

**THIS OUTLINE IS TENTATIVE AND WILL BE FINALIZED IN THE FIRST WEEK
OF CLASS**

**Faculty of Health
Department of Psychology
Psychology 3310, Psychology and Law
S2 Term, June 27 – August 9, 2016
M/W 2:30 – 5:30, CLH A**

Instructor: Caroline Erentzen

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Office Hours	TBA	TBA

Course Description

This course explores the intersection of psychology and law, with particular focus on how psychological research can inform processes and outcomes in criminal law. Students will be exposed to a wide range of topics derived from work in social, clinical, cognitive, and developmental psychology that have influenced the development of legal and forensic procedures. The course explores a number of fundamental questions relating to legal assumptions about human behaviour. Major topics discussed include false confessions, interrogation techniques, lie detection, eyewitness testimony, jury decision making, sentencing principles, the “insanity defence,” jury bias, psychopathy, repressed memories, and wrongful convictions.

Course Prerequisite

Introduction to Psychology (PSYC 1010 6.0) with a minimum grade of a C. *If you have registered for this course without the prerequisite, the University may withdraw you without reimbursement.*

Course Format

The course will consist of three-hour lectures, held twice per week during the summer term. This is condensed course will involve the same level of material and content that would be provided in a full fall or winter semester, but contained within a six-week period. Students should be prepared to cover all assigned readings and attend lectures. The course will incorporate media, video footage, in class demonstrations, or other content that may assist with learning course material, and this material may be testable on an exam. Students are encouraged to read all assigned chapters and supplementary materials, and to attend all lectures or to borrow notes from a classmate if they are unable to attend a lecture. Not all material in the textbook will be discussed in lecture, and not all lecture material will be discussed in the textbook; all material is potentially testable on exams.

Required Text

Costanzo, M., Krauss, D., Schuller, R.A., & McLachlin, K. (2014). Forensic and Legal Psychology, Psychological Science Applied to Law (First Canadian Edition). New York: Worth Publishing.

The course textbook is available for purchase from the York University Campus Bookstore. In addition, two copies of the textbook will be made available on reserve at Scott Library.

Moodle

Course updates, announcements, and materials will appear on the course moodle site. Lecture slides will be made available for download from moodle (<https://moodle.yorku.ca>) prior to the lecture for students who wish to take notes directly on the slides. It is possible that material will be presented in class during discussions that will not appear in the lecture slides, so attendance is strongly encouraged. If you are unfamiliar with moodle, you are encouraged to review the training and help resources provided on moodle's website.

Course Evaluation and Assessment

Your final grade will be out of 100%, and will be based on your performance on three, non-cumulative exams. The first midterm will be worth 30%, and will be held on July 11. The second midterm will be worth 30%, and will be held on July 25. The last exam will be worth 40%, and will be held during the final exam period at a date to be determined by the University.

<u>Assessment</u>	<u>Date of Evaluation (if known)</u>	<u>Weighting</u>
Midterm 1	TBA	30%
Midterm 2	TBA	30%
Final Exam	During Final Exam Period	40%
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Total		100%

Grading

Percentage	Letter Grade
90+	A+
80-90	A
75-79	B+
70-74	B
65-69	C+
60-64	C
55-59	D+
50-54	D
40-49	E
0-39	F

Important Dates

July 4 – Last date to add class without permission

July 8 – Last date to add class with permission

July 11 – First Midterm

July 22 – Last date to drop class without academic penalty

July 25 – Second Midterm

August 1 – No class

Schedule of Topics and Assigned Readings

Date	Topic	Assigned Reading
Monday, June 27	Introduction to Psychology and Law	Chapter 1 Short supplementary reading
Wednesday, June 29	Interrogations and Confessions	Chapter 2
Monday, July 4	Lie Detection	Chapter 3
Wednesday, July 6	Criminal Profiling	Chapter 4
Monday, July 11	MIDTERM 1	Chapters 1-4
Wednesday, July 13	Eyewitness Testimony, Repressed Memories, Hypnosis	Chapter 5
Monday, July 18	Child Witnesses and Domestic Violence	Chapter 6 Chapter 12
Wednesday, July 20	Mental Health and the Law: Fitness to Stand Trial and the “Insanity Defence”	Chapter 9
Monday, July 25	MIDTERM 2	Chapters 5, 6, 9, 12
Wednesday, July 27	Jury Selection and Jury Dynamics	Chapter 7 Chapter 8
Monday, August 1	NO CLASS – CIVIC HOLIDAY	
Wednesday, August 3	Psychopathy and Risk Assessment	Chapter 10
Monday, August 8	Sentencing	Chapter 11
DATE TBA	FINAL EXAMINATION	Chapters 7, 8, 10, 11

Learning Disability Services

York University has policies in place to ensure that all students have an equal opportunity to attain their educational goals. Accommodations related to diagnosed learning disabilities may be made through Learning Disability Services. If you would like confidential support or academic accommodations, please visit <http://lds.info.yorku.ca>

Accessibility for Persons with Disabilities

While all individuals are expected to satisfy the requirements of their program of study and to aspire to do so at a level of excellence, the university recognizes that persons with disabilities may require reasonable accommodation to enable them to do so. The [York University Accessibility Hub](#) is your online stop for accessibility on campus. The [Accessibility Hub](#) provides tools, assistance and resources.

