

Psychology 493	Psychology and Law	Fall 2021
<b>Instructor:</b> Sara (Sally) During	<b>Lecture Location:</b> SH157	
<b>Phone:</b> 403-640-6270	<b>Lecture Days/Time:</b> M/W 14:00 – 15:15	
<b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:during@ucalgary.ca">during@ucalgary.ca</a>	<b>[Lab and/or TA info in remaining cells (delete if N/A)]</b> TBA	
<b>Office:</b> Admin 155B		
<b>Office Hours:</b> By appointment		

### Course Description

This course focuses on all aspects of human behavior (i.e., emotion, cognition, physiology, bias, pathology, decision-making) as it relates to the law or legal system. The primary goal of the course is to introduce some of the ways that psychology and the law intersect; forensic psychologists focus on examining how people function in a legal context. You will be exposed to theory and scientific evidence as it pertains to the field, but also to inherent challenges. The course will confront the views of forensic psychology that you may have acquired through media portrayals and present the realities of the field.

### Course Learning Outcomes

The Department of Psychology is committed to student knowledge and skill development. The table below lists the key learning outcomes for this course, the program-learning outcomes they facilitate (see <https://live-arts.ucalgary.ca/psychology/about#program-learning-outcomes>), and the expected level of achievement.

Course Learning Outcomes	Assessment Methods	PLO(s)	Level(s)
Examine assumptions made by the legal system and applicability to relevant psychological principles	Exams, Thought Papers, Research Paper	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7	A
Reflect on empirical findings to formulate valid conceptualizations	Exams, Thought Papers, Research Paper	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7	A
Apply concepts discussed in class to own perceptions of psychology and the law	Thought Papers	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7	A
Understanding of factors that contribute to the effective practice of forensic psychology	Exams, Thought Papers, Research Paper	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7	A
Demonstrate understanding of ways that the legal and psychological fields interact	Exams	1, 2, 7	A

Notes. PLOs = Program-Learning Outcomes: 1 = demonstrate knowledge of psychological sciences, 2 = think critically and solve problems, 3 = conduct research and analyze data, 4 = communicate effectively, 5 = demonstrate information literacy, 6 = understand and implement ethical principles, 7 = apply psychological knowledge and skills. Level of PLO achievement facilitated by this course: I = introductory, C = competency, A = advanced.

### **Acknowledgments and Respect for Diversity**

Our classrooms view diversity of identity as a strength and resource. Your experiences and different perspectives are encouraged and add to a rich learning environment that fosters critical thought through respectful discussion and inclusion. The Department of Psychology would also like to acknowledge the traditional territories of the people of the Treaty 7 region in southern Alberta. The City of Calgary is also home to Métis Nation of Alberta, Region III.

### **Course Format**

This is an in-person class held on campus.

### **Prerequisites**

Psyc 200 and 201 – Principles of Psychology I and II  
Psyc 300 & 301 (formerly 312) – Experimental Design and Quantitative Research Methods in Psychology

### **Required Text**

Pozzulo, J., Bennell, C., & Forth, A. (2018). Forensic Psychology (6<sup>th</sup> Ed). Toronto, ON: Pearson Prentice Hall. (Revel Forensic Psychology -- Access Card, Sixth Canadian Edition, 6/E Pozzulo; ISBN-13: 9780135749807)

This is a new edition and is a **digital-only Revel code text** through Pearson Prentice Hall. Students will need a course invite link so they can enroll in the course and access the digital content. The bookstore will load the fall digital to their website around mid-August so students will be able to start purchasing the Revel code after that. **The link listed below is an essential link that students need when they want to access the material.**

<https://console.pearson.com/enrollment/txy452>

### **Assessment Methods**

Students are expected to attend class regularly and to participate in class discussions. There will be three noncumulative exams in this course, one of which is during the final exam period. The exams will most likely consist of multiple-choice and short-answer questions from the text, class discussions, and lectures/PowerPoint slides. The two midterms will occur during the class time slot (75 minutes) and the final exam will be two hours.

Exams in this course are closed book. The use of resources, including class notes, the textbook, online resources, Smart watches, and calculators is prohibited during the exams in this course. Students may not communicate with others about course material or the exam either in person or electronically during exams.

If an exam is missed, it can only be made up following the provision of appropriate documentation that is provided in the required time frame – **Please follow the “Absence from a Test/Exam” rules listed later in this course outline.** Not reading the guidelines will not be accepted as a reason for failing to book makeup exams appropriately; failure to follow the makeup exam requirements will result in a grade of zero being assigned for that exam.

