



Psychology 493

Psychology and the Law

Fall 2013

Instructor:	Dr. Valerie Pruegger	Lecture Location:	SS 541
Phone:	403-256-2770	Lecture Days/Time:	T 15:30-18:15
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Office:	Off-campus		
Office Hours:	By appointment		

Course Description and Goals

This course explores the ways in which psychological research, theories and practice are applied to questions of law. The term forensic psychology has become increasingly used to define any application of psychological knowledge or methods to a task faced by the legal system. This course will look at a number of the issues that arise that benefit from psychology including roles for psychologists, policing issues, racial vs criminal profiling, deception and eyewitness testimony, and discrimination.

Prerequisites

Psychology 205 or Psychology 200 and 201, and Psyc 312 – Experimental Design and Quantitative Research Methods in Psychology

Required Text

There are 2 required texts, both available in the University of Calgary bookstore. The first is also available as an e-text.

Pozzulo, J., Benell, C. & Forth, A. (2012). *Forensic Psychology* (3rd Ed). Pearson.

Perry, B. (Ed.). (2011). *Diversity, Crime and Justice in Canada*. Oxford University Press.

Evaluation

1. Participation (20% of grade). Participation will be based on attendance in the class; evident completion of readings and preparedness for each class; and active participation in class discussions, group dialogues and exercises. Participation is crucial, as the lectures will often differ substantially from the material in the texts. To benefit maximally from lectures, discussions and class activities, students are strongly advised to complete the assigned readings before class.

2. Group Presentations (30% of grade). Students will be assigned to groups and presented with a topic and readings. Starting Sept 24, each group will present its topic for 45 minutes at the beginning of class, and leading a class discussion of the topic. Although the group is charged with providing discussion

questions and facilitating the discussion, all students are expected to read the assigned group materials and come prepared to discuss in class. Each group will hand in a one page thought paper on its topic.

3. Paper – (30% of grade): Due. On Sept 17 and Oct 1, there will be guest speakers in class discussing hate crime and genocide. Students will prepare a 3-5 page double-spaced paper on the presentations and the readings. Each paper must provide an overview of the readings, and discuss the most interesting aspects for you from each of the guest speaker presentations. APA style, double-spaced and with references as needed. **DUE October 15.**

4. Final Exam (20% of grade): Held in class November 26 and December 3. The final exam will be in the form of a quasi 'moot' court. Each student will be asked to prepare a detailed argument on a particular topic covered in the course, or that pertains to the course, that focuses on how and why psychological theory, research and practices are critical to a given legal issue. Topics must be discussed and cleared with the professor **prior to November 19.** Oral arguments will be 5 minutes in length. In addition, students must submit a 1-2 page double-spaced paper (APA format) outlining the argument with references after the presentation.

*Note – all papers must be in APA format, double-spaced, with references properly cited and a title, your name on the paper, an opening introductory paragraph and a concluding paragraph summarizing the major points in the paper. Be sure to read the writing tips posted on Blackboard.

Department of Psychology Grade Distribution Policy

The distribution of grades in Psychology courses (the percentage of A grades, B grades, etc.) will be similar to the distribution of grades in other courses in the Faculty of Arts. The Department monitors the grade distributions of 200-, 300-, and 400-level courses in the Faculty to ensure that the grade distributions in Psychology courses are comparable. Based on these reviews, students can expect that 1) up to 30% of grades in 200- and 300-level psychology courses will be "A" grades (A+, A, and A-), and 2) up to 40% of grades 400-level psychology courses will be "A" grades.

Department of Psychology Criteria for Letter Grades

Psychology professors use the following criteria when assigning letter grades:

A+ grade: *Exceptional Performance.* An A+ grade indicates near perfect performance on multiple choice and short answer exams. For research papers/essays/course projects/presentations, an A+ grade is awarded for exceptional work deserving of special recognition and is therefore not a common grade.

A, A- Range: *Excellent Performance.* Superior understanding of course material. Written work is very strong in terms of critical and original thinking, content, organization, and the expression of ideas, and demonstrates student's thorough knowledge of subject matter.

B Range: *Good Performance.* Above average understanding of course material. Written work shows evidence of critical thinking and attention to organization and editing but could be improved in form and/or content.

