

PSYC 3310-M, Psychology and Law (S2, 2014)

| | <u>Instructor</u> | <u>Teaching Assistants</u> | |
|---|--|----------------------------|-------------------------|
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| Office hours: | By appointment | Mondays 1-2pm | Wednesdays 1-2pm |
| Office location: | 321G BSB | 264 BSB | 150C BSB |
| Lectures: | M/W 14:00-17:00 | Location: YK CLH E | |
| S2 Term: June 23 to August 5 (Exam Period: August 6 - 18) | | | |
| Course secretary: | Zehra Bandhu, 284 BSB | zehra@yorku.ca | 416-736-2100 ext. 66232 |
| Prerequisite: | Introduction to Psychology (PSYC 1010 6.0) with a minimum grade of C. <i>If you have registered for this course without this, the university may withdraw you without reimbursement.</i> | | |

Read this syllabus carefully because it contains important information.

Important information for students regarding University policies, including Academic Honesty/Integrity (see below as well) can be found at: <http://www.yorku.ca/secretariat/policies/>

Textbook

Costanzo, Krauss, Schuller, & McLachlan (2014). *Forensic and Legal Psychology, First Canadian Edition*. ISBN: 978-4641-4901-6 or 1-4641-4901-1. This textbook was used in the winter term so there may be used copies available. There will also be supplementary readings available through the library.

Course Objectives

The course explores the relationship between psychology and the legal system by examining applications of psychology to legal issues and procedures. It will draw on areas including social, cognitive, developmental, and clinical psychology and look critically at most aspects of the criminal justice system. The legal system makes many assumptions about human nature and these will be scrutinized from the perspective of psychological science. We will cover topics like police interrogations and confessions, eyewitness testimony, child witnesses, jury selection, decision making, and discrimination/biases in employment contexts. This is a psychology course and although we will cover some aspects of the law incidentally, its purpose is to expose you to psychological research and teach you to think about the law in a critical way, not to teach specifics of the law.

Class Format

This is an intensive course with two 3-hour lectures each week that may include videos, demonstrations, and discussions. **Because this is a summer course, relative to a 'normal' course, you will have twice as much material to cover each week.** Each week also has assigned readings. Some of the information presented in the readings will not be covered in class and all lectures will contain information not in the text.

Material will be posted on Moodle (<https://moodle.yorku.ca/>) and you should check it regularly. If you are unfamiliar with Moodle, refer to the student resources that are available to you on their main webpage. You are also expected to check your York email address regularly because course-related announcements may be sent there.

I will usually post lecture outlines on Moodle before class to help you with taking in-class notes. These are not intended to be a substitute for attending class and they will not include all of the content that will be covered in class, therefore if you miss a class it is in your best interest to borrow notes from a classmate. (Feel free to use the discussion board on Moodle to facilitate this.)

Assistance outside of class

The teaching assistants and I are available to help you with any questions outside of class but because this section is quite large, here are a few guidelines so that we can be as efficient as possible in helping you. There will be a discussion board posted on the course website and I prefer that you to post your questions there first so that other students may benefit from the answers. If you email questions, please try the TA's first. If the issue cannot be resolved after talking to them, then contact me. The TAs have office hours for your benefit so try to make use of them whenever possible, especially for detailed questions that might be difficult to answer via email.

Grade Requirements

Anything from lecture or in the readings might appear on tests or the exam. Your final grade will be out of 100% and will be based on two in-class midterms (each 30% of final grade) and a final exam during the exam period (40% of final grade).

Each midterm will consist of multiple choice questions (*approximately* $\frac{3}{4}$ of the test) and short answer questions (*approximately* $\frac{1}{4}$ of the test). Midterms will take up the first half of each class in which they are assigned (i.e., ~90 minutes) and will focus on the material covered since the last test. That is, they will be non-cumulative except in cases when current material builds on past material in a direct way.

