Fall 2014  
Neuroscience and the Law  

Course Number:  SPCL 7024  
Call Number:  000125  

Professor:  Hardcastle, PhD, Scholar in Residence with the Weaver Institute  
Credits:  3 Classroom  
Primary Basis for the Grade:  Seminar Paper; Letter Grade  
Prerequisites:  None  
Enrollment:  Limited to 15; A special lottery will take place – watch for email from Dean Oliver  
Meets Seminar Requirement?  Yes  
Meets Writing Requirement?  Yes  
Meets Client Counseling Requirement?  No  
Meeting Times:  T and Th 5:00 to 6:25 pm  
Location:  208  

COURSE DESCRIPTION:  
What are adolescents, psychopaths, and white-collar fraud artists thinking? Why does emotional trauma for victims of abuse last so long? Why is eyewitness memory so poor? Do violent video games lead to violent children? Lawyers and courts, including the U.S. Supreme Court, are already integrating neuroscience research into their arguments and opinions on questions such as these. This Neuroscience and the Law course will introduce the exciting new field of “neurolaw” by covering issues such as the neuroscience of criminal culpability, brain-based lie detection, emotions, decision making, and much more. How the legal system can and should respond to new insights on topics such as adolescent brain development, addiction, psychopathy, Alzheimer’s, the effects of combat on soldiers’ brains, and concussions from sports injuries will be discussed and analyzed. (Note that all scientific material in the class will be presented in an accessible manner; no previous science background is required or assumed.) Graduate students from other colleges at UC may join the class.  

Special Note:  
Taking this course satisfies only one of the graduation requirements (seminar or writing). If you take this course and have not yet satisfied the seminar requirement, you will be deemed to have met the seminar requirement. However, if you take this course and you have already met the seminar requirement, you will be deemed to have met the writing requirement. Two, separate courses are required to satisfy both the seminar and writing requirements. No one course satisfies them both.  

Last Updated:  8/27/14 cc