

**PSYC 493.01**
**Psychology and Law**
**Winter 2015**

|                      |                    |                           |                      |
|----------------------|--------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|
| <b>Instructor:</b>   | Dr. Melissa Boyce  | <b>Lecture Location:</b>  | SH 288               |
| <b>Phone:</b>        | 403-210-6257       | <b>Lecture Days/Time:</b> | MWF 12:00 - 12:50 pm |
| <b>Email:</b>        | mboyce@ucalgary.ca |                           |                      |
| <b>Office:</b>       | Admin 258          |                           |                      |
| <b>Office Hours:</b> | 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 200 and 201 – Principles of Psychology I & II

Psyc 312 – Experimental Design and Quantitative Research Methods in Psychology

### Recommended Text

Pozzulo, J., Bennell, C., & Forth, A. (2015). *Forensic Psychology (4th Edition)*. Toronto, ON: Pearson Prentice Hall. (available in the bookstore)

### Evaluation

Exams: Three exams are scheduled for this course covering text, readings, and lecture material (including any videos). The first two exams are non-cumulative and will consist of multiple-choice and short-answer questions. The final exam is 2 hours in length. It is cumulative and will consist of multiple-choice and short-answer questions.

|               | Date                           | Material Covered   | Worth |
|---------------|--------------------------------|--|-------|
| <b>Exam 1</b> | February 11, 2015              | Ch. 1-4 and related readings and videos                        | 15%   |
| <b>Exam 2</b> | March 20, 2015                 | Ch. 5-7 and related readings and videos                        | 15%   |
| <b>Exam 3</b> | TBA (during final exam period) | All course material (with emphasis on chapters' 9, 11, 13, 14) | 30%   |

In-Class Group Assignments: Two in-class group assignments (Feb 4, Apr 15) worth 5% each (max total = 10% 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 2-3 and hand them in at the end of class.

Research Paper: One research paper 10-15 pages (excluding references) double-spaced with 12 pt font and 1" margins worth 30% 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 D2L. Due March 27 at the beginning of class.

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 papers will no longer be accepted.

### **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 in 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. In this course there will be no rounding up of final grades, especially in light of the opportunities students have to increase their final grade via research participation.

**Tentative Lecture Schedule**

| Week | Date             | Topic  | Readings                       |
|------|------------------|--|--------------------------------|
| 1    | M Jan 12         | Intro to Psychology and Law  | Course Outline                 |
|      | W Jan 14         | Psychology and Law vs. Forensic Psychology   | Ch 1                           |
|      | F Jan 16         | Theories of Crime  | Reading(s) to be posted on D2L |
| 2    | M Jan 19         | Theories of Crime  | Reading(s) to be posted on D2L |
|      | W Jan 21         | Criminal Characteristics/Profiling   | Reading(s) to be posted on D2L |
|      | F Jan 23         | Criminal Characteristics/Profiling   | Reading(s) to be posted on D2L |
| 3    | M Jan 26         | Police Psychology<br><i>Last day to add or swap Winter Term half courses.<br/>Last day for change of registration from audit to credit or credit to audit.</i> | Ch 2                           |
|      | W Jan 28         | Police Psychology  | Ch 2                           |
|      | F Jan 30         | Police Investigations<br><i>Fee payment deadline for Winter Term fees.</i>   | Ch 3                           |
| 4    | M Feb 2          | Police Investigations  | Ch 3                           |
|      | W Feb 4          | <b>In-Class Assignment 1</b>   |                                |
|      | F Feb 6          | Deception  | Ch 4                           |
| 5    | M Feb 9          | Deception  | Ch 4                           |
|      | W Feb 11         | <b>Exam 1</b>  | <b>All material to date</b>    |
|      | F Feb 13         | Eyewitness Testimony: Recall   | Ch 5                           |
| 6    | <b>Feb 15-22</b> | <b>Reading Week. No lectures. University open (except Family Day).</b>   |                                |

|    |           |   |   |
|----|-----------|---|---|
| 7  | M Feb 23  | Eyewitness Testimony: Recall  | Ch 5  |
|    | W Feb 25  | Eyewitness Testimony: Recognition   | Ch 5  |
|    | F Feb 27  | Eyewitness Testimony: Recognition   | Ch 5  |
| 8  | M Mar 2   | Child Victims and Witnesses   | Ch 6  |
|    | W Mar 4   | Child Victims and Witnesses   | Ch 6  |
|    | F Mar 6   | Evidence  | Reading(s) to be posted on D2L                                |
| 9  | M Mar 9   | Evidence  | Reading(s) to be posted on D2L                                |
|    | W Mar 11  | Video: After Innocence  |   |
|    | F Mar 13  | Video: After Innocence  |   |
| 10 | M Mar 16  | Jury Decision-Making  | Ch 7  |
|    | W Mar 18  | Jury Decision-Making  | Ch 7  |
|    | F Mar 20  | <b>Exam 2</b>   | <b>All material since Exam 1</b>                              |
| 11 | M Mar 23  | Sentencing and Parole   | Ch 9  |
|    | W Mar 25  | Sentencing and Parole   | Ch 9  |
|    | F Mar 27  | Domestic Violence   | Ch 13<br><b>Research Paper Due</b>                            |
| 12 | M Mar 30  | Domestic Violence/Sexual Offenders  | Ch 13 and Ch 14   |
|    | W Apr 1   | Sexual Offenders  | Ch 14   |
|    | F Apr 3   | <b>Good Friday University Closed</b>  |   |
| 13 | M Apr 6   | Psychopathic Offenders  | Ch 11   |
|    | W Apr 8   | Psychopathic Offenders  | Ch 11   |
|    | F Apr 10  | Video: Murder on a Sunday Morning   |   |
| 14 | M Apr 13  | Video: Murder on a Sunday Morning   |   |
|    | W Apr 15  | <b>In-Class Assignment 2</b><br><i>Last day to withdraw from full courses and Winter Term half courses.</i> |   |
|    | Apr 18-29 | <b>Final Exam</b>   | <b>All material with an emphasis on material since Exam 2</b> |

### 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 255), 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 (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 **April 15, 2015**.

### **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:suvpaca@ucalgary.ca)  
**Student Union Faculty Rep.:** Phone: 403-220-3913 [socialscirep@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:socialscirep@su.ucalgary.ca)

### **Student Ombudsman's Office**

The Office of the Student Ombudsmen 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](mailto: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 **January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2015**. Last day for registration/change of registration is **January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2015**. The last day to withdraw from this course is **April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2015**.