Juvenile Forensic Psyc (JPSY)

Courses

**JPSY 5113 Psychology and the Juvenile Law: 3 semester hours.**
Reviews the various areas, and ways, in which psychology interacts with the law and, in particular, the juvenile justice system. Explores topics such as psychological and psychiatric testimony, civil commitment, the rights of mental patients competency to stand trial, the insanity defense, the antisocial personality; trial child custody disputes and determinations, the psychology of the courtroom, and legal rules and regulations governing the practice of psychology. Considers the utility and the limitations of psychological expertise in relation to the legal system.

**JPSY 5123 Psychology of Crime and Delinquency: 3 semester hours.**
Focuses on the major psychological theories of criminal and aggressive behavior as they apply to juvenile delinquency. Viewpoints from cognitive, psychodynamic, psychoanalytic, behavioral, social learning, descriptive, and development psychologies are discussed and compared with current psycho-diagnostic classification systems. Case examples are used to illustrate the various theories.

**JPSY 5223 Substance Abuse: 3 semester hours.**
Provides a critical examination of various policy responses to the "Drug Program" in the United States based upon a review of selected empirical and theoretical studies. Includes an overview of drug usage by youth and adults and interrelationships between drug usage and juvenile crime.

**JPSY 5233 Violence and Aggression: 3 semester hours.**
Critical evaluation and examination of violence and aggression, their origins and determinants, and their impact on the individual and society. Application to the field of forensic psychology will be emphasized through the liberal use of clinical and research material.

**JPSY 5253 Domestic and Family Violence: 3 semester hours.**
Addresses types of family violence by examining the extent of the problem, factors contributing to violence, and the consequences of family violence upon the individual, family, community, and society. Emphasis is placed on prevention techniques, non-violent conflict resolution strategies, and programs and services for training and intervention.

**JPSY 5263 Psychology and Treatment of the Juvenile Offender: 3 semester hours.**
Addresses the psychological factors leading to the causes, assessment, classification, and treatment of juvenile delinquency. Examines both psychodynamic and developmental approaches, emphasizing neurotic, constitutional and psychopathological factors contributing to delinquency. Reviews the major psychological treatment approaches, with relevant case studies presented for illustrative detail. Analyzes legal and institutional responses to juvenile crime from the perspective of learning theory and developmental psychology. Discusses the role of the psychologist in the juvenile justice system.

**JPSY 5413 Behavior Modification and Learning Theory: 3 semester hours.**
Examines various psychological learning theories. Addresses principles of behavior modification, operationalizing and assessing behavior, specific behavior therapy techniques, the design and empirical evaluation of behavior change programs, and the application of behavior therapy to treat clinical disorders in youth.

**JPSY 5423 Conflict Mediation/Resolution: 3 semester hours.**
Examines the nature and uses of mediation as a conflict resolution method while taking into consideration the adversarial legal system. The course expands upon the variety of dispute resolution methods applicable to settings in families, neighborhoods, classrooms and juvenile justice agencies.

**JPSY 5433 Counseling: 3 semester hours.**
An-in-depth evaluation of counseling as it is applied in the juvenile justice and juvenile correction settings. Emphasizes a psychosocial approach to the study of behavior with priority given to immediacy. Explores various treatment models, interviewing, interpersonal communication, and crisis intervention.

**JPSY 5443 Group Dynamics and Group Treatment: 3 semester hours.**
Facilitates the understanding of the dynamics of small groups and larger organizations, emphasizing groups formed for the purpose of psychotherapy and rehabilitation of offenders, as well as the group dynamics of institutions designed to work with delinquent populations. Topics include leadership, role specialization, group formation and development, composition and goals, group violence, group resistance to change, and those factors that facilitate positive growth within groups.

**JPSY 5453 Childhood Psychopathology: 3 semester hours.**
A focus on the psychological treatment and prevention of select examples of childhood psychopathology. Emphasis will be placed on those disorders that result in contact with the criminal justice system. Child disorders will be selected from among the following diagnostic categories; conduct disorders, attention deficit disorders, borderline, and schizophrenic disorders. Emphasis will be placed on children who grow up under unusually stressful conditions or experience forms of serious psychological trauma early in life.

