

**One Week Intensive Study Abroad Course in Argentina  
Mental Health and the Criminal Justice System (PSY 480; 4 credits)**

**Drexel course to be held at:**

**La Universidad Nacional de La Plata, La Plata, Buenos Aires Province, Argentina**

**Trip dates: Friday, December 5 – Friday, December 12, 2014**

**Course dates: Monday, December 8 – Friday, December 12, 2014**

**Naomi E. Goldstein, Ph.D.**

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**Course Objectives:**

This course will provide an in depth look at mental health issues in Argentina's Criminal Justice system. It offers students the opportunity to learn about forensic psychology through a study abroad experience. Students will build on their comparative psychology learning from the Special Topics Course, Comparative Forensic Psychology: Argentina v. U.S., by learning about mental health issues in forensic psychology in Argentina. The course will involve a combination of classroom learning; facilitated discussions with attorneys, judges, and forensic psychologists and psychiatrists; and visits to a state mental hospital, prison, juvenile court and/or adult court. Students will observe court in session. Argentinean forensic psychology students and young professionals will attend in-classroom sessions with Drexel students, with the goal of broadening their cultural experiences and enriching classroom discussions. All classes involving institutional tours and observations will be taught solely for Drexel students.

Upon completion of this course students will:

1. Be able to identify common mental health needs in Argentina's criminal justice system
2. Understand the process of identifying and treating mental health needs in Argentina's criminal justice system.
3. Understand the role of forensic psychologists, forensic psychiatrists, lawyers, and judges in addressing mental health issues in Argentina's criminal justice system.
4. Be familiar with mental health issues in Argentina's state mental hospitals and prisons.
5. Be familiar with juvenile and adult court proceedings in Argentina.

**Required Readings:**

Assigned readings include scientific and practice-oriented articles and book chapters about mental health issues in the criminal justice system. These readings are available on LEARN and *must be completed prior to travel to Argentina.*

**Requirements:**

The grade for the term consists of the following:

Final Paper = 60% of grade

Class Participation = 40% of grade

- **Final Paper:** The final paper will involve writing a 5-page paper on a forensic mental health topic you select, in consultation with Dr. Goldstein, based on your week-long experience in the course in Argentina. The paper should include information covered in class, information from your discussions with Argentinean legal and mental health professionals, and information from additional readings. This paper will be due by the end of the first week of winter term.
- **Class Participation:** Students will be graded based on their participation in course activities. Specifically, students are expected to attend all educational components of the study abroad course and participate in group discussions to the best of their abilities, recognizing potential language obstacles at times.

**Language Requirements:**

There are no language requirements for participating in this study abroad trip. With the exception of observing court in session, all in-class lectures and guided tours will be provided in English and/or translated into English. However, Spanish ability will enhance the student's cultural and education experience and is, therefore, desirable.

## Course Schedule:

Monday, December 8	
8:00-10:00	<b>Assessment of Violence Risk</b> Evaluation of violence risk and violent behavior. Clinical risk factors and explanatory models.
10:00-12:00	<b>Consideration of Age and Maturity in Legal Proceedings</b> Theoretical and practical approaches to considering age and developmental maturity in a range of legal proceedings, including interrogations, trial competence, and sentencing.
2:00-6:00	<b>Overview of the Criminal Justice System: Meetings with Legal Experts</b> Meet with a judge and prosecutor to discuss legal proceedings from arrest through disposition.
Tuesday, December 9	
8:00-12:00	<b>Legal Application and Visit to Criminal Court</b> A look at the criminal justice system: Observe court in session and discuss observations.
2:00-5:00	<b>Overview of Argentina's Provincial Governments and Legal Policy</b> Tours of Argentina's provincial government buildings and explanations of government processes
Wednesday, December 10	
8:00-6:00	<b>Overview of National Government</b> Buenos Aires tour: A focus on national government sites and processes, and implications of government structure for forensic issues.
Thursday, December 11	
8:00-1:00	<b>Psycho-legal Application and Tour of a Psychiatric Prison</b> Guided tour of a psychiatric prison. Overview of the mental health care and justice system approach to mental illness provided by the prison's superintendent, mental health director, and consulting psychologist and psychiatrist. Additional information provided by medical and social work teams, as well as by corrections officers and patients.
2:00-5:00	<b>Forensic Mental Health Assessments in Argentina</b> Lecture and discussions about forensic mental health assessments in Argentina. Ethics of the evaluation process and the intersection between legal and mental health priorities will be emphasized
Friday, December 12	
8:00-1:00	<b>Clinical Application and Tour of a Psychiatric Hospital</b> Guided tour of a psychiatric hospital. Overview of Argentina's approach to inpatient mental health care provided by the hospital's lead psychology. Additional information provided by nurses, physicians, and social workers, as well as by patients.
1:00-3:00	<b>Wrap Up and Future Research</b> Final group discussion. Generate ideas for research questions based on the week's experiences. Finalize individual research papers for final course assignment.

