



Department of Psychology
Psychology 493 (L01) – Psychology and Law
Winter 2011 – Course Outline

Instructor:	Dr. Valerie Pruegger	Lecture Location:	A253
Phone:	403-268-5126	Lecture Days/Time:	W 4-6:45 pm
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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

Psyc 312 – Experimental Design and Quantitative Methods

Required Text

There are 2 required texts, both available in the University of Calgary bookstore.

Main text: Wrightsman, L.S. and Porter, S. (2006). *Forensic Psychology: 1st Canadian Edition*. Thomson-Nelson.

Supplementary text: Barrett, K.H. & George, W.H. (Eds.). (2005). *Race, Culture, Psychology & Law*. Sage.

Evaluation

As this class is highly participative with case studies and class exercises, participation will be graded.

1. Participation (20% of final grade)
2. Mid-term Essay – Due March 2 (30% of final grade)
3. Final Exam – in class April 13 (50% of final grade)

1. **Participation:** worth 20% of grade. It will be indicated by attendance (see more on Blackboard); 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 text. To benefit maximally from lectures, discussions, and activities in class, students are strongly advised to complete the assigned readings before class. For each class, a group of students will be charged with the task of leading a class discussion on issues from the readings. Additionally, discussion

leaders will submit a 1 page thought paper to the professor on the day of the session. Although discussion leaders are charged with providing discussion questions and facilitating the discussion, all students are expected to read the assigned materials and come prepared to class (see Blackboard for more information).

2. **Mid-term Presentations:** worth 30% of grade. Essays are to be delivered electronically by email no later than 12 pm on March 2. NO late assignments will be accepted. Depending on class size, each student or a group of students will be assigned a specific topic to deliver to the class orally or in writing. More information on length, writing/presentation tips and topics will be provided in class and on Blackboard.
3. **Final Exam:** worth 50% of grade. Held in class April 13. 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 March 16. Length of arguments will be determined by class size and students will be required to submit a 3-5 page paper which clearly presents the oral argument.

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
W Jan 12	L1 Introduction – What is Forensic Psychology?	FP* – Ch. 1 RCPL** – Ch 1 & 2
W Jan 19	L2 Roles & Ethics	FP – Ch 2 RCPL – Ch 3
F Jan 21	Last day to drop a course with no W grade and tuition refund.	
M Jan 24	Last day for registration/change of registration.	
W Jan 26	L3 Policing Issues – Guest speaker – Cam Stewart	FP – Ch 3
W Feb 2	L4 Racial & Criminal Profiling	FP – Ch 4
W Feb 9	L5 Deception	FP – Ch 5
W Feb 16	L6 Eyewitness Testimony	FP – Ch 6
W Feb 23	Reading day. No lecture.	
W Mar 2	L7 Interrogations	FP – Ch 7
W Mar 2	TERM Papers Due (if class presentations are not feasible due to class size). NO extensions. 30%	Topics to be assigned
W Mar 9	L8 Juries	FP – Ch 8 RCPL – Ch 10

W Mar 16	L9 Responsibility and Competency *Students must have chosen their final exam topic and discussed with the professor.	FP – Ch 9
W Mar 23	L10 Discrimination – Guest speaker – Doug Jones	FP – Ch 14 RCPL – Ch 21
W Mar 30	L11 Discrimination continued	RCPL – Ch 23 & 28
W Apr 6	L12 Future	FP 16
W Apr 13	FINAL EXAM. 50%	
R Apr 14	Lectures end. Last day to participate in research and allocate research credits.	
F Apr 15	Last day to withdraw.	

Note. * Forensic Psychology text. ** Race , Culture, Psychology & Law text.

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.

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 or UCIDs with their grades 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 **Apr 14th, 2011**

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

Student Union Faculty Rep.: Phone: 403-220-3913 socialscirep@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 **Jan 21st, 2011**. Last day for registration/change of registration is **Jan 24th, 2011**. The last day to withdraw from this course is **Apr 15th, 2011**.