The final exam will be 2 hours and may consist of multiple choice, short answer, or essay questions. Any multiple choice and short answer questions will be non-cumulative and cover material since Midterm 2. The essay question(s) will ask you to apply some aspect of the course content to a current issue and will involve applying broad principles that were covered throughout the term (i.e., will be cumulative at a broad level).

Please note that it is important to show up for all tests on time. To be fair to other students and to prevent cheating, students who are late may not be allowed to write. Also to be fair to the other

students, makeup tests will only be allowed under the extraordinary circumstances outlined below. We will take attendance at all exams so be prepared to sign in and, if requested, have your York identification with you.

Grading

The grading scheme for the course conforms to the 9-point grading system used in undergraduate programs at York (e.g., A+ = 9, A = 8, B+ = 7, C+ = 5, etc.). For a full description of York's grading system see the York University Undergraduate Calendar.

| <u>Percentage</u> | <u>Letter Grade</u> |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| 90+ | A+ |
| 80-89 | 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 |

Due to time constraints and class size we won't have time to return tests in-class, therefore students who wish to review their exams should contact their course TA. All requests for re-evaluation of midterms must be received within two weeks of marks being released or, in the case of the exam, at least 3 business days before the due date for submission of final marks.

Important Dates

- July 7, 2014 – Midterm 1 (30%)
- July 21, 2014 – Midterm 2 (30%)
- Final Exam, date to be announced (40%). The exam period is August 6-18.
- July 18, 2014: Last date to drop course without academic penalty.

Important: It is your responsibility to ensure that you are available to sit for examinations during the entire exam period for this term. I strongly recommend that you do not make any travel arrangements prior to the end of the term's examination schedule.

Learning Disability Services

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

For more general help with academic skills, such as strategies to study effectively, see Learning Skills Services: <http://lss.info.yorku.ca/>

Missing a Test or Exam

To be fair to all students, there will only be makeup tests except under extraordinary circumstances. If you miss a mandatory piece of course work for no documented reasons or fail to follow the instructions below, you will receive a grade of zero so please read carefully.

Students will only be allowed to write a missed test if they notify me within 48 hours of the scheduled test date. If you miss a test you must email me, cc'd to your course TA, before the scheduled test or within 48 hours of missing it. In this email, please (a) outline the reason for your absence, and (b) confirm that you have medical or other relevant documentation to support this reason. Include the course name and your full name and student number in your email. Although email is preferred, you may leave a phone message with the course secretary if you cannot access email within the 48 hour time frame.

Legitimate reasons include death in the family and illness. Missing an exam for vacation, work, other scheduled tests, or community obligations are not acceptable excuses. In all cases, independent documentation is necessary. For illness, your physician must complete a form providing the necessary details and dates surrounding your illness. The official form below is preferred but any official note that includes the same information is sufficient:

http://www.registrar.yorku.ca/pdf/attend_physician_statement.pdf

If you miss an exam for non-medical reasons, you still must produce supporting documentation (e.g., death certificate, accident report, airline ticket for emergency travel). A personal email or note (e.g., from a parent) is not acceptable documentation. By submitting documentation you consent to its verification with the individual or organization providing it. You must bring your documentation with you to the makeup session.

If you are ill or facing extreme personal circumstances and are unable to get the required documentation, it may be prudent to drop the course and re-take it at a time when circumstances are more conducive to participating fully in it.

Procedure for missed tests or exams

There will be **one** set date for each makeup test, arranged by the TA's, which will be shortly after the original date and outside of class. Because of the course size there can be no individual makeup sessions. The one exception to this rule is if you are registered with Learning Disability Services you may arrange to write a makeup with them instead of on the designated makeup date. Note they typically require five business days' notice and you have responsibility for making the arrangements. Deferred final exams are held on a single common date determined by the Department of Psychology.