*Schedule subject to change. See next page for reading assignments.*

## Schedule of additional, non-credit enrichment activities:

- Saturday, Dec. 7: Arrival (group transport from airport provided), Lunch, Guided walking tour of La Plata, Visit to La Plata's famous cathedral, Visit to Plaza Moreno, Visit to the business district, Group errands (e.g., cash machine, supermarket, drug store), Dinner and night out as a group (to be joined by National University of La Plata students).
- Sunday, Dec. 9: Visit to La Republica de Los Niños, Visit to La Quinta for relaxation and cultural exposure to how families spend their weekend days, Dinner out in the town of City Bell with US and Argentine course instructors and students.
- Monday, Dec. 10: Organized group dinner at La Modelo with US and Argentine course instructors.
- Tuesday, Dec. 11: Dinner out as a group.
- Wednesday, Dec. 12: Free time after return to La Plata.
- Thursday, Dec. 13: Recommended excursion to La Plata's zoo and gardens.
- Friday, Dec. 14: Conclusion of course over group lunch. Departure. Group transport to airport provided.

### **Reading Assignments:**

All reading assignments are available on LEARN. *All readings must be completed prior to travel to Argentina.*

- Dragus, J. G. & Tanaka-Matsumi, J. (2003). Assessment of psychopathology across and within cultures: Issues and findings. *Behaviour Research and Therapy*, 41, 755–776
- Heilbrun, K., Holliday, S. B., & King, C. (2013). Evaluation of violence risk in adults. In R. Roesch & P. A. Zapf (Eds.), *Forensic assessments in criminal and civil law: A handbook for lawyers* (pp. 47-59). New York: Oxford University Press.
- Heilbrun, K., Marczyk, G. R., & DeMatteo, D. (2002). Chapter 1: Introduction and overview. *In Forensic Mental Health Assessment* (pp. 3-16). New York: Oxford University Press.
- Grisso, T. (1998). Evaluations for waiver to criminal court (Chapter 6). In *Forensic Evaluations of Juvenile* (pp. 195-226). Sarasota, FL: Professional Resource Press.
- Grisso, T. (1998). Professional and ethical practice (Chapter 7). In *Forensic Evaluations of Juvenile* (pp. 195-226). Sarasota, FL: Professional Resource Press.
- Hoge, R. D. (2013). Evaluation of juveniles' risks and needs. In R. Roesch & P. A. Zapf (Eds.), *Forensic assessments in criminal and civil law: A handbook for lawyers* (pp. 237-249). New York: Oxford University Press.
- Packer (2013). Evaluation of criminal responsibility. In R. Roesch & P. A. Zapf (Eds.), *Forensic assessments in criminal and civil law: A handbook for lawyers* (pp. 32-46). New York: Oxford University Press.
- Padilla, A. M. (2003). Issues in culturally appropriate assessment. Handbook of multicultural assessment. In L. A. Suzuki & J. Ponterotto (Eds.), *Handbook of Multicultural Assessment*. New York: John Wiley.
- Suzuki, L. A. & Ponterotto, J. G. (2001). Multicultural assessment: Trends and future directions. In L. A. Suzuki, J. G. Ponterotto & P. J. Meller (Eds.), *Handbook of multicultural assessment: Clinical, Psychological, and Educational Applications, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition*. New York: John Wiley.
- Tsytarev, S. V. Landes, A. (2007). Competency to Stand Trial: A Multicultural Perspective. In L. A. Suzuki & J. G. Ponterotto (Eds.), *Handbook of multicultural assessment: Clinical, Psychological, and Educational Applications, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition*. New York: John Wiley.
- Zapf, P. A. & Roesch, R. (2013). Evaluation of Competence to Stand Trial in Adults. In R. Roesch & P. A. Zapf (Eds.), *Forensic assessments in criminal and civil law: A handbook for lawyers* (pp. 17-31). New York: Oxford University Press.

### **Professionalism and Academic Integrity:**

This course follows the rules and regulations of Drexel University regarding plagiarism and cheating. Such violations will result in a failing grade on the work and may also result in a failing grade for the course and disciplinary actions on the part of the University. It is anticipated that all students will produce original work and will fulfill the expectations of personal and academic integrity.