- 1) **25% of your mark** will be based on a **Midterm Exam #1 on Wednesday, October 6, 2021.** Midterm Exam #1 will consist of material from **Chapters 2, 3, 4, 6 and 7.**
- 2) **20% of your mark** will be based on a **Midterm Exam #2 on Wednesday, November 3rd, 2021.** Midterm Exam #2 will consist of material from **Chapters 8, 10 and 11.**
- 3) **25% of your mark** will be based on a **Final Exam scheduled by the Registrar.** The Final Exam will consist of material from **Chapters 5, 13, 14, and 15.**
- 4) **25% of your mark** will be based on your work in the **paper component** of the course. Students will write an APA-style paper of 10-12 pages in length (typed, double-spaced, 12-point font, 1" margins) which describes (1 to 1.5 pages), and then discusses (9 to 10 pages) an area of Forensic Psychology of the student's choice (i.e., deception, profiling, jury selection) and any related controversies if applicable (i.e. clinical utility; issues with accuracy and bias; sampling errors in related research; base rate issues). The paper should conclude with a 1 to 2-page conclusion of possible "next steps" in the area. **Be aware that you cannot hand in a paper/part of a paper that you (or anyone else) have previously submitted for grading in another course.**
- 5) APA formatting will be included as part of the evaluation of your paper. Details and a sample APA-style paper are provided here: <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/18/>
- 6) More specific details regarding grading and expectations will be discussed in class on November 1, 2021, and posted on D2L under "Communications". The paper should be submitted to the relevant dropbox on D2L by **the end of class on Wednesday, November 24, 2021 at the latest.** You will also need to hand in a paper copy of your assignment. Late assignments will be accepted with a 5% deduction penalty per day, including weekends. Without approved documentation (approval of this documentation as sufficient is at the discretion of the instructor: please refer to the Statutory Declaration form on the University of Calgary website), assignments more than 7 days late (35% deduction) will no longer be accepted.
- 7) Papers will be graded according to: adequate length; comprehensive consideration of your topic; grammar; spelling and punctuation; sentence construction; ability to effectively condense information; summary. More detailed information about the paper will be provided in class and on D2L.
- 8) **5% of your mark** will be based on completion of **three brief thought papers** (approximately one page in length, **single spaced**) that occur throughout the semester (**Due September 27, October 20, December 6, 2021**). More detailed information about the thought papers will be provided in class and on D2L. ***Send your thought papers to the course Dropbox on D2L by the end of class on the day that each thought paper is due.*** In general, students will need to write a short document (can be in point form) summarizing their own thoughts in response to questions that will be posted on D2L under "Communications" prior to the due date (i.e., Ways in which media portrayals of forensic psychology topics influence beliefs; Factors that bias witness recall and other aspects of the field; Factors that may contribute to offenders being seen as "untreatable"). Grade will reflect handing in of all three documents on time, appropriate length, single spaced, and thoughtful discussion of the posted questions. ***Late thought papers will be accepted with a 5% penalty per day, including weekends. Without approved documentation, thought papers more than 3 days late will not be accepted.***

## University of Calgary Academic Integrity Policy

Academic integrity is the foundation of the development and acquisition of knowledge and is based on values of honesty, trust, responsibility, and respect. We expect members of our community to act with integrity.

Research integrity, ethics, and principles of conduct are key to academic integrity. Members of our campus community are required to abide by our institutional code of conduct and promote academic integrity in upholding the University of Calgary's reputation of excellence. It is your responsibility to ensure that you have read and are familiar with the student academic misconduct policy: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-academic-misconduct-policy.pdf>.

## Department of Psychology Criteria for Letter Grades

Psychology course instructors 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%

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-). You are not allowed to request submission of “extra” work to increase your grade.

**Additionally, you need to request review of midterm exam or paper grades within two weeks of receiving your grade.**

**Tentative Lecture Schedule**

Date	Topic/Activity/Readings/Due Date	
W Sep 8	University Lectures begin. Police Psychology	Chpt. 2&3
M Sep 13	Police Psychology	Chpt. 2&3
W Sep 15	Deception	Chpt. 4
R Sep 16	Last day to drop a class without a penalty	
F Sep 17	Last day to add or swap a course	
M Sep 20	Deception	Chpt. 4
W Sep 22	Child Victims and Witnesses	Chpt. 6
F Sep 24	Fee payment deadline for Fall Term full and half courses.	
M Sep 27	Child Victims and Witnesses <b>Thought Paper #1 Due** (submit your paper to Dropbox on D2L by the end of class)</b>	Chpt. 6
W Sep 29	Juries	Chpt. 7
M Oct 4	Juries	Chpt. 7
W Oct 6	<b>MIDTERM #1 (Worth 25%)</b>	
M Oct 11	Thanksgiving Day, University closed (except Taylor Family Digital Library, Law, Medical, Gallagher and Business Libraries). No lectures.	
W Oct 13	Role of Mental Illness	Chpt. 8
M Oct 18	Role of Mental Illness	Chpt. 8