All makeup dates will be posted on the course website and you should receive email confirmation of the makeup examination date from your TA, but it is ultimately your responsibility to find out the information about when the makeup test/exam is and ensure that you are set to write the

makeup test/exam. Note, makeup sessions are for people who have arranged to write a makeup in advance only; if you arrive without advance arrangements you will not be allowed to write.

If you are unable to make the designated makeup date because of extraordinary circumstances akin to those required to miss regular tests, then alternative arrangements are at my discretion and, because of the compressed nature of this course, these might not be possible until the end of the term. For example, if a midterm and its makeup is missed you might be asked to write a short essay paper about one of the concepts covered by that midterm, or take a re-weighted, longer final exam (e.g., 70% of final grade) that is cumulative (i.e., includes content from the midterm that was missed). These procedures are in place to ensure that all students are fairly tested on all course content. If you miss a test and the makeup of the test prior to the drop date, regardless of your reason, you have waived the right to have a specific percentage of graded feedback available to you prior to the drop date.

Cheating/Plagiarism

The penalties for cheating of any kind are very harsh. Become familiar with the rules and regulations regarding cheating/plagiarism and academic honesty. See: <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 kind of 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 an unauthorized source 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 a record of 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 writing 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 acknowledgment may also be considered plagiarism. It is also a violation of academic honesty to represent another's artistic or technical work or creation as one's own. Building on and referencing others' work is the cornerstone of academia, but it needs to be acknowledged properly.

Sanctions for Academic Misconduct

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

1. Oral or written disciplinary warning or reprimand
2. A makeup assignment or examination
3. Lower grade or failure on 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

For more detailed information you may visit:

<http://www.yorku.ca/academicintegrity/students/index.htm>

Weekly Topics & Readings

| | Date | Topic | Readings |
|----|-------------------------|---|--|
| 1 | June 23, 2014 | An Introduction to Forensic Psychology | Chapter 1 |
| 2 | June 25 | The Psychology of Police Investigations (1): Interrogation and confessions | Chapter 2; Moore, Copeland & Schuller, (2009, pp. 378-404) |
| 3 | June 30 | The Psychology of Police Investigations (2): Profiling and racial bias | Chapter 4 |
| 4 | July 2 | Deception and lie detection | Chapter 3 |
| 5 | July 7 | Midterm 1* | |
| 6 | July 9 | Eyewitness Testimony | Chapter 5 |
| 7 | July 14 | Child Victims & Witnesses | Chapter 6 |
| 8 | July 16 | Juries: Fact Finders | Chapters 7 & 8 |
| 9 | July 21 | Midterm 2* | |
| 10 | July 23 | Clinical Psychology in Court (1): Fitness to stand trial and insanity | Chapter 9 |
| 11 | July 28 | Clinical Psychology in Court (2): Psychopathy and intimate partner violence | Chapters 10 & 12 |
| 12 | July 30 | Workplace Discrimination | Chapter 13; Fiske et al. (1991) |
| | August 4 | Civic holiday | |
| | August 6-18 Date TBD | Final exam | |

* The midterms will not take up the full class in which they're scheduled and so there will also be content on these days. That said, I realize that it may be difficult to concentrate on lecture material afterwards, so when possible I will save videos for these test days.

Readings

Because of copyright law, links to these articles will be posted on Moodle so that you can access them through the library but I cannot post the files directly.

Fiske, S. T., Bersoff, D. N., Borgida, E., Deaux, K., & Heilman, M. E. (1991). Social Science Research on Trial: Use of Sex Stereotyping Research in Price Waterhouse v. Hopkins. *American Psychologist*, 46(10), 1049–1060.

Moore, T.E., Copeland P., & Schuller, R.A. (2009). Deceit, betrayal and the search for truth: Legal and psychological perspectives on the “Mr. Big” strategy. *Criminal Law Quarterly*, 55, 348-404. **[You are responsible only for Sections 4-5: Psychological perspectives and conclusions (pp. 378-404)]**