Guidelines for Missing an Exam

You must contact the course instructor and TA by email at least one day before the exam if you anticipate that you will be unable to attend. In the event of an emergency, you must contact the instructor and TA as soon as possible after the exam, and preferably within 24 hours. In your email, you should explain the reason for your absence, and confirm that you have medical or other relevant documentation. Be sure to provide your name, student number, and course name and number in the subject line.

You must provide documentation verifying the circumstances for your absence. If you do not provide documentation, you will receive a grade of F on the exam.

Exams missed due to medical circumstances must be supported by an Attending Physician's Statement or a Statement by a Psychologist or Counsellor (the attending physician's statement can be found at <http://www.registrar.yorku.ca/exams/deferred>). The Attending Physician's Statement must include (i) the full name, mailing address and telephone number of the Physician, (ii) state the nature of the illness and its duration (i.e., specific dates covered), and (iii) an indication of whether the illness and/or medication prescribed would have seriously affected the student's ability to study and perform over the period in question.

Tests missed on the grounds of non-medical circumstances must be supported by appropriate documentation (e.g., death certificates, obituary notice, automobile accident reports, airline/train/bus tickets, receipts for emergency travel with date of booking on ticket, etc.). Airline/train/bus tickets/receipts for emergency travel must indicate destination, departure, and return dates. Note that missing an exam for vacation, work, other scheduled tests, or community obligations are not valid excuses.

In the case of a missed test that is legitimately documented, a make up will be provided. You will need to receive confirmation of the make-up examination date from your TA; you should be back in touch within a few days with your TA if you have not heard back. You must be prepared to write within the week or two following the missed test date, and the date will be set by the instructor. Although the content to be examined will be the same, the format may or may not follow that of the original test. It is your responsibility to check with me or the TAs as to the date/time of the makeup test.

A conflict in another course during the time of the makeup is not an acceptable reason for missing the make-up, unless there is an examination in the other course at that time. There will be one date set for the make up tests. If you are unable to make this date, other arrangements might not be possible – so please make every effort to attend at this date and we will do our best to provide graded feedback before the drop date. Please note, however, that if you miss a test(s) and the makeup of the test prior to the drop date, regardless of your reason, you will have waived the right to have a specific percentage of graded feedback available to you prior to the drop date.

Cheating/Plagiarism

The University does not look favourably on cheating of any kind and the penalties for doing so are very harsh. Become familiar with the rules and regulations regarding cheating/plagiarism and academic honesty. Go to the following website <http://www.yorku.ca/academicintegrity> and read the section “For Students.”

Cheating. Cheating is the attempt to gain an improper advantage in an academic evaluation. Among the forms this dishonesty can take are: obtaining a copy of an examination before it is officially available or learning an examination question before it is officially available; copying another person’s answer to an examination question; consulting unauthorized sources during an examination; obtaining assistance by means of documentary, electronic, or other aids which are not approved by the instructor; or changing a score or record or an examination result.

Impersonation. It is a breach of academic honesty to have someone impersonate one’s self in class, in a test or examination, or in connection with any other type of assignment in a course. Both the impersonator and the individual impersonated may be charged.

Plagiarism and other misappropriation of the work of another. Plagiarism is the representation of another person’s ideas or writings as one’s own. The most obvious form of this kind of dishonesty is the presentation of all or part of another person’s published work as something one has written. However, paraphrasing another’s writing without proper acknowledgement may also be considered plagiarism. This may be done inadvertently when summarizing research for papers. Be careful when taking notes – even inadvertent plagiarism may result in a failing grade. It is a violation of academic honesty to represent another’s artistic or technical work or creation as one’s own. That is not to say that students should not use the work of others with the proper acknowledgement.

Sanctions for Academic Misconduct

When verified, a violation of academic honesty may lead to one of the following:

1. Oral or written disciplinary warning or reprimand;
2. A make-up assignment or examination;
3. Lower grade or failure on the assignment or examination;
4. Failure in the course;
5. Suspension from the University for a definite period;
6. Notation on transcript;
7. Withholding or rescinding a York degree, diploma, or certificate.