

**Faculty of Health  
Department of Psychology  
PSYC 3310 Section A  
PSYCHOLOGY AND LAW  
Fall, 2016**

---

**Instructor and T.A. Information**

Instructor: Caroline Erentzen  
Office: BSB 264  
Office Phone: 416-736-2100- ext 40271  
Office Hours: TBA  
Email: erentzen@yorku.ca

T.A.	<b>Vered Latman (Students A-K)</b>	<b>Busi Ncube (Students L-Z)</b>
Email	vlatman@yorku.ca	Busi.louise@gmail.com
Office	308 Calumet College	BSB 041
Office Hours	Wed. 10-11	Monday, 12-1

**Course Prerequisite(s): Course prerequisites are strictly enforced.**

- HH/PSYC 1010 6.00 (Introduction to Psychology), with a minimum grade of C.

**Course website: 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 to assist student learning. 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 Description**

This course explores the intersection of psychology and law, with particular focus on how psychological research can inform legal processes and outcomes. 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, wrongful convictions, interrogation techniques, lie detection, eyewitness testimony, jury decision making, sentencing principles, mental illness, and psychopathy.

## Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:

1. Demonstrate in-depth knowledge of psychology and the law.
2. Articulate trends in psychology and the law.
3. Express knowledge of psychology and the law in written form.
4. Describe and explain limits to generalizability of research findings in psychology and the law.
5. Demonstrate ability to relate information psychology and the law to own and others' life experiences.

## Specific Learning Objectives

Students will develop skills to think critically about how psychology applies to law, and whether our assumptions about human behaviour and cognition are accurate. Using psychological science, students will learn to question how the legal system operates, where the law is correct in its assumptions and where it may need reform. Students will be encouraged to think critically about controversial topics related to psychology and law, such as the effect of mandatory minimums, how best to respond to those suffering from mental illness, or whether current police procedures are effective at screening out the innocent from the guilty.

## 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, several copies of the textbook will be made available on reserve at Scott Library.

## Course Requirements and Assessment

Information on course requirements and assessments.

Assessment	Date of Evaluation	Weighting
Midterm	October 20, 2016	35%
Research Paper	November 17, 2016	30%
Final Exam	Final Examination Period	35%
Total		100%

## Description of Assignments

The course grade will be comprised of two non-cumulative examinations based on textbook and lecture material. In addition, part of the final grade will be based on a written research paper approximately 4-5 pages in length. Specific details of the paper will be made available after the course has commenced.

## Grading as per Senate Policy

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.). Assignments and tests\* will bear either a letter grade designation or a corresponding number grade (e.g. A+ = 90 to 100, A = 80 to 90, B+ = 75 to 79, etc.)

(For a full description of York grading system see the York University Undergraduate Calendar - [calendars.students.yorku.ca/2016-2017/academic-and-financial-information/academic-services/grades-and-grading-schemes](http://calendars.students.yorku.ca/2016-2017/academic-and-financial-information/academic-services/grades-and-grading-schemes))

### **Late Work/Missed Tests or Exams**

Students with a documented reason for missing a course test, such as illness, compassionate grounds, etc., which is confirmed by supporting documentation (Attending Physician Statement which can be found at: <http://registrar.yorku.ca/pdf/attending-physicians-statement.pdf>) may request accommodation from the Course Instructor. Further extensions or accommodation will require students to submit a formal petition to the Faculty.

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 48 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.

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.

## Reviewing Exams and Assignments

Students are encouraged to review their exams and assignments to improve their performance on future work. Requests to review exams or assignments should be made within two weeks of the grade posting. Note that grade changes will be made only in exceptional circumstances. After the two-week period, there will be no opportunity for revisions to grades.

## Add/Drop Deadlines

### Important dates

Last date to add a course **without** permission of instructor (also see Financial Deadlines)

### Fall (F)

Sept. 21

Last date to add a course **with permission** of instructor (also see Financial Deadlines)

Oct. 5

Last date to drop a course without receiving a grade (also see Financial Deadlines)

Nov. 11

Course Withdrawal Period (withdraw from a course and receive a "W" on the transcript)

Nov. 12 -  
Dec. 5

## Information on Plagiarism Detection

Papers will be submitted through turnitin to ensure that all work is original content. Student work showing evidence of plagiarism or uncited work may result in academic penalty or failure.

