional in your chosen area of occupation, either through coursework or practicum experience as outlined by the course instructor.

Grade Inquiry Policy

It is the responsibility of the individual taking this course to maintain accurate track of assignment submissions and grades. There will be opportunities during the semester to meet with the instructor to discuss your academic progress. Contact the instructor to schedule an appointment. Class time will not be used for grade inquiries. All grades are final.

General Course Requirements

1. Attend class and participate.
2. Contribute and cooperate with civility.
3. **Submit assignments on time. Late work will not be accepted. Medical and/or family circumstances that warrant an extension on assignments need to be presented to the instructor. Extensions will be allowed at the instructor's discretion.**

Incomplete Policy

An 'Incomplete' grade may be given only if:

4. The student has passed all completed work
5. If he/she has completed a minimum of 75% of the required coursework. A grade of an "I" will only be assigned when the conditions for completions have been discussed and agreed upon by the instructor and the student.

- **Course Schedule**

(Tentative and Subject to Change)

Date:	Instructional Approach: (*denotes AVID strategies)	Topic:	Assignment:
8/25-8/31	Cornell Note video*, online instruction	Introductions, Syllabus quiz, Cornell Notes video*	Post a brief introduction about yourself in the discussion board provided in the introduction module, watch Cornell note vide and turn in a reflection

			paper in 3-2-1 format
8/25-8/31	Reading, assignment, quiz	Ch. 1: An introduction to Forensic Psychology	Reading Assignment for ch.1, Chapter 1 assignment, chapter 1 quiz ,
9/1-9/7	3-2-1 Reading assignment*, key terms journal*, Cornell notes*	Ch. 3: Psychology of Police Investigations	
9/1-9/7	3-2-1 Reading assignment*, key terms journal*, Reflection paper	Ch. 4: Deception	Reading assignment for Ch. 3, Video reflection paper, key terms, Quiz
9/8-9/14	3-2-1 Reading assignment* and discussion, key terms journal	Ch. 5: Eyewitness Testimony	Reading Assignment and answer discussion question, key terms, Quiz
9/8-9/14	3-2-1 Reading assignment*, key terms journal*, Cornell notes*	Ch. 6: Child Victims and Witnesses	Reading assignment, key terms, quiz, Cornell notes over “The Police and Juveniles: An Overview” on page 128
9/15-9/21	3-2-1 Reading assignment*, key terms journal*, Discussion	Ch. 7: Juries: Fact Finders	Reading assignment, key terms, quiz, Answer discussion question
9/15-9/21	3-2-1 Reading assignment* and discussion, key terms journal	Ch. 8: The role of Mental Illness in Court	Reading assignment and answer discussion question, key terms, quiz
9/22-9/28	3-2-1 Reading assignment*, key terms journal*, Cornell notes*	Ch. 9: Sentencing in the United States: Practices and Public Opinion	Reading, key terms, quiz, Cornell notes on “ Placing a youth in Detention” on page 289
9/22-9/28	3-2-1 Reading assignment*, key terms journal*, Video reflection page	Ch. 10: Risk Assessment	Reading, key terms, quiz, watch video and write a reflection paper

9/29-10/5	3-2-1 Reading assignment* and discussion, key terms journal	Ch. 11: Psychopathy	Reading, Key terms, quiz
9/29-10/5	3-2-1 Reading assignment*, key terms journal*, Cornell notes*	Ch. 12: Assessment and treatment of juvenile delinquency	Reading, Key terms, Quiz, Cornell Notes over "The Gang defined" on page 369
10/6-10/12		Chapter 13: Intimate Partner Violence Chapter 14: Sexual and Homicidal Offenders	
10/13-10/15	Final Exam Week		

- **Institutional Core Objectives (ICOs)**

Description of Institutional Core Objectives (ICO's)

Given the rapid evolution of necessary knowledge and skills and the need to take into account global, national, state, and local cultures, the core curriculum must ensure that students will develop the essential knowledge and skills they need to be successful in college, in a career, in their communities, and in life. Therefore, with the assistance of the Undergraduate Education Advisory Committee, the Coordinating Board has approved guidelines for a core curriculum for all undergraduate students in Texas.

