This book is dedicated to our many students who challenge our thinking and inspire us.
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This is an exciting time in the field of forensic psychology, with many new developments by theorists and researchers. For example, new insights into the biological underpinnings of antisocial behavior, innovative methods for interviewing child witnesses, theories of women offending, and novel methods of assessing violence risk have been developed. *Forensic Psychology* is designed primarily for use in undergraduate courses, although graduate students and practitioners may find the comprehensive and up-to-date summary of key areas a useful resource.

We have taken a broad-based perspective that incorporates both experimental and clinical topics. The text covers topics that might otherwise be discussed in traditional social and cognitive psychology courses—including eyewitness testimony, jury decision making, and police procedures—as well as topics that are clinical in nature and might otherwise be discussed in traditional personality or abnormal psychology courses—such as the meaning of competency to stand trial, mentally disordered offenders, sex offenders, and psychopathy. Our goal is to present the important ideas, issues, and research in a way that students will understand and enjoy, and in some cases find them useful in their professional careers. To provide students with a glimpse into the life of an academic, each chapter includes a profile of a prominent U.S. researcher. We hope that the academic community will find this textbook a valuable teaching tool that provides a comprehensive and current coverage of forensic psychology.

**DISTINGUISHING FEATURES**

The pedagogical aids are designed to promote student learning and assist instructors in presenting key material. Important features include the following:

- **Learning Objectives and End-of-Chapter Summaries.** Each chapter starts with a list of learning objectives to guide students’ learning of the material and closes with a summary linked to the learning objectives.
- **Vignettes.** Chapter-opening vignettes provide students with a context for the key concepts they will encounter in each chapter. These engaging vignettes present real-world scenarios in which students, or people they know, could potentially find themselves.
- **Boxes.** Boxed features within the chapters provide interesting asides to the main text. Some detail current American cases and legal rulings, while others highlight “hot” topics in the news that have not yet been the subject of much psychological research. These boxes will develop students’ consciousness of current issues and hopefully spark some research ideas.
- **Case Studies.** With the case studies, students are encouraged to take an active role—putting themselves in the shoes of judges, forensic psychologists, police officers, and so on—in applying material from the chapter to a related scenario.
- **In the Media.** These boxes highlight current issues being portrayed in the media that relate to the chapter topics.
- **Profiles of U.S. Researchers.** To expose students to the varied and excellent research in forensic psychology being conducted by Americans, each chapter includes a profile of a key American researcher whose work is relevant to the chapter topic. These profiles highlight educational background, current position, and research interests, along with a little about the researcher’s personal life, so students realize they are people too.
- **Research Methodology.** Research methodology specific to forensic topics is described in the relevant chapters, with the goal of helping students understand how studies in forensic psychology are conducted.
Preface

• Research Studies. Data reported in original studies is cited throughout the textbook, often in graph or table form for easy interpretation. Diagrams of psychological models and flow charts demonstrate key processes that occur through the criminal justice system.

• Theoretical Perspectives. Theories relevant to specific topics areas are described in each of the relevant chapters. The discussion of the various theories emphasizes a multidisciplinary approach, showing the interplay among cognitive, biological, and social factors in understanding the different forensic psychology areas.

• Law. Forensic Psychology provides the student with information on current U.S. law relevant to the psychological issues discussed.

• Discussion Questions. Several discussion questions are offered at the end of each chapter. Instructors can assign these questions for group discussion, or students can use the questions to examine their comprehension and retention of the chapter material. We hope these questions will inspire critical thought in students.

• Key Terms and Glossary. Throughout the chapters, key words with which students in forensic psychology should be familiar with appear in bold type and are defined in marginal notes. These key terms and their definitions are also provided in a glossary at the end of the book for easy reference.

SUPPLEMENTS FOR INSTRUCTORS

Pearson is pleased to offer the following supplements to qualified instructors.

• Instructor’s Manual with Tests (0-205-94928-2): The instructor’s manual is a wonderful tool for classroom preparation and management. Corresponding to the chapters in the text, each of the manual’s chapters contains a brief overview of the chapter with suggestions on how to present the material, sample lecture outlines, classroom activities and discussion topics, ideas for in-class and out-of-class projects, and recommended outside readings. The test bank contains multiple-choice, short answer, and essay questions, each referencing the relevant page in the text.

• MySearchLab (0-205-94993-2): MySearchLab with eText provides engaging experiences that personalize learning, and comes from a trusted partner with educational expertise and a deep commitment to helping students and instructors achieve their goals.

• Survey Tool: Instructors can survey their students and generate real-time customized reports.

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• Assessment: Chapter quizzes and flashcards offer immediate feedback and report directly to the gradebook.

• Writing and Research: A wide range of writing, grammar, and research tools and access to a variety of academic journals and Census data help you hone your writing and research skills.
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We have tried to incorporate as many of the suggestions as possible, but of course we were restricted in terms of page length. In the end, we feel this textbook provides excellent breadth and good depth.

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