Syllabus

Forensic Psychology 6530 OLA & OLB
Forensic Program Development and Evaluation

SUMMER I 2006
[Online]

Instructor:

Clifford Kusaj, Psy.D.   Office Hours: By appointment online,
                                                   in chat room, IM and/or by telephone

Phone: (415) 706-6103
Email: ckusaj@hotmail.com

Course Description:

       This course will explore the development, evaluation and analysis of forensic programs of all types. This course will focus on the application of a scientific/empirical model to examine the elements necessary for adequate program design and analysis of forensic programs – law enforcement, correctional, offender and victim services.

Course Objectives:

       By the successful completion of this course student will have acquired the skills to be able to effectively develop and evaluate a variety of juvenile and adult programs within criminal and civil justice systems. By the end of this course:

1) Students will acquire the analytical skills necessary to appropriately use existing qualitative and quantitative assessment tools necessary for the development of new forensic programs.

2) Students will acquire the research skills necessary to develop new assessment tools design for program development or evaluation.

3) Students will become familiar with empirically tested methods of evaluating and developing program such as early intervention programs in schools, victim-treatment programs, teen courts, mental health treatment program within a correctional setting, work-release programs, and police and correctional officer training programs.

4) Students will develop the written and oral communication skills necessary to communicate development goals and evaluation finding with diverse groups of professionals, and

5) Students will develop knowledge regarding important dynamics specific to forensic psychology program development within non-mental health settings.

Schedule –
       Week 1 – Program Evaluation: An Overview
       Week 2 – Planning / Assessment of Need

Week 3 – Selecting Criteria and Setting Standards / Goals and Objectives

Week 4 – Developing Measures / Ethics in Program Evaluation

Week 5 – Developing Timelines

Week 6 – Program Implementation

Week 7 – Evaluation and Feedback / Communication of Findings

Required Textbook: Timmereck, Thomas C. <u>Planning, Program Development, and Evaluation</u>
Second Edition. Jones and Bartlett, Publishers. Sudbury, Mass. 2003.
{*Secondary reading will be assigned and designated by attachment or
Internet search.*}

Course Requirements and Assignments:

Reading:

Students will complete a perusal reading the Timmreck textbook before the first online class lecture.
Other reading assignments will be made online or as attachments to weekly lectures.

Lectures:

Lectures will be posted each Sunday evening. Students are required to master the lecture content in terms
of theory, methodology and issues germane to the course description. My lectures will integrate material covered
in your textbook with special subjects, topics and examples relevant to forensic psychology.

Postings:

Students are required to "post" responses under the "discussion" portion of the website for the
corresponding week (i.e.; week 1, 2…). Please make sure that you provide your name for each posting
or you will *not receive credit*. Posting discussion questions (threads) will be posted under the assignment
portion of the website for the corresponding week (i.e.; Week 1, 2...) by the instructor every Saturday for
the corresponding week. Students should check the "discussion" portion of the website each Sunday to
obtain the discussion topics. <u>Students will be expected to provide "a minimum" of two postings per week</u>,
<u>one</u> in response to the instructor's posting and <u>one</u> in response to one other student's posting. *Each student*
should respond to only one other student, and each student may have only one response to her/his posting.
<u>*So, you must choose to respond to another student who has not yet had a response form another student.*</u>

Postings will require some thinking and analytical skills to successfully answer questions and address
issues, and students are required to provide responses that represent graduate level work.

Midterm Examination:

Students will be emailed a Midterm Examination on the Saturday of week four and will be required to
email their answers to the professor by midnight the next day (Sunday). The exam is <u>open book</u>, and
will consist of multiple choice, True/False, short answer, and essay questions. <u>These questions will cover</u>
<u>all of the required readings, postings and lectures for weeks one to three</u>.

Final Examination:

Students will be emailed a Final Examination on the Saturday of week seven, and will be required to email their answers to the professor by midnight EST the next evening (Sunday). The exam is <u>open book</u>, and will consist of multiple choice, True/False, short answer, and essay questions. <u>These questions will cover all of the required readings for weeks four to seven, and may require students to go back to earlier readings in the course.</u>

Project:

Students will be expected to complete and write an 8-10 page paper proposing and delineating the development and subsequent evaluation of a program in the area of forensic psychology, criminal justice or victimology

The specifics of this assignment will be presented in the first course week's lecture or attachments.

Late assignments: While this is an online course, students are expected to complete assignments in a timely fashion. Late postings will receive a 1- point reduction per 24-hour period for each assigned question. Late written assignments will receive a 10-point reduction per 6-hour period. Late exams will receive a reduction of 10 points per ½ hour period. If there are specific difficulties, students are encouraged to contact the instructor in advance to make accommodations.

Grading:

Grades in this course will be based on the following point structure:

        Weekly Postings…………......................................2 postings/week 6 weeks = 60 pts
        Midterm…………...………………………………………………….........= 50 pts
        Paper……………………………………………………………………….= 40 pts
        Final Exam………..…………………………………………….…................ = <u>50 pts</u>

        Total points   200 pts

Grading Scale (Points):

A = 180-200
B = 160-179
C = 140-159
F = < 139

Academic Honesty

Students are expected to submit original work. Scholarly resources and other sources of information must be documented appropriately. In addition, it is not permitted to resubmit work produced for one course in a subsequent course. It is your responsibility to seek clarification from us if you are unsure whether your work meets these expectations. Students found guilty of academic dishonesty or plagiarism are subject to disciplinary action by the University. A complete description of Argosy's policy on academic honesty can be found on page 11 of the *Academic Catalog*.

NOTE:

All written assignments must be submitted in electronic form (.doc, .rtf, .pdf files) Written assignments may be submitted to Turnitin.com as per AUSFBA arrangements with that service.

In no way is this policy to impugn the integrity of any of you. We want to maintain the highest level of academic and professional integrity in our program, primarily for all students' exemplary reputations as graduates of AUSFBA.

Accommodations:

It is the policy of Argosy University/SFBA to make reasonable accommodations for qualified students with disabilities, in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). If a student with disabilities needs accommodations, the student must notify the Director of Student Services. Procedures for documenting student disability and the development of reasonable accommodations will be provided to the student upon request.