Through the application and assessment of objectives within the institution's core curriculum, students will gain a foundation of knowledge of human cultures and the physical and natural world; develop principles of personal and social responsibility for living in a diverse world; and advance intellectual and practical skills that are essential for all learning. Appropriate Odessa College faculty periodically evaluates all of the courses listed in the descriptions on the following pages of this catalog and keys them to Odessa College's Institutional Core Objectives (ICOs), as defined by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB). (Source: *Odessa College Catalog of Courses 2012-2013, page 73*)

Odessa College's Institutional Core Objectives (ICOs):

0. *Critical Thinking Skills* - to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information
1. *Communication Skills* - to include effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral and visual communication
2. *Empirical and Quantitative Skills* - to include the manipulation and analysis of numerical data or observable facts resulting in informed conclusions
3. *Teamwork* - to include the ability to consider different points of view and to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal
4. *Personal Responsibility* - to include the ability to connect choices, actions and consequences to ethical decision-making
5. *Social Responsibility* - to include intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities

- **Course Objectives**

0. The student will be able to describe the history of forensic psychology and how it is used in the courtroom.
1. The student will be able to identify the main interview/ interrogation techniques as they apply to both the perpetrator and the victim.
2. The student will understand the concept of deception and demonstrate techniques in deception detection.
3. The student will be able to explain current perspectives and technologies in the analysis of the criminal mind.
4. The student will be able to explain various crime scene theories that might lead to a profile.
5. The students will explain the history of profiling and how a profile is built.
6. The student will be able to construct the profile of sexual predators and serial killers.

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- **Learning Outcomes**

Outcome	ICO
3,4,7	<i>Critical Thinking Skills</i> - to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information
1,2,3,5,6	<i>Communication Skills</i> - to include effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral and visual communication
4	<i>Empirical and Quantitative Skills</i> - to include the manipulation and analysis of numerical data or observable facts resulting in informed conclusions
3,7	<i>Teamwork</i> - to include the ability to consider different points of view and to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal
1-7	<i>Personal Responsibility</i> - to include the ability to connect choices, actions and consequences to ethical decision-making
3,7	<i>Social Responsibility</i> - to include intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities

Odessa College Policies

Academic Policies

Note that the OC Student Handbook states (page 32) that “[i]n cases of academic dishonesty, the instructor has the authority to impose appropriate scholastic penalties. Complaints or appeals of disciplinary sanctions may be filed in accordance with the college due process procedure. Copies of the college due process procedure are available in the office of The Director of Student Life (CC104).”

For more information on your rights and responsibilities as a student at Odessa College, please refer to

the following: *The 411 of OC: Student Handbook 2012-2013; Student Rights & Responsibilities*
<http://www.odessa.edu/dept/studenthandbook/handbook.pdf>

Scholastic Dishonesty

Scholastic dishonesty shall constitute a violation of these rules and regulations and is punishable as prescribed by board policies. Scholastic dishonesty shall include, but not be limited to, cheating on a test, plagiarism and collusion.

"Cheating on a test" shall include:

- Copying from another student's test paper
- Using test materials not authorized by the person administering the test.
- Collaborating with or seeking aid from another student during a test without permission from the test administrator.
- Knowingly using, buying, selling, stealing or soliciting, in whole or in part, the contents of an unadministered test.
- The unauthorized transporting or removal, in whole or in part, of the contents of the unadministered test.
- Substituting for another student, or permitting another student to substitute for one's self, to take a test.
- Bribing another person to obtain an unadministered test or information about an unadministered test.
- "Plagiarism" shall be defined as the appropriating, buying, receiving as a gift, or obtaining by any means another's work and the unacknowledged submission or incorporation of it in one's own written work.
- "Collusion" shall be defined as the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing written work for fulfillment of course requirements. (Source: *Odessa College Student Handbook 2012-2013, page 29-30*)

Special Populations/Disability Services/Learning Assistance

Odessa College complies with Section 504 of the Vocational Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. If you have any special needs or issues pertaining to your access to and participation in this or any other class at Odessa College, please feel free to contact me to discuss

your concerns. You may also call the Office of Disability services at 432-335-6861 to request assistance and accommodations.

