

Wayland Mission Statement

Wayland Baptist University exists to educate students in an academically challenging, learning-focused, and distinctively Christian environment for professional success, and service to God and humankind.

Contact Information

Course: JUAD/PSYC 3314 VC01 – Psychology and the Law

Campus: WBUonline

Term/Session: Summer 2026

Instructor: Dr. Peter Bowen

Office Phone Number: 806 – 291 – 1179; cell #: 806-494-2564 (before 10:00 pm, please)

WBU Email Address: pbowen@wbu.edu

Office Hours, Building, and Location: Mon - Fri 9:00 – 4:30; Gates Hall, Room 314

Class Meeting Time and Location: Blackboard

Course Information

Catalog Description: The interaction between the individual and the legal system, including: eyewitness identification, investigative interviewing, interrogations, jury selection, the insanity defenses, punishment and rehabilitation.

There is no prerequisite for this course.

Textbook Information

Required Textbook(s) and/or Required Materials: Wrightsman's Psychology and Legal System, Greene, Cengage Publishing, 10th Edition, 2024- ISBN# 9781337570879

*The textbook for this course is part of the **Wayland's Automatic eBook** program. You will have access to an eBook and interactive learning material on the first day of class through your Blackboard course site. The cost of this Automatic eBook will be billed directly to your student account when you register for the course. You will be notified via email with access instructions and additional information. If you do not wish to participate in the Automatic eBook program, you will have the first 12 days of class to opt-out of the program (additional details will be outlined in your email instructions). For more information on the Automatic eBook program, visit the Wayland Bookstore [Automatic eBook FAQ](#) page.*

Course Outcome Competencies: Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

- the legal system, its values and ethical considerations
- the legality, morality and justice within our criminal justice system
- the basic theories of crime
- the criminal investigation, identification, and evaluation of criminal suspects
- the rights of victims and of the accused
- competence and insanity
- victims
- the rights of special groups

Attendance Requirements

WBUonline

Students are expected to participate in all required instructional activities in their courses. Online courses are no different in this regard; however, participation must be defined in a different manner. Student “attendance” in an online course is defined as active participation in the course as described in the course syllabus. Instructors in online courses are responsible for providing students with clear instructions for how they are required to participate in the course. Additionally, instructors are responsible for incorporating specific instructional activities within their course and will, at a minimum, have weekly mechanisms for documenting student participation. These mechanisms may include, but are not limited to, participating in a weekly discussion board, submitting/completing assignments in Blackboard, or communicating with the instructor. Students aware of necessary absences must inform the professor with as much advance notice as possible in order to make appropriate arrangements. Any student absent 25 percent or more of the online course, i.e., non-participatory during 2 or more weeks of an 8-week session, may receive an F for that course. Instructors may also file a Report of Unsatisfactory Progress for students with excessive non-participation. Any student who has not actively participated in an online class prior to the census date for any given session is considered a “no-show” and will be administratively withdrawn from the class without record. To be counted as actively participating, it is not sufficient to log in and view the course. The student must be submitting work as described in the course syllabus. Additional attendance and participation policies for each course, as defined by the instructor in the course syllabus, are considered a part of the university’s attendance policy.

University Policies

[Link to Statement on Academic Integrity , and reference one of the following in regard to how generative artificial intelligence \(GAI\) such as ChatGPT may or may not be used in this course:](#)

- a. Generative AI tools permitted in specific context and with proper citations.
 - i. Students are allowed to use, reference, or incorporate generative AI tools into specific assignments for this course. When used, students must properly cite the generative AI tool in their submitted work.
 - ii. While there is no true substitute for direct help and instruction for your instructor, students may be allowed to use generative AI tools to provide further explanations of

- course content, readings, and other assignments. Any use of generative AI tools to help further explain or translate to content must be properly referenced and cited.
- iii. Specific parameters for generative AI usage are provided by the instructor.
 - iv. Any use of generative AI tools outside of the approved instructor parameters will be considered a form of plagiarism and academic dishonesty.

Disability Statement: In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), it is the policy of Wayland Baptist University that no otherwise qualified person with a disability be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subject to discrimination under any educational program or activity in the university. The Disability Services Coordinator and Academic Coach serves as the coordinator of students with disabilities and must be contacted concerning accommodation requests (office (806) 291-1057. Documentation of a disability must accompany any request for accommodations.

Accessibility issues with content in WBUonline courses or in Blackboard should be addressed to the WBU accessibility coordinator, Dr. Rick Hammer, hammerr@wbu.edu or call (806) 292-9150.

Course Requirements and Grading Criteria

All assignments may be found in folders set up for each week of the course. The weekly schedule is outlined in the 'Schedule' section below. All assignments for the week must be completed by 11:59 pm (Central Daylight time zone) on Sunday night (except the case study project which will be due on a Wednesday). Some assignments may be available early if you want to work ahead. Discussions will need to be completed during the week assigned. Students who have circumstances which prevent them from participating or completing an assignment on time must communicate with me in order to find reasonable accommodations to complete the required course work.