**JPSY 5523 Introduction to Neuropsychology: 3 semester hours.**
Surveys the field of neuropsychology, including its relevant underpinnings, its place within traditional and forensic settings, and practical applications in the areas of assessment and rehabilitation of brain injury. This introduction examines brain-behavior correlates, psychological tests employed in the evaluation of nervous system trauma, and the common syndromes affiliated with such injury.
**JPSY 5533 Social Psychology and the Legal System: 3 semester hours.**
Applies social psychological knowledge to the juvenile justice system. Places special focus on topics such as social psychology of justice institutions, environmental psychology, socialization into roles and identity, collective behavior, research on juries, attitude formation and change, and criminal identification.

**JPSY 5763 Developmental Psychology: 3 semester hours.**
Critical analyses of psychological development throughout the life span. Both cognitive and personality development will be considered from various theoretical perspectives as well as from empirical findings. Particular attention will be paid to the development of aggression in various states.

**JPSY 5773 Psychology Seminar in Selected Topics: 3 semester hours.**
Provides an opportunity for exploration of areas of forensic psychology not covered in other courses. The instructor, who may use projects and/or research articles, chooses topics.

**JPSY 5783 Ethics: 3 semester hours.**
The analytical and normative inquiry into the philosophical foundations of decisions. Emphasis is placed on understanding dilemmas faced by juvenile justice professionals.

**JPSY 5843 Personality Assessment I: 3 semester hours.**
Intelligence and Cognition. Provides practical experience in the evaluation of cognitive and intellectual functioning in children, adolescents, and adults. Focuses on the administration, scoring and interpretation of instruments such as the W AIS-R, the WISC-R, the WPPSI, and the Stanford Binet. Discusses general issues such as the nature of human intelligence and its measurement with explicit linkage to issues in forensic psychology. Required of externship option.

**JPSY 5853 Personality Assessment II: 3 semester hours.**
Objective Personality Assessment. Provides advanced experience in the administration and interpretation of objective personality tests such as the MMPI, MCMI, and CPI. Surveys the literature regarding the development and validity of objective measures of personality. Forensic applications of objective personality measures are discussed.

**JPSY 5863 Clinical Interviewing: 3 semester hours.**
Centers on the clinical interview as a means of gathering relevant life data, defining problems, and resolving conflicts. Surveys the theory and use of the interview, particularly as related to various counseling theories.

**JPSY 5943 Research Methods: 3 semester hours.**
Includes defining and specifying research problems; developing and testing hypotheses; the logic of causal inference; learning to use the variety of research designs; sampling procedures; the collection, processing, and storing of research data, and the ethics of research.

**JPSY 5963 Applied Statistical Methods and Computing: 3 semester hours.**
A study of descriptive and inferential statistics, measures of central tendency and variability, estimation, hypothesis testing, analysis of variance, simple and multiple regressions and nonparametric methods. Students learn the use and value of each statistic while using SPSS as a problem-solving tool.

**JPSY 5973 Field Work in Psychology: 3 semester hours.**
Provides supervised experience assisting psychologists in the assessment, management, and treatment of patients. Students work in an applied institutional setting, such as a juvenile facility, special treatment clinic, hospital, or rehabilitation setting. Training includes interviewing, taking case histories, observations, and staff and case conferences. This field work course provides supervision and experience with emotionally disturbed pre-delinquent and delinquent children in institutional, school, and community settings. Develops skills in evaluation and treatment of such youths. Field work training is supplemented by conferences with a faculty advisor. Prerequisites: JPSY 5853 (http://catalog.pvamu.edu/search/?P=JPSY%205853).

**JPSY 5983 Thesis: 3 semester hours.**
Independent and original research leading to an acceptable master's thesis. Required of thesis option.