
Psychology 493**Psychology and the Law****Spring 2013**

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| Instructor: | Dr. Valerie Pruegger | Lecture Location: | |
| Phone: | 403-256-2770 | Lecture Days/Time: | TR 9-11:45 am |
| Email: | vpruegge@ucalgary.ca or Pruegger@telus.net | | |
| 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 (40% of grade). Students will be assigned to groups and presented with a topic and readings. Starting May 21, 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.

3. Paper – (15% of grade): Due May 30. On May 23, there will be guest speakers discussing hate crime. Students will prepare a 2 page double-spaced paper on the presentations and the readings.

4. Final Exam (25% of grade): Held in class June 20 and 25. 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 June 6. Oral arguments will be 5 minutes in length and a one-page double-spaced paper outlining the argument must be handed in after the presentation.

Grading Scale

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|----|---------|----|--------|----|--------|----|--------|
| 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

Ideally in table format with date of class, topics to be covered, and chapters/readings to be read. Due dates for tests/exams and assignments should be included in this schedule as well.

| Date | Topic | Readings |
|----------|--|---|
| T May 14 | L1 Intro to Forensic Psychology | FP* - Ch. 1 DCJC** – Ch 1 |
| R May 16 | L2 Roles and Responsibilities | FP - Ch 7 DCJC – Ch 2 |
| T May 21 | L3 Policing Issues | FP – Ch 2 Group 1 |
| R May 23 | Guest Speakers – Hate Crime and Community Policing | Alberta Hate Crime Reports On Blackboard |
| T May 28 | L4 Racial & Criminal Profiling | FP – Ch 3 DCJC – Ch 3 Group 2 |
| R May 30 | L5 Deception | FP – Ch 4 Group 3 *Paper Due |
| T June 4 | L6 Eyewitness Testimony | FP- Ch 5 Group 4 |
| R June 6 | L7 Psychopathy | FP – Ch 11 |

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|-----------|-------------------------------|---|
| | | Group 5 |
| T June 11 | L8 Juries | FP – Ch 7 Group 6 * oral argument topics due |
| R June 13 | L9 Sentencing/Risk Assessment | FP – Ch 9 & 10 Group 7 |
| T June 18 | TBA | TBA |
| R June 20 | Orals | Group 8 Oral argument papers due |
| T June 25 | 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 - Disabilities
- 6 DCJC - Ch 9 & 10 – South Asians and Islam
- 7 DCJC - Ch 8 & 11 – Black and Class
- 8 DCJC – Ch 13 - Sexuality

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 (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 (2) 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 **June 26th, 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

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** and the last day for registration/change of registration is **May 22, 2013**. The last day to withdraw from this course is **June 26, 2013**.

| Date | Topic/Activity/Readings/Due Date (revise and add columns & rows as necessary) |
|------------|---|
| T May 14 | Spring Term Lecture begins. |
| M May 20 | Victoria Day, University Closed. |
| W May 22 | Last day for registration/change of registration and last day to drop a course with tuition refund. |
| F May 24 | Fee payment deadline. |
| T May 28 | |
| R May 30 | |
| T June 4 | |
| R June 6 | Oral Argument Topics Due |
| T June 11 | |
| R June 13 | |
| T June 18 | Final Exam |
| R June 20 | Final Exam |
| T June 25 | Spring Term Lectures End. |
| W June 26 | Last day to withdraw from full session Spring Term courses. |
| June 27-29 | Final exam dates for full session Spring Term courses. |