*PBSCI 525: Psychiatry and the Law*

**Overview:**
PBSCI-525, Psychiatry and the Law, is aimed at trainees interested in learning more about topics in forensic mental health. Trainees will participate in didactic curriculum and develop research skills in the area of psychiatry and the law.

**Goals:**
The course will be individualized to the skills and interests of each participant. In general, course enrollees are expected to (1) attend didactic courses and individual meetings with faculty mentor(s) and (2) design and complete a research project with paper under the supervision of their course mentor(s).

The course will introduce participants to both civil and criminal areas in mental health and the law; research ethics, research design, grantmanship, and mental health law. Potential research topics include: civil competencies, criminal competencies, expert witness testimony, involuntary treatment, child custody, psychological harm, correctional psychiatry, criminal responsibility, suicide and violence risk assessment, sexual offenders, public policy and the law, among others.

**Objectives:**
- Explore issues at the interface of law and psychiatry
- Understand ethical issues in forensic research
- Become familiar with research tools used in mental health and the law
- Become familiar with types of research design in forensic psychiatry
- Design and complete an individual research project with paper under supervision

*Note: updates will be made to Canvas in the Feb/Mar timeframe regarding this course.*