



Department of Psychology
Psychology 493 (L01) – Psychology and Law
Fall 2010 – Course Outline

Instructor:	Dr. Melissa Boyce	Lecture Location:	Admin 253
Phone:	403-210-6257	Lecture Days/Time:	MWF 3:00-3:50pm
Email:	mboyce@ucalgary.ca		
Office:	Admin 258		
Office Hours:	TBA		

Course Description and Goals

This course focuses on the application of behavioral science research and theory to the legal system. The primary goal of this course is to expose you to some of the ways that psychology and the legal system intersect. Throughout the course, we will examine some of the legal system's basic assumptions and procedures in light of empirical social scientific evidence as we seek to understand how the system actually works - not just how the law assumes that it works.

Prerequisites

Psyc 312 – Experimental Design and Quantitative Research Methods in Psychology

Required Text

Pozzulo, J., Bennell, C., & Forth, A. (2009). *Forensic Psychology (2nd Edition)*. Toronto, ON: Pearson Prentice Hall. (available in the bookstore)

Course Website

The course website is located on blackboard: <https://blackboard.ucalgary.ca/webapps/login/>.

Notes for each week's classes will be posted at the beginning of the week. In addition, announcements and grades will be posted on this site.

Evaluation

Exams: Three exams are scheduled for this course covering text, readings, and lecture material (including any videos). Exams are non-cumulative and will consist of multiple-choice and short-answer questions.

	Date	Material Covered	Worth
Exam 1	October 13, 2010	Ch. 1-4 and related readings and videos	20%
Exam 2	Nov 17, 2010	Ch. 5-7 and related readings and videos	20%
Exam 3	TBA (during final exam period)	Ch. 9-12	20%

In-Class Group Assignments: Two in-class group assignments (Oct 4, Dec 8) worth 10% each (max total = 20% of your mark). These assignments are intended to help you apply the concepts that you have learned in class. You will work on these assignments in groups of 3-4 and hand them in at the end of class.

Research Paper: One research paper 8-10 pages double-spaced worth 20% of your mark. You will be provided with a list of potential topics at the beginning of the term. Students may also write about a topic of their choice as long as they receive permission from me first. Further details will be provided in class and posted on Blackboard. Due Nov 29.

You are expected to hand in a hard copy of your paper at the beginning of class on the due date. If you cannot attend class on that day, you must 1) deliver the paper to the main office to be put in my mailbox or 2) email me the paper as a Word file attachment, before noon on the due date. Late papers will be deducted 5% per day (including weekends) up to a maximum of 35% (7 days), at which point, late assignments will no longer be accepted.

Grading Scale

A+	96-100%	B+	80-84%	C+	67-71%	D+	54-58%
A	90-95%	B	76-79%	C	63-66%	D	50-53%
A-	85-89%	B-	72-75%	C-	59-62%	F	0-49%

As stated in the University Calendar, it is at the instructor's discretion to round off either upward or downward to determine a final grade when the average of term work and final examinations is between two letter grades. To determine final letter grades, final percentage grades will be rounded up or down to the nearest whole percentage (e.g., 89.5% will be rounded up to 90% = A but 89.4% will be rounded down to 89% = A-).

Tentative Lecture Schedule

WEEK	DATE	TOPIC	READINGS
1	Mon, Sept 13	Intro to Psychology and Law	Course Outline
	Wed, Sept 15	Psychology and Law vs. Forensic Psychology	Ch 1
	Fri, Sept 17	Theories of Crime	Reading(s) to be posted on Blackboard
2	Mon, Sept 20	Theories of Crime	Reading(s) to be posted on Blackboard
	Wed, Sept 22	Criminal Characteristics/Profiling	Reading(s) to be posted on Blackboard
	Fri, Sept 24	Police Psychology <i>Last day to drop a course with no W grade and tuition refund.</i>	Ch 2
3	Mon, Sept 27	Police Psychology <i>Last day for registration/change of registration.</i>	Ch 2
	Wed, Sept 29	Police Investigations	Ch 3
	Fri, Oct 1	Police Investigations	Ch 3
4	Mon, Oct 4	In-Class Assignment 1	

