



Department of Psychology

Psychology 503.02 – Selected Topics: Forensic Psychology

Winter 2008

Instructor:	Dr. Andrew Haag	Lecture Location:	Admin 167
Phone:	403-227-3391	Lecture Days/Time:	Wed @ 18:00
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Office Hours:	TBA		

Course Description and Goals

This course will provide a broad overview of the relationship between psychology and various aspects of the legal system. A variety of topics will be discussed and critically evaluated, including offender profiling, eyewitness testimony, police issues, jury decision-making, treatment of offenders, psychopathy, risk assessment, criminal responsibility, and fitness to stand trial. Classes will consist of lectures, activities, video presentations, and discussions. I hope that presenting the material in this way will allow students to better appreciate and understand the topics we explore while making the course more exciting and fun.

Required Text

Wrightsmann, L.S. & Porter, S. (2006). *Forensic Psychology*. Scarborough, Ontario: Thompson Nelson.

Optional Textbook

American Psychological Association (APA). (2001). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (5th ed.). Washington, D. C.: Author.

Evaluation/Lecture Schedule

Week	Topic	Text Chapter
January 16	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Introduction• Review Syllabus• Overview of Forensic Psychology	1, 2
January 23	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Policing Issues*	3
January 30	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Psychology of Violence	
February 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Criminal Profiling	4
February 13	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Psychology of Confession	7
February 20	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reading Week	5
February 27	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Deception	
March 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mid-term	
March 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sexual Assault*	11, 12, 15
March 19	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Domestic Violence*	10
March 26	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Correctional Psychology	
April 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Psychology and the Court System*	8, 9
April 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Victims of Crime	
April 16	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ethics in Forensic Psychology	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Final Exam	

Weighting of Final Grade

30% - Class Presentation or Paper

30% - Mid Term

40% - Final Exam

Mid-term and Final Exams:

The mid-term and final exam will each be a multiple choice exam. In addition, both exams will have two essay or “long answer” questions. The content of the final exam **will not** be cumulative from the beginning of the course. In other words, for the final exam students only need to study materials learned from the point in time after the mid-term exam. Exams will consider materials presented in the text and materials presented in class.

The final exam will be scheduled during final exam week.

Graded final examinations will be available for supervised review at the request of the student.

Students have a choice between making a class presentation or writing a paper.

Class Presentation:

A class presentation on one of the bolded topics above is required of each student. Depending on the enrolment level of the class, students may be expected to work with a co-presenter. Topic assignments will be made on the first or second day of class and delivered on the respective date on which it is noted on the syllabus. Each presentation should run for about a half an hour. **Each presentation must be accompanied with a hand out and bibliography.** A supplement as to how the presentation will be graded will be handed out on the first day of class. Students will be expected to review and know the respective chapter(s) on which they are presenting.

Additionally, students are expected to do substantial additional research and reading related to the topic chosen. Presenters should ensure that there is time in their presentation for questions or comments. Presenters should expect that the professor will be asking questions of them during the question time. Students are encouraged to use the class resources at their disposal such as PowerPoint, white boards, appropriate videos, etc.

Paper:

Students will be required to write a paper between ten and twenty pages in length (excluding references) on any of the topics covered in the course. Students will be required to cite empirical articles and are encouraged to review meta-analytic studies on the topic of their choosing. The paper is to be in APA format. **The paper is to be submitted in Word format to Dr. Haag via email.** Papers are to be submitted by **11:59 PM of March 22, 2008.** Please include your student ID with your paper. Late papers will be deducted 5% per day including weekends.

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.

University of Calgary Curriculum Objectives

This class addresses the following core competencies:

- Critical and creative thinking
- Analysis of problems
- Effective oral and written communication
- Gathering and organizing information
- Insight and intuition in generating knowledge

With the following course characteristics:

- Considerable class discussion; students are prompted to think critically about course material
- Students will be presented with problems encountered by psychologists in the criminal justice system and some approaches to the resolutions of those problems
- Through either a presentation or paper, students will (1) develop their oral and/or written skills and (2) engage in the gathering and organizing of information
- Throughout the course, students will gain insight into the psychology's role in the criminal justice system and they will be encouraged to think of research and practice needs for psychology in the criminal justice system

This course addresses the following curriculum redesign features:

- A defined interdisciplinary component
- An international component
- Integration of research

With the following course characteristics:

- Students will be exposed to research from other disciplines that can provide assistance to psychology in the criminal justice system
- Students will be challenged to think about the strengths and limitations of research and why this information is vital to forensic psychologists on a daily basis.
- Students will be exposed to international data on forensic psychology

Reappraisal of Grades

A student who feels that a piece of graded term work (term paper, essay, test, etc.) has been unfairly graded, may have the work re-graded as follows. The student shall discuss the work with the instructor within fifteen 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 fifteen 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 fifteen 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 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 fourteen (14) days after the start of this course.

Absence From A Test

Make-up exams are NOT an option without an official University medical excuse (see the University Calendar). You must contact the instructor before the scheduled examination or you will have forfeited any right to make up the exam. At the instructor's discretion, a make-up exam may differ significantly (in form and/or content) from a regularly scheduled exam. Except in extenuating circumstances (documented by an official University medical excuse), a makeup exam is written within two (2) weeks of the missed exam.

A completed Physician/Counselor Statement will be required to confirm absence from a test for health reasons. The student will be required to pay any cost associated with the Physician Counselor Statement.

Student Organizations

Psychology students may wish to join the Psychology Undergraduate Students' Association (PSYCHS). They are located in the Administration building, room 170 or may be contacted at 220-5567.

Student Union VP Academic: Phone: 220-3911 suypaca@ucalgary.ca
Student Union Faculty Rep.: Phone: 220-3913 socialscirep@su.ucalgary.ca

Important Dates

Winter Session:

The last day to drop this course and **still receive a fee refund** is January 25, 2008. The last day to withdraw from this course is April 18, 2008.