C Range: *Satisfactory Performance.* Adequate understanding of course material. Knowledge of basic concepts and terminology is demonstrated. Written work is satisfactory and meets essential

requirements but could be improved significantly in form and content. Note: All prerequisites for courses offered by the Faculty of Arts must be met with a minimum grade of C-.

D range: *Marginally meets standards.* Minimal understanding of subject matter. Written work is marginally acceptable and meets basic requirements but requires substantial improvements in form and content. Student has not mastered course material at a level sufficient for advancement into more senior courses in the same or related subjects.

F grade: *Course standards not met.* Inadequate understanding of subject matter. Written work does not meet basic requirements. Student has not demonstrated knowledge of course material at a level sufficient for course credit.

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

Date	Topic	Readings
T September 3	L1 Intro to Forensic Psychology	FP* - Ch. 1 DCJC** – Ch 1
T September 10	L2 Roles and Responsibilities	FP - Ch 7 DCJC – Ch 2
T September 17	Guest Speakers – Hate Crime and Community Policing	Readings for Lecture On Blackboard
T September 24	L3 Policing Issues	FP – Ch 2 Group 1
T October 1	Guest Speaker - Genocide	Readings for Lecture on Blackboard
T October 8	L4 Racial & Criminal Profiling	FP – Ch 3 DCJC – Ch 3 Group 2
T October 15	L5 Deception	FP – Ch 4 Group 3 *Paper Due
T October 22	L6 Eyewitness Testimony	FP- Ch 5 Group 4 & 5

T October 29	L7 Psychopathy	FP – Ch 11 Group 6 & 7
T November 5	L8 Juries	FP – Ch 7 Group 8
T November 12	READING DAYS – no class	
T November 19	L9 Sentencing/Risk Assessment	FP – Ch 9 & 10 Group 9 * oral argument topics due
T November 26	Final Exam - Orals	Oral argument papers due
T December 3	Final Exam - Orals	Oral argument papers due

*FP – Forensic Psychology text ** - Diversity, Crime and Justice in Canada text

Groups

- 1 DCJC – Ch 5 – Aboriginal people
- 2 DCJC – Ch 6 & 7 – Immigrants
- 3 DCJC - Ch 15 & FP Ch 12 - Youth
- 4 DCJC – Ch 12 & FP Ch 13 - Women
- 5 DCJC – Ch 16 & FP Ch 8 – People with Disabilities
- 6 DCJC - Ch 9 & 10 – South Asians and Islam
- 7 DCJC - Ch 3 & 8 – Black People
- 8 DCJC – Ch 13 – Sexuality
- 9 DCJC – Ch 11 - Class

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; no reappraisal of term work is permitted after the 15 days. 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.

Travel During Exams

Consistent with University regulations, students are expected to be available to write scheduled exams at any time during the official December and April examination periods. Requests to write a make-up exam because of conflicting travel plans (e.g., flight bookings) will NOT be considered except under exceptional circumstances. Students are advised to wait until the final examination schedule is posted before making any travel arrangements.

Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act

The FOIP legislation disallows the practice of having student's retrieve tests and assignments from a public place. Therefore, tests and assignments may be returned to students during class/lab, or during office hours, or via the Department Office (Admin 275), or will be made available only for viewing during exam review sessions scheduled by the Department. Tests and assignments will be shredded after one year. Instructors should take care to not link students' names with their grades, UCIDs, or other FOIP-sensitive information.

Course Credits for Research Participation

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 6, 2013**

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 [suyvaca@ucalgary.ca](mailto:suypaca@ucalgary.ca)
Student Union Faculty Rep.: Phone: 403-220-3913 socialsciirep@su.ucalgary.ca

Student Ombudsman's Office

The Office of the Student Ombuds provides independent, impartial and confidential support for students who require assistance and advice in addressing issues and concerns related to their academic careers. The office can be reached at 403-220-6420 or ombuds@ucalgary.ca (<http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/services/student-services/student-rights.html>).

Safewalk

The safewalk program provides volunteers to walk students safely to their destination anywhere on campus. This service is free and available 24 hrs/day, 365 days a year.
Call 403-220-5333.

Important Dates

The last day to drop this course with no "W" notation and **still receive a tuition fee refund** is **September 20, 2013**. Last day for registration/change of registration is **September 23, 2013**. The last day to withdraw from this course is **December 6, 2013**.