- **Weekly Reading Quizzes:** You will have a quiz each week covering the assigned readings (see schedule below). The quizzes are open book and untimed and they may be retaken once. These quizzes will be very important to prepare you for the exams. The average of the quiz grades will be 20% of your final grade.
- **Midterm and final exams:** You will take a midterm (chapters 1 – 8) and a final exam (chapters 10 – 15). These will be timed and you will only have one chance to take them. The quizzes will be very helpful in preparing for the exams. Questions will be objective (multiple choice, etc.) like the quizzes. The average of the two exams will be 40% of the final grade.
- **Weekly discussion board or other assignment:** Each week will have a discussion board or another assignment to complete. Your work is not to be simply copied from another source (see academic dishonest policy). I take plagiarism seriously! Your work should be thoughtful and thorough, demonstrating your understanding of the material. Responses to other students on discussion board should be substantive and make a contribution to

the course. They should also be respectful to all other people. In general, your original post must be made by Thursday night in order to be able to get full credit. The average of these assignments will be 20% of the final grade.

- **Project:** You will write a case description that illustrates concepts from the course. Find a real-life case and describe what happened in that case.
- **Cite at least three independent sources** of information about the case to ensure that you are getting a balanced account of the events.
 - Note a **minimum of 5 concepts** from this course that are applicable to the case. Be sure that concepts come from **at least 3 different chapters** in the text AND be sure to **cite the page number in the text** for each concept.
 - You may also use outside sources (in addition to the text). Be sure to cite those sources as you use the information in the paper.
 - Clearly explain/illustrate how the concepts are involved and the impact that they had on the development and outcome of the case. You may also consider how the case could have turned out differently if these factors had been different.
 - **Write the paper in APA format** (see this site for information: https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/apa_style/index.html) You may use the student paper format.
 - The total paper (including title page and references) should be 8 – 10 pages long.
 - Be sure **to cite (in the text of the paper) all sources** used, even if you do not directly quote from the source. As noted above, I take plagiarism seriously. Do not copy any portion of the paper from other sources. If direct quotes are used, they must be indicated with “quotation marks”. Please proofread carefully before submitting the paper.
 - Note that you may want to consult with the WBU Tutorial Center for assistance.
 - The project will be **due by Wednesday, July 16**. Yes, this is an odd day, but it gives you a little more time to work and still gives me time to grade. You are free to turn them in early!!

The grade on this paper will be 20% of the final grade in the course.

The University has a standard grade scale:

A = 90-100, B = 80-89, C = 70-79, D = 60-69, F= below 60, W = Withdrawal, WP = withdrew passing, WF = withdrew failing, I = incomplete. An incomplete may be given within the last two weeks of a long term, within the last week of an 8-week session, or within the last two days of a microterm to a student who is passing, but has not completed a term paper, examination, or other required work for reasons beyond the student’s control. A grade of “incomplete” is changed if the work required is completed prior to the last day of the next long 16-week term or 8-week session, unless the instructor designates an earlier date for completion. If the work is not completed by the appropriate date, the I is converted to an F.

Student Grade Appeals: Students shall have protection through orderly procedures against prejudices or capricious academic evaluation. A student who believes that he or she has not been held to realistic academic standards, just evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade

given in the course by using the student grade appeal process described in the Academic Catalog. Appeals may not be made for advanced placement examinations or course bypass examinations. Appeals are limited to the final course grade, which may be upheld, raised, or lowered at any stage of the appeal process. Any recommendation to lower a course grade must be submitted through the Vice President of Academic Affairs to the Faculty Assembly Grade Appeals Committee for review and approval. The Faculty Assembly Grade Appeals Committee may instruct that the course grade be upheld, raised, or lowered to a more proper evaluation.

Tentative Schedule

Week	Topics	Chap	Due Date
One	Choices & Roles, The Legal System: Issues, Structure and Players	1,2	TBA
Two	Psychology of Crime, Psychology of Police	3,4	
Three	Eyewitnesses to Crimes and Accidents, Psychology of Victims of Crime and Violence	5,6	
Four	Evaluating Criminal Suspects, Traditional Prosecutions: Arrest, Bail, Plea Bargain, Settlement, and Trial	7,8	
Five	Alternatives to Traditional Prosecution, Forensic Assessment in Juvenile and Criminal Cases Midterm Exam	10	
Six	Forensic Assessment in Civil Cases, Preparing for Trials	11,12	
Seven	Jurors and Juries, Punishment and Sentencing Project Due on Wed, July 16	13,14	
Eight	Juvenile and Adult Corrections Final Exam	15	