	Wed, Oct 6	Deception	Ch 4
	Fri, Oct 8	Deception	Ch 4
5	Mon, Oct 11	Thanksgiving Day. No lecture. University closed.	
	Wed, Oct 13	Exam 1	All material to date
	Fri, Oct 15	Eyewitness Testimony: Recall	Ch 5
6	Mon, Oct 18	Eyewitness Testimony: Recall	Ch 5
	Wed, Oct 20	Eyewitness Testimony: Recognition	Ch 5
	Fri, Oct 22	Eyewitness Testimony: Recognition	Ch 5
7	Mon, Oct 25	Video: What Jennifer Saw	
	Wed, Oct 27	Child Victims and Witnesses	Ch 6
	Fri, Oct 29	Child Victims and Witnesses	Ch 6
8	Mon, Nov 1	Evidence	Reading(s) to be posted on Blackboard
	Wed, Nov 3	Evidence	Reading(s) to be posted on Blackboard
	Fri, Nov 5	Video: Burden of Innocence	
9	Mon, Nov 8	Jury Decision-Making	Ch 7
	Wed, Nov 10	Jury Decision-Making	Ch 7
	Fri, Nov 12	Reading Days. No lecture.	
10	Mon, Nov 15	Video: Inside the Jury Room	
	Wed, Nov 17	Exam 2	All material since Exam 1
	Fri, Nov 19	Sentencing and Parole	Ch 9
11	Mon, Nov 22	Sentencing and Parole	Ch 9
	Wed, Nov 24	Domestic Violence	Ch 10
	Fri, Nov 26	Sexual Offenders	Ch 10
12	Mon, Nov 29	Homicidal and Psychopathic Offenders	Ch 11 Research Paper due
	Wed, Dec 1	Homicidal and Psychopathic Offenders	Ch 11
	Fri, Dec 3	Video: Murder on a Sunday Morning	
13	Mon, Dec 6	Video: Murder on a Sunday Morning	
	Wed, Dec 8	In-Class Assignment 2 <i>Last day to participate in research and allocate research credits.</i>	
	Fri, Dec 10	Risk Assessment <i>Last day to withdraw.</i>	Ch 12
	Mon, Dec 13 – Wed, Dec 22	Final Exam (scheduled by Registrar)	

Reappraisal of Grades

A student who feels that a piece of graded term work (e.g., term paper, essay, test) has been unfairly graded, may have the work re-graded as follows. The student shall discuss the work with the instructor within 15 days of being notified about the mark or of the item's return to the class. If not satisfied, the student shall immediately take the matter to the Head of the department offering the course, who will arrange for a reassessment of the work within the next 15 days. The reappraisal of term work may cause the grade to be raised, lowered, or to

remain the same. If the student is not satisfied with the decision and wishes to appeal, the student shall address a letter of appeal to the Dean of the faculty offering the course within 15 days of the unfavourable decision. In the letter, the student must clearly and fully state the decision being appealed, the grounds for appeal, and the remedies being sought, along with any special circumstances that warrant an appeal of the reappraisal. The student should include as much written documentation as possible.

Plagiarism and Other Academic Misconduct

Intellectual honesty is the cornerstone of the development and acquisition of knowledge and requires that the contribution of others be acknowledged. Consequently, plagiarism or cheating on any assignment is regarded as an extremely serious academic offense. Plagiarism involves submitting or presenting work in a course as if it were the student's own work done expressly for that particular course when, in fact, it is not. Students should examine sections of the University Calendar that present a Statement of Intellectual honesty and definitions and penalties associated with Plagiarism/Cheating/Other Academic Misconduct.

Academic Accommodation

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations. If you are a student with a documented disability who may require academic accommodation and have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre, please contact their office at 403-220-8237. Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre are not eligible for formal academic accommodation. You are also required to discuss your needs with your instructor no later than 14 days after the start of this course.

Absence From A Test/Exam

Makeup tests/exams are NOT an option without an official University medical excuse (see the University Calendar). A completed Physician/Counselor Statement will be required to confirm absence from a test/exam for health reasons; the student will be required to pay any cost associated with this Statement. Students who miss a test/exam have 48 hours to contact the instructor and to schedule a makeup test/exam. Students who do not schedule a makeup test/exam with the instructor within this 48-hour period forfeit the right to a makeup test/exam. At the instructor's discretion, a makeup test/exam may differ significantly (in form and/or content) from a regularly scheduled test/exam. Except in extenuating circumstances (documented by an official University medical excuse), a makeup test/exam must be written within 2 weeks of the missed test/exam.

Course Credits for Research Participation (Max 2% of final grade)

Students in most psychology courses are eligible to participate in Departmentally approved research and earn credits toward their final grades. **A maximum of two credits (2%) per course, including this course, may be applied to the student's final grade. Students earn 0.5% (0.5 credits) for each full 30 minutes of participation.** The demand for timeslots may exceed the supply in a given term. Thus, students are not guaranteed that there will be enough studies available to them to meet their credit requirements. Students should seek studies early in the term and should frequently check for open timeslots. Students can create an account and participate in Departmentally approved research studies at <http://ucalgary.sona-systems.com>. The last day to participate in studies and to assign or reassign earned credits to courses is **Dec 8th, 2010**.

Evacuation Assembly Point

In case of an emergency evacuation during class, students must gather at the designated assembly point nearest to the classroom. The list of assembly points is found at

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>

Please check this website and note the nearest assembly point for this course.

Student Organizations

Psychology students may wish to join the Psychology Undergraduate Students' Association (PSYCHS). They are located in Administration 170 and may be contacted at 403-220-5567.

Student Union VP Academic: Phone: 403-220-3911 [suvpaca@ucalgary.ca](mailto:suypaca@ucalgary.ca)

Student Union Faculty Rep.: Phone: 403-220-3913 socialscirep@su.ucalgary.ca

Important Dates

The last day to drop this course with no "W" notation and **still receive a tuition fee refund** is **Sep 24th, 2010**. Last day for registration/change of registration is Sep 27th, 2010. The last day to withdraw from this course is **Dec 10th, 2010**.