

**JAMESTOWN COMMUNITY COLLEGE**  
**State University of New York**

---

**INSTITUTIONAL COURSE SYLLABUS**

**Course Title:** Forensic Psychology

**Course Abbreviation and Number:** PSY 2580

**Credit Hours:** 3

**Course Type:** Lecture

**Course Description:** Students will apply the methods and theories of psychology to the criminal justice (legal) system. Specifically, students will gain and 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 several major topics covered. Since this course focuses on the criminal justice system, it will not include civil litigation.

Prerequisite: ENG 1510.

---

**General Education Requirements Met**

**SUNY**

Social Sciences

**JCC**

Scientific Reasoning

---

**Student Learning Outcomes:**

Students who demonstrate understanding can:

1. Demonstrate knowledge of major concepts, models, and issues of at least one discipline in the social sciences. [SUNY Gen Ed – Social Sciences]
  2. Demonstrate understanding of the methods social scientists use to explore social phenomena, including observation, hypothesis development, measurement and data collection, experimentation, evaluation of evidence, and employment of mathematical interpretive analysis. [SUNY Gen Ed – Social Sciences]
  3. Demonstrate knowledge of common institutions, practices, or policies, and how they have affected different social groups or individuals in society. [JCC Gen Ed – Social Sciences]
- 

**Topics Covered:**

- Introduction to psychology and the law
  - Psychology of crime
  - Crime investigation: Witnesses
  - Identification and evaluation of criminal suspects
  - Forensic assessment in criminal cases: competence and insanity
  - Jury Trials: Jury representativeness and selection
  - Psychology of victims
  - Children, adolescents and the law
- 

**Information for Students**

- Expectations of Students
  - [Civility Statement](#)
  - [Student Responsibility Statement](#)
  - [Academic Integrity Statement](#)

- [Accessibility Services](#)

Students who require accommodations to complete the requirements and expectations of this course because of a disability must make their accommodation requests to the Accessibility Services Coordinator.

- [Get Help: JCC & Community Resources](#)
- [Emergency Closing Procedures](#)

- Course grade is determined by the instructor based on a combination of factors, including but not limited to, homework, quizzes, exams, projects, and participation. Final course grade can be translated into a grade point value according to the following:

A=4.0	B+=3.5	B=3	C+=2.5	C=2	D+=1.5	D=1	F=0
-------	--------	-----	--------	-----	--------	-----	-----

- Veterans and active duty military personnel with special circumstances (e.g., upcoming deployments, drill requirements, VA appointments) are welcome and encouraged to communicate these to the instructor.
- 

**Effective Date:** Fall 2021