

**Faculty of Health
Department of Psychology
PSYC 3310 Section M
PSYCHOLOGY AND LAW
Monday/Wednesday 11:30am-2:30pm
CLH F
Summer (S2) 2017**

Instructor and T.A. Information

Instructor: Caroline Erentzen
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Office Hours	TBA	TBA

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 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 include wrongful convictions, false confessions, interrogation techniques, lie detection, eyewitness testimony, jury decision making, sentencing principles, mental illness, jury bias, and psychopathy.

Learning Outcomes

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

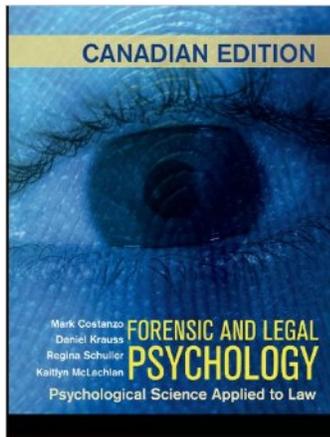
1. Demonstrate in-depth knowledge in psychology and the law.
2. Articulate trends in psychology and the law.
3. Express knowledge of psychology and the law in written form.
4. Describe and explain limits to generalizability of research findings in psychology and the law.
5. Demonstrate ability to relate information pertaining to psychology and the law to their own and others' life experiences.
6. Think critically about contemporary issues in the news and daily life relating to psychology and the law.

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.



This text is available for purchase in the campus bookstore. In addition, three copies of the text have been placed on 2-hour reserve in Scott library.

Be sure to obtain the Canadian edition of this textbook. The American version does not contain all of the information that will be discussed in this class.

Course Requirements and Assessment

Assessment	Date of Evaluation	Weighting
Midterm 1	July 5, 2017	33.3%
Midterm 2	July 19, 2017	33.3%
Final Exam	Final exam period	33.3%
Total		100%

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 - [Grading Scheme for 2016-17](#))

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 your TA by email within 48 hours of missing an exam. 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 exam will be provided. You will receive confirmation of the make-up examination date from your TA. 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 of the makeup exam 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. Due to the short duration of the course, there will be only one date set for the make up tests. Please make every effort to attend at this date. Please note, however, that if you miss a test and the makeup prior to the drop date, regardless of your reason, you will have waived the right to have graded feedback available to you prior to the drop date.

IMPORTANT NEW INFORMATION REGARDING MISSED TESTS:

For any missed tests or late assignments, students **MUST** complete the following online form which will be received and reviewed in the Psychology undergraduate office.

[HH PSYC: Missed Tests/Exams Form](#) . Failure to complete the form within 7 calendar days of the original deadline will result in a grade of zero for the test/assignment.

Add/Drop Deadlines and Important Dates

For a list of all important dates please refer to: [Summer 2017 - Important Dates](#)

	S2
Last date to add a course without permission of instructor	23-Jun
Last date to add a course with permission of instructor	30-Jun
Last date to drop course without receiving a grade	21-Jul
*Course Withdrawal Period (withdraw from a course and receive a grade of "W" on transcript – Add and Drop Deadline Information)	July 22-31

****Note:** You may withdraw from a course using the registration and enrolment system after the drop deadline until the last day of class for the term associated with the course. When you withdraw from a course, the course remains on your transcript without a grade and is notated as "W". The withdrawal will not affect your grade point average or count towards the credits required for your degree.*

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

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. Lectures will incorporate media materials and in-class demonstrations that may be tested on exams.

Academic Integrity for Students

York university takes academic integrity very seriously, please familiarize yourself with [Information about the Senate Policy on Academic Honesty](#)

It is recommended that you review Academic Integrity by completing the [Academic Integrity Tutorial](#) and [Academic Honesty Quiz](#)

Test Banks:

The offering for sale of, buying of, and attempting to sell or buy test banks (banks of test questions and/or answers), or any course specific test questions/answers is not permitted in the Faculty of Health. Any student found to be doing this may be considered to have breached the Senate Policy on Academic Honesty. In particular, buying and attempting to sell banks of test questions and/or answers may be considered as “Cheating in an attempt to gain an improper advantage in an academic evaluation” (article 2.1.1 from the Senate Policy) and/or “encouraging, enabling or causing others” (article 2.1.10 from the Senate Policy) to cheat.

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 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
Monday, June 19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to Psychology and Law • Wrongful Convictions (lecture only) 	Chapter 1
Wednesday, June 21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interrogations and Confessions 	Chapter 2
Monday, June 26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lie Detection 	Chapter 3
Wednesday, June 28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Criminal Profiling • Serial Killers (lecture only) 	Chapter 4
Monday, July 3	NO CLASS – UNIVERSITY CLOSED	
Wednesday, July 5	MIDTERM #1	Ch. 1, 2, 3, 4
Monday, July 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eyewitness Testimony 	Ch. 5
Wednesday, July 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child Witnesses • Repressed/Recovered Memories (lecture only) 	Ch. 6
Monday, July 17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jury Selection • Jury Dynamics 	Chapter 7 Chapter 8
Wednesday, July 19	MIDTERM #2	Chapters 5, 6, 7, 8
Monday, July 24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mental Health and the Law • “Battered Woman Syndrome” 	Chapter 9 Chapter 12 (pp. 303-315)
Wednesday, July 26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk Assessment, Dangerous Offenders • Psychopathy & Dark Triad (lecture only) 	Chapter 10
Monday, July 31	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sentencing 	Chapter 11
DATE TBA	FINAL EXAMINATION	Chapters 9, 10, 11, 12 (pp. 303-315)