



# Psychology and Law

Psychology 320  
Social Psychology

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## Topics of Interest

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- Jury Selection/Jury Decision Making
- Exploration of morality vs. law
- Eyewitness Testimony
- Race Bias
- Interrogation Techniques
- Procedural vs. Distributive Justice

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## Jury Selection/Decision Making

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- Similarity to the defendant
- Class and weapon issues
- Attractiveness of defendant
- Story-telling approach vs. forensics

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## Information Bias

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- Group polarization
- Cognitive Centrality
- Gender Differences
- 12 person vs. 6 person juries

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## Morality and Law

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- American 'Values'
- Distinguishing between sin and law
- Drugs, Alcohol, Voting, Driving

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## Eyewitness Testimony

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- Very Persuasive
- Incredibly inaccurate
- 52% of cases involved some error in eyewitness identification.
- Cross-race identification is worse than chance.

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### Interrogation Techniques

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- Leading the witness
- Adding facts
- Polygraph Multiple Choice

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### Procedural vs. Distributive Justice

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- Procedural: fairness in the procedure for determining rewards/punishments
- Distributive: fairness in the distribution of rewards and punishments (regardless of procedure)

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