W Oct 20	Risk Assessment <b>Thought Paper #2 Due** (submit your paper to Dropbox on D2L by the end of class)</b>	Chpt. 10
M Oct 25	Risk Assessment	Chpt. 10
W Oct 27	Psychopathy	Chpt. 11
M Nov 1	Psychopathy	Chpt. 11
W Nov 3	<b>MIDTERM #2 (Worth 20%)</b>	
Nov 7-13	Term Break No Classes	
R Nov 11	Remembrance Day (Observed). University Closed (except Taylor Family Digital Library, Law, Medical, Gallagher and Business Libraries). No lectures.	
M Nov 15	Eyewitness Testimony and Recall (possible guest lecturer)	Chpt. 5
W Nov 17	Eyewitness Testimony and Recall (possible guest lecturer)	Chpt. 5
M Nov 22	Sex offenders	Chpt. 14
W Nov 24	Sex offenders <b>PAPER DUE (Worth 25%)** (submit your paper to Dropbox on D2L by the end of class)</b>	Chpt. 14
M Nov 29	Intimate Partner Violence	Chpt. 13
W Dec 1	Intimate Partner Violence	Chpt. 13
M Dec 6	Homicidal Offenders <b>Thought Paper #3 Due** (submit your paper to Dropbox on D2L by the end of class)</b>	Chpt. 15
W Dec 8	Homicidal Offenders	Chpt. 15
R Dec 9	Fall Term Lectures End. Last day to withdraw with permission from Fall Term half courses.	
Dec 13-22	Fall Final Exam Period	

**Extra Research Participation Course Credit is Not Offered for this Course.**

### Supporting Documentation

Students may be asked to provide supporting documentation for an exemption/special request. This may include, but is not limited to, a prolonged absence from a course where participation is required, a

missed course assessment, a deferred examination, or an appeal. Students are encouraged to submit documentation that will support their situation. Supporting documentation may be dependent on the reason noted in their personal statement/explanation provided to explain their situation. This could be medical certificate/documentation, references, police reports, invitation letter, or a statutory declaration, etc. The decision to provide supporting documentation that best suits the situation is at the discretion of the student. Students cannot be required to provide specific supporting documentation, such as a medical note.

Students can make a Statutory Declaration as their supporting documentation (available at [ucalgary.ca/registrar](http://ucalgary.ca/registrar)). This requires students to make a declaration in the presence of a Commissioner for Oaths. It demonstrates the importance of honest and accurate information provided and is a legally binding declaration. Several registered Commissioners for Oaths are available to students at no charge, on campus, please see [ucalgary.ca/registrar](http://ucalgary.ca/registrar).

Falsification of any supporting documentation will be taken very seriously and may result in disciplinary action through the Academic Discipline regulations or the Student Non-Academic Misconduct policy.

### **Absence From A Test/Exam**

Makeup tests/exams are **NOT** an option without the approval of the instructor. Students who miss a test/exam ***have up to 48 hours to contact the instructor to ask for a makeup test/exam.*** It's the instructor's discretion if they will allow a make-up 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. **Once approved by the instructor a makeup test/exam must be written within 2 weeks of the missed test/exam on a day/time scheduled by the instructor. If a student cannot write their final exam on the date assigned by the Registrar's Office, they need to apply for a deferred exam** <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/exams/deferred-exams>.

### **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 by the department. Students are advised to wait until the final examination schedule is posted before making any travel arrangements. **If a student cannot write their final exam on the date assigned by the Registrar's Office, they need to apply for a deferred exam** <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/exams/deferred-exams>. **Students with an exceptional extenuating circumstance (e.g., a family emergency) should contact the Department of Psychology ([psyugrd@ucalgary.ca](mailto:psyugrd@ucalgary.ca)).**

Reappraisal of Graded Term Work <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/i-2.html>

**Reappraisal of Final Grade** <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/i-3.html>

### **Academic Accommodations**

Students seeking an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services; SAS will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors. For additional information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities, visit [www.ucalgary.ca/access/](http://www.ucalgary.ca/access/). Students who require an accommodation in relation to their coursework based on a protected ground other than disability should communicate this need in writing to their Instructor. The full policy on Student Accommodations is available at <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/accommodation-students-disabilities-procedure>.

### **Academic Misconduct**

For information on academic misconduct and its consequences, please see the University of Calgary Calendar at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>

### **Instructor Intellectual Property**

Course materials created by professor(s) (including course outlines, presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the professor(s). These materials may NOT be reproduced, redistributed or copied without the explicit consent of the professor. The posting of course materials to third party websites such as note-sharing sites without permission is prohibited. Sharing of extracts of these course materials with other students enrolled in the course at the same time may be allowed under fair dealing.

### **Copyright Legislation**

All students are required to read the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright ([www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/acceptable-use-of-material-protected-by-copyright.pdf](http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/acceptable-use-of-material-protected-by-copyright.pdf)) and requirements of the copyright act (<https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html>) to ensure they are aware of the consequences of unauthorized sharing of course materials (including instructor notes, electronic versions of textbooks etc.). Students who use material protected by copyright in violation of this policy may be disciplined under the Non-Academic Misconduct Policy.

### **Freedom OF Information and Protection of Privacy**

Student information will be collected in accordance with typical (or usual) classroom practice. Students' assignments will be accessible only by the authorized course faculty. Private information related to the individual student is treated with the utmost regard by the faculty at the University of Calgary

### **Student Support and Resources**

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/course-outlines>

### **Important Dates**



The last day to drop this course with no “W” notation and **still receive a tuition fee refund** is **Thursday, September 16, 2021**. Last day add/swap a course is **Friday, September 17, 2021**. The last day to withdraw from this course is **Thursday, December 9, 2021**.

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/academic-schedule.html>