Odessa College affirms that it will provide access to programs, services and activities to qualified individuals with known disabilities as required by **Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA)**, unless doing so poses an undue hardship or fundamentally alters the nature of the program or activity. Disabilities may include hearing, mobility or visual impairments as well as hidden disabilities such as chronic medical conditions (arthritis, cancer, diabetes, heart disease, kidney disorders, lupus, seizure disorders, etc.), learning disabilities or psychiatric or emotional disabilities. A student who comes to Odessa College with diagnosed disabilities which may interfere with learning may receive accommodations when the student requests them and submits proper documentation of the diagnosis. A Request for Accommodations form and guidelines for beginning the request process are available in the OC Help Center or on the Odessa College web site at www.odessa.edu/dept/counseling/disabilities.htm. The college strives to provide a complete and appropriate range of services for students with disabilities such as assistance with testing, registration, information on adaptive and assistive equipment, tutoring, assistance with access and accommodations for the classroom where appropriate. For information regarding services, students with disabilities should contact the Office of Disability Services in the OC Help Center located in Room 204 of the Student Union Building or call 432-335-6433. (Source: *Odessa College Catalog of Courses 2012-2013, page 52*)

Dropping a Course or Withdrawing from College

Students wishing to drop a non-developmental course may do so online using WebAdvisor, at the Wrangler Express, or Registrar's Office. A student wishing to drop a developmental course or withdraw from college should obtain a drop or withdrawal form from the Wrangler Express or the Registrar's Office. Students are encouraged to consult with instructors prior to dropping a class. Students may not completely withdraw from the college by use of the Web. Students must drop a class or withdraw from college before the official withdrawal date stated in the class schedule. Students who are part of the Armed Forces Reserves may withdraw with a full refund if the withdrawal is due to their being ordered into active duty. A copy of the student's orders must be presented to the Registrar's Office at the time of the withdrawal. For details, please contact the Office of the Registrar. **No longer attending class does not automatically constitute withdrawal from that class, nor does a student's notification to an instructor that the student wishes to be dropped. Failure of a student to complete the drop/withdrawal process will result in a grade of "F."** (Source: *Odessa College Catalog of Courses 2012-2013, page 36*)

Student Support Services and Technical Support

Blackboard Support

For Blackboard username and password help and for help accessing your online course availability and student email account contact the Student Success Center at 432-335-6878 or online at https://www.odessa.edu/dept/ssc/helpdesk_form.htm.

(insert more here)

Learning Resource Center (LRC; Library)

The Library, known as the Learning Resources Center, provides research assistance via the LRC's catalog (print books, videos, e-books) and databases (journal and magazine articles). Research guides covering specific subject areas, tutorials, and the "Ask a Librarian " service provide additional help.

Student Success Center (SCC)

Located in the LRC, the Student Success Center (SSC) provides assistance to students in meeting their academic and career goals. We strive to provide new and updated resources and services at no charge to OC students. Academic support services include tutoring, study skills training, workshops, and the mentoring program. Tutoring is available for a variety of subjects including college mathematics, English, government, history, speech, chemistry, biology, and all developmental coursework. Appointments are preferred, but walk-ins will be served as soon as possible. Smarthinking online tutoring is also available. All computers in the center have Internet access, Microsoft Office, and software resources to assist OC students in improving their reading, writing and mathematical skills. The center also offers special assistance to students preparing for the THEA/COMPASS test. Computer lab assistants are available to assist students with student email, Blackboard, OC portal, Course Compass and more. For more information or to make an appointment, please call 432-335-6673 or visit www.odessa.edu/dept/ssc/ (Source: *Odessa College Catalog of Courses 2012-2013, page 54*)

Student E-mail

Please access your Odessa College Student E-mail, by following the link to either set up or update your account: <http://www.odessa.edu/gmail/>. **Correspondence will be submitted using your Odessa College email as an alternative method to contact you with information regarding this course.**

