



Department of Psychology
Psychology 503.05 (L01) – Psychology and Law
Fall 2009

Instructor:	Dr. Melissa Boyce	Lecture Location:	SH 157
Phone:	403-210-6257	Lecture Days/Time:	MWF 12:00–12:50pm
Email:	mboyce@ucalgary.ca		
Office:	A258		
Office Hours:	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

Psychology 312 and consent of the Department.

Required Text

Pozzulo, J., Bennell, C., & Forth, A. (2009). *Forensic Psychology (2nd Edition)*. Toronto, ON: Pearson Prentice Hall. (available in the bookstore)

Course Website

The course website is located on blackboard: <https://blackboard.ucalgary.ca/webapps/login/>.

Notes for each week's classes will be posted at the beginning of the week. In addition, announcements and grades will be posted on this site.

Evaluation

Exams: Three exams are scheduled for this course covering text, readings, and lecture material (including any videos). Exams are non-cumulative and will consist of multiple-choice and short-answer questions.

	Date	Material Covered	Worth
Exam 1	October 5, 2009	Ch. 1-4 and related readings and videos	20%
Exam 2	November 9, 2009	Ch. 5-7 and related readings and videos	20%
Exam 3	TBA (during final exam period)	Ch. 9-12	20%

In-Class Group Assignments: Two in-class group assignments (Sept 21, Dec 4) worth 10% each (max total = 20% 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 3-4 and hand them in at the end of class.

Research Paper: One research paper 8-10 pages double-spaced worth 20% of your mark. You will be provided with a list of potential topics at the beginning of the term. You may also write about a topic of your choice as long as you receive permission from me first. Further details will be provided in class and posted on Blackboard. Due Nov 30.

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 assignments will no longer be accepted.

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

Week	Date	Topic	Readings
1	Wednesday, Sept 9	Introduction to Psychology and Law	Course Outline
	Friday, Sept 11	Psychology and Law vs. Forensic Psychology	Ch. 1
2	Monday, Sept 14	Theories of Crime	Reading(s) to be posted on blackboard
	Wednesday, Sept 16	Theories of Crime	Reading(s) to be posted on blackboard
	Friday, Sept 18	Criminal Characteristics/Profiling <i>Last day to drop a course with no W grade and tuition refund.</i>	Reading(s) to be posted on blackboard
3	Monday, Sept 21	In-class Assignment 1	
	Tuesday, Sept 22	<i>Last day for registration/change of registration.</i>	
	Wednesday, Sept 23	Police Psychology	Ch. 2
	Friday, Sept 25	Police Investigations	Ch. 3

4	Monday, Sept 28	Police Investigations	Ch. 3
	Wednesday, Sept 30	Deception	Ch. 4
	Friday, Oct 2	Deception	Ch. 4
5	Monday, Oct 5	Exam 1	All material to date
	Wednesday, Oct 7	Eyewitness Testimony: Recognition	Ch. 5
	Friday, Oct 9	Eyewitness Testimony: Recognition	Ch. 5
6	Monday, Oct 12	Thanksgiving Day. University closed.	
	Wednesday, Oct 14	Eyewitness Testimony: Recall	Ch. 5
	Friday, Oct 16	Eyewitness Testimony: Recall	Ch. 5
7	Monday, Oct 19	Video: What Jennifer Saw	
	Wednesday, Oct 21	Child Victims and Witnesses	Ch. 6
	Friday, Oct 23	Child Victims and Witnesses	Ch. 6
8	Monday, Oct 26	Evidence	Reading(s) to be posted on blackboard
	Wednesday, Oct 28	Video: Burden of Innocence	
	Friday, Oct 30	Video: Burden of Innocence	
9	Monday, Nov 2	Jury Decision-Making	Ch. 7
	Wednesday, Nov 4	Jury Decision-Making	Ch. 7
	Friday, Nov 6	Video: Inside the Jury Room	
10	Monday, Nov 9	Exam 2	All material since Exam 1
	Wednesday, Nov 11	Reading Days. No classes.	
	Friday, Nov 13		
11	Monday, Nov 16	Sentencing and Parole	Ch. 9
	Wednesday, Nov 18	Sentencing and Parole	Ch. 9
	Friday, Nov 20	Domestic Violence	Ch. 10
12	Monday, Nov 23	Sexual Offenders	Ch. 10
	Wednesday, Nov 25	Psychopathic Offenders	Ch. 11
	Friday, Nov 27	Psychopathic Offenders	Ch. 11
13	Monday, Nov 30	Video: Murder on a Sunday Morning	<i>Research paper due at the beginning of class</i>
	Wednesday, Dec 2	Video: Murder on a Sunday Morning	
	Friday, Dec 4	In-class Assignment 2	
14	Mon, Dec 7	Risk Assessment <i>Last day to participate in research and allocate research credits.</i>	Ch. 12
	Tues, Dec 8	<i>Fall Session Lectures end. Last day to withdraw.</i>	
	Dec 11 - 21	Final exam (scheduled by the Registrar)	All material since Exam 2
	Dec 25 – 31	Holiday Observance. Session Break. University closed.	

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 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.

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 an individual's final grade. **To get 2%** added to the final

grade, you have to acquire a **total of 2 bonus credits** towards the course. 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 **Dec 7th, 2009**.

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 220-5567.

Student Union VP Academic: Phone: 220-3911 [suyvaca@ucalgary.ca](mailto:suypaca@ucalgary.ca)
Student Union Faculty Rep.: Phone: 220-3913 socialscirep@su.ucalgary.ca

Important Dates

The last day to drop this course and **still receive a fee refund** is **Sep 18th, 2009**. The last day to withdraw from this course is August **Dec 8th, 2009**.