Faculty of Health
Department of Psychology
PSYC 3310 3.0 A: PSYCHOLOGY AND LAW
Thursday 8:30- 11:20 AM – Vari Hall B
Fall 2018

Instructor and T.A. Information

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Office Hours	Monday 10:45 to 11:45	Tuesday 2:30 to 3:30

Course Prerequisite(s): Course prerequisites are strictly enforced

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

Course Credit Exclusions

Please refer to York Courses Website for a listing of any course credit exclusions.

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) following the 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 Objectives

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

Program 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 psychology and the law to own and others' life experiences.

Specific Learning Objectives

The course explores the relationship between psychology and the legal system by examining applications of psychology to legal issues and procedures. Many of the legal assumptions about human nature that underlie legal procedures and practices will be scrutinized from a psychological perspective. That is, the law's informal theories of human behaviour will be compared to what psychologists know on the basis of theory and research. Students wiill demonstate an understanding of the usefulness of social science information in the practice of law, while at the same time critically examining the problems and pitfalls of using such information.

Required Text

- Costanzo, M., Krauss, D., Schuller, R. A., & McLachlan, K. (2014). Forensic and Legal Psychology, Psychological Science Applied to Law (First Canadian Edition). New York: Worth Publishing. (**Make sure you purchase the Canadian Edition)**

Course Format

The course format consists of one 3 hour lecture session per week. Each week we will have a lecture, which may include a research exercise/demonstration, some video, and some class discussion. The lecture will be related in part to an assigned chapter from the textbook. Lectures are designed to stimulate your interest in the field of psychology and law, and not all of the information presented in the text will be covered in the lectures. My job as a course instructor is to motivate you to learn and to highlight what I think are some interesting issues that are related to the weekly topic. You are responsible, however, for covering the textbook reading in its entirety. In addition, some of the lectures will contain information that is not in the text. Questions pertaining to such information may appear on exams, and it is in your best interest to borrow notes from a classmate if you must miss a class. Exam questions may also be derived from supplementary materials such as videos. Research demonstrations may also be conducted in class and questions pertaining to these demonstrations/exercises also may appear on exams. Please note that lectures, as well as other relevant materials, will be posted on Moodle (https://moodle.yorku.ca/) although not usually before the lecture (you will need to sign in to access the postings). If you are unfamiliar with Moodle, it is encouraged that you check the student resources that are made available to you on their main webpage.

Course Requirements and Assessment:

The course grade will be comprised of two non-cumulative examinations based on textbook and lecture material. The tests will consist of multiple choice questions, as well as a series of short

answer questions and/or essay questions. There will be one in-class term test (October 25, 2018) and a second test during the final examination period (TBA). The tests are non-cumulative. Although not all text material will be covered in class, students will be responsible for all text material on examinations. Students are expected to write each test on the dates specified. Each test is worth 40% of your final grade.

You will also have one paper to write for the course. This paper is worth 20% of your final grade. The deadline for the paper submission will be **Wednesday November 7 11:59.** More information regarding the paper will be provided later in the term.

Assessment	**Date of Evaluation**	**Weighting**
• Test 1	October 25 , 2018	40%
• Paper	November 7, 2018	20%
• Test 2	Final Examination Period	40%

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.

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 2017-18)

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://myacademicrecord.students.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.

There will be **no make-up tests**, except under extraordinary documented circumstances. **If you miss a mandatory piece of course work with no documented reasons, you will receive a grade of zero** on that component of the evaluation (see below regarding Guidelines for Missed Tests/Papers).

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 48 hours of the original deadline will result in a grade of zero for the test/assignment.

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 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.

Add/Drop Deadlines

For a list of all important dates please refer to: Fall/Winter 2018-19 - Important Dates

	FALL (F)
Last date to add a course **without permission** of instructor (also see Financial Deadlines)	Sept. 18
Last date to add a course **with permission** of instructor (also see Financial Deadlines)	Oct. 2
Drop deadline: Last date to drop a course without receiving a grade (also see Financial Deadlines)	Nov. 9
Course Withdrawal Period Ends (withdraw from a course and receive a grade of "W" on transcript – see note below)	Dec. 4

***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.*

Information on Plagiarism Detection

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 somone 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.

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 devise 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 3310.30 A 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 Weekly Topics & Readings

Date	Topic	Reading Preparation
1. September 6	Psychology and Law: A Cautious Alliance	Read Course Outline Read Chapter 1 of the text
2. September 13	Interrogations,Wrongful Convictions	Chapter 2
3. Steptember 20	Lie Detection	Chapters 3
4. September 27	Criminal Profiling	Chapters 4
5. October 5	Eyewitness Identification	Chapter 5
6. October 11	**NO CLASS**	
7. October 18	Child Testimony	Chapter 6
8. October 25	**Test 1**	**Chaps 1-6, Lectures, Demos, Films**
9. November 1	Juries I	Chapter 7
10. November 8	Juries II	Chapter 8
11. November 15	Fitness to stand trial, NCRMD defences	Chapter 9 & 12 (pp. 303- 315)
12. November 22	Risk Assessment & Psychopathy	Chaper 10
13. November 29	Sentencing	Chapter 11
Dec 6 – Dec 21	**Test 2**	**Chapters 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, part of 12 lectures/films**