PSYCHIATRY and LAW
Case Western Reserve University School of Law
Fall 2021 Semester
Course No.: LAWS 5213-300
Wednesday 5 PM – 7:30 PM (two credits)
Room TBD

Instructors:
Stephen Noffsinger, M.D., D.F.A.P.A.
Director, Forensic Psychiatry Fellowship
Professor of Psychiatry
UH Cleveland Medical Center
Mailstop WLK 5080
W.O. Walker Center - Suite 7135A - 7th Floor
10524 Euclid Avenue
Cleveland, OH 44106
216-286-6669
216-844-1703 (fax)
Stephen.Noffsinger @UHhospitals.org

Susan Hatters Friedman, M.D., D.F.A.P.A.
The Phillip J. Resnick Professor of Forensic Psychiatry
Professor of Reproductive Biology
Professor of Pediatrics
Adjunct Professor of Law
Case Western Reserve University
216-286-7426
216-844-1703 (fax)
Sjh8@case.edu

Additional reading assignments may be given during the course.
Syllabus

Week 1 – August 25, 2021
Course Introduction
Brief History of Psychiatry
Basic Psychiatry for Attorneys
Overview of Psychiatric Symptoms and Disorders
2. Sample Outline and Mental Status Examinations.

Week 2 – September 1, 2021
Basic Psychiatry for Attorneys
Overview of Psychiatric Symptoms and Disorders

Additional reading assignments may be given during the course.
Week 3 – September 8, 2021
Competence as a Concept
Competence to Stand Trial
Other Criminal Competencies


Week 4 – September 15, 2021
Insanity Defense


Week 5 – September 22, 2021
Insanity Acquittee Release
Diminished Capacity/Guilty but Mentally Ill Defenses
Battered Woman Syndrome Defense
Duress Defense


Additional reading assignments may be given during the course.
Week 6 – September 29, 2021
Informed Consent
Right to Treatment
Right to Refuse Treatment
Testamentary Capacity/Undue Influence
3. Summary of Steele v. Hamilton County Community Mental Health Board, 90 Ohio St. 3d 176 (Ohio 2000).

Week 7 – October 6, 2021
Drug Courts – Honorable David T. Matia (60 min)
Therapeutic Jurisprudence (Friedman)

Week 8 – October 13, 2021
Defendant and Prisoner Rights
Duty to Protect

Week 9 – October 20, 2021
Civil Commitment
Selecting, Using and Cross-Examining a Mental Health Expert Witness
2. Case examples for involuntary hospitalization.

Additional reading assignments may be given during the course.
**Week 10 – October 27, 2021**

**Infanticide**

**Family Murder and Mental Illness**

**Child Abuse Evaluations – Josh Friedman, M.D.**


**Week 11 – November 3, 2021**

**Psychiatric Disability & Emotional Damages**

**Psychiatric Malpractice**


**Week 12 – November 10, 2021**

**Suicide and Violence Risk Assessment**

**Stalking**


Additional reading assignments may be given during the course.
7. West S, Friedman SH. These boots were made for stalking: Characteristics of female stalkers. Psychiatry (Edgemont). 2008;5(8):37-42.

Week 13 – November 17, 2021
Psychiatry and the Death Penalty

Reading Period
November 27 – December 1, 2021

Final Examination Period
December 2 – December 15, 2021
Optional out-of-class experiences for students will include:

Criminal and Civil Forensic Psychiatry evaluations - Dr. Noffsinger periodically evaluates subjects through his private practice. Evaluations take place at University Hospitals of Cleveland. These evaluations are usually scheduled with no more than two weeks’ notice, and will be announced throughout the semester as they are scheduled.

Student Learning Outcomes:
At the end of the course students should be able to:
1. Understand and remember the basics of psychiatry, including the mental status examination and diagnostic criteria for major mental disorders.
2. Apply the DSM-5 diagnostic criteria for major mental disorders to make an accurate psychiatric diagnosis.
3. Describe the similarities and differences between a forensic psychiatrist and a clinical psychiatrist.
4. State criminal and civil statutory and case law standards as they relate to the practice of forensic psychiatry.**
5. Analyze forensic psychiatry cases and apply legal standards to various forensic psychiatry issues.**

Teaching Methods:
1. Assigned reading material, to be read prior to class. Students should expect to spend four to six hours reading out-of-class, each week, to prepare for class.
2. Classroom instruction – lecture and discussion.
3. PowerPoint presentations.
4. Video examples.
5. Sample forensic psychiatry vignettes.
6. Instructional films.

Assessment Methods:
1. Final examination – 90-minute comprehensive multiple-choice and problem-solving examination administered during final examination period.
2. Classroom participation.
3. Attendance.

Reading Assignments
Assignments posted on Canvas. Please complete all reading assignments prior to class and be prepared to discuss in class.

Attendance Policy:
Attendance is expected. 100% attendance is encouraged. More than two absences will be reflected in final grade.

Instructor Availability:

Additional reading assignments may be given during the course.
Both Dr. Noffsinger and Dr. Friedman are available to students on an as-needed basis, via in-person office meetings, discussion after class, email or telephone. Please call or email to schedule an office meeting.

**Contact Information:**

- **Dr. Noffsinger:**
  - 216-286-6669 (office);
  - 330-554-9561 (cell); or
  - Email: Stephen.Noffsinger@UHhospitals.org

- **Dr. Friedman:**
  - 216-286-7426 (office)
  - Email: SJH8@case.edu