



PSYC 177

Special Topics Capstone: Advanced Study in Psychology

Fall 2024, Topics in Psychology and Law

PSYC 177. Special Topics Capstone: Advanced Study in Psychology.

3 Units

Prerequisite(s): PSYC 2, 4, 8, 9, must have Senior status to enroll in course.

Term Typically Offered: Fall, Spring, Summer

Examines a special topic of interest in psychology. Offered by rotating instructors, the capstone explores selected topics in psychology, and contemporary developments in theories, methodologies, and/or methods in the selected sub-discipline or topical area. Topics can include subject matter from all areas of psychology, including, but not limited to: applied behavior analysis, clinical, cognitive, community, cultural, developmental, experimental, feminist, health, industrial-organizational, neuroscience, perception, quantitative, social, etc., as well as related methodologies. Recommend prior coursework in area of focus.

This course will introduce students to the exciting field of psychology and law. The topics may include eyewitness memory, children as witnesses, detection of deception, false confession, jury decision-making, and psychologists as expert witnesses. The course assignments may include reading, discussion, written critique of media/movie portrayal of a psychology and law topic, student presentation of their findings on a selected topic, or a literature review paper. This is not an “easy” or “light” course, as there will be a substantial amount of reading and writing, however, there will be plenty of interesting topics. For example, you will learn that the field of psychology and law has very little to do with serial killers or the psychological profiling of criminals as portrayed in movies or TV shows. The instructor of this course has conducted studies on eyewitness memory, suggestibility, false memory, and other topics that relate to psychology and law. He has also served as an expert witness in legal cases that involve eyewitness identification.

Contact Dr. Jianjian Qin at qinj@csus.edu with any questions about the course.