## Electronic Device Policy

Students are asked to refrain from the use of cell phones during lecture. Phones should be turned off or muted to minimize disruption to others. Students wishing to record lectures should discuss this issue with the instructor at the beginning of the class.

## Attendance Policy

The course will consist of three-hour lectures, held once per week during the Fall 2016 term. 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, but all material is potentially testable on exams.

## Academic Integrity for Students

York university takes academic integrity very seriously, please visit [an overview of Academic Integrity at York University](#) from the Office of the Vice-President Academic.

The following links will assist you in gaining a better understanding of academic integrity and point you to resources at York that can help you improve your writing and research skills:

- [Information about the Senate Policy on Academic Honesty](#)
- [Online Tutorial on Academic Integrity](#)
- [Information for Students on Text-Matching Software: Turnitin.com](#)
- [Beware! Says who? A pamphlet on how to avoid plagiarism](#)
- [Resources for students to help improve their writing and research skill](#)

### **Test Banks:**

The use of test banks is NOT permitted in this course and is considered a potential breach of academic honesty. This includes but is not limited to buying or selling test banks.

### **Electronic Devices During a Test/Examination:**

Electronic mobile devices of any kind are not allowed during a test or examination. Students are required to turn off and secure any electronic mobile device in their bag which is to be placed under the chair while a test/exam is in progress. Any student observed with an electronic device during a test/exam may be reported to the Undergraduate Office for a potential breach of Academic Honesty.

### **Academic Accommodation for Students 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. Policy Statement

**Policy:** York University shall make reasonable and appropriate accommodations and adaptations in order to promote the ability of students with disabilities to fulfill the academic requirements of their programs.

The nature and extent of accommodations shall be consistent with and supportive of the integrity of the curriculum and of the academic standards of programs or courses.

Provided that students have given sufficient notice about their accommodation needs, instructors shall take reasonable steps to accommodate these needs in a manner consistent with the guidelines established hereunder.

For Further Information please refer to: [York university academic accommodation for students with disabilities policy](#)

### **Course Materials Copyright Information:**

These course materials are designed for use as part of the PSYC 3310 3.0A course at York University and are the property of the instructor unless otherwise stated. Third party copyrighted materials (such as book chapters, journal articles, music, videos, etc.) have either been licensed for use in this course or fall under an exception or limitation in Canadian Copyright law.

Copying this material for distribution (e.g. uploading material to a commercial third-party website) may lead to a violation of Copyright law. [Intellectual Property Rights Statement](#)

### Schedule of Topics and Assigned Readings

Date	Topic	Assigned Reading
<b>Thursday, Sept. 8</b>	Introduction to Psychology & Law Research Methods Course Overview	Chapter 1
<b>Thursday, Sept. 15</b>	Wrongful Convictions, False Confessions, & Police Interrogation	Chapter 2
<b>Thursday, Sept. 22</b>	Lie Detection	Chapter 3
<b>Thursday, Sept. 29</b>	Criminal Profiling	Chapter 4
<b>Thursday, Oct. 6</b>	Eyewitness Testimony & Repressed Memories	Chapter 5
<b>Thursday, Oct. 13</b>	Child Witnesses	Chapter 6
<b>Thursday, Oct. 20</b>	<b>MIDTERM</b>	<b>Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6</b>
<b>Thursday, Oct. 27</b>	NO CLASS- READING DAYS!	
<b>Thursday, Nov. 3</b>	Jury Selection and Bias Screening	Chapter 7
<b>Thursday, Nov. 10</b>	Jury Deliberation Processes	Chapter 8
<b>Thursday, Nov. 17</b>	Mental Illness in the Courts	Chapter 9
<b>Thursday, Nov. 24</b>	Psychopathy and Risk Assessment	Chapter 10
<b>Thursday, Dec. 1</b>	Sentencing	Chapter 11
<b>DATE TBA</b>	<b>FINAL EXAMINATION</b>	<b>Chapters 7, 8, 9 10, 11</b>