Faculty of Health  
Department of Psychology  
PSYC 3310  3.0  Section: M  PSYCHOLOGY AND LAW  
Mondays and Wednesdays, 11:30am – 2:30pm/Online via Zoom  
S2/2021

Lectures will be delivered in the form of a Zoom meeting during the allotted course time. A link to access the lecture will be emailed to students the night before and also posted on the eClass website.

During the Zoom meeting, the lecture slides will be displayed on-screen, while I speak over them (closely mirroring the manner this course is typically delivered in-person). Using break-out groups in Zoom, lectures will sometimes also include small, ungraded group discussions and ungraded “Kahoot” quizzes that are designed to engage you in the material and help you test your understanding of the course content.

Although you are strongly encouraged to attend the live zoom sessions, lectures will be recorded and posted online through the course website for students who are unable to attend the live lectures or those who experience technical difficulties. Because lectures will be recorded, students may wish to turn their webcams off.

*This class or portions of this class will be recorded by the instructor for educational purposes. These recordings will be shared only with students enrolled in the course.*

**Instructor and T.A. Information**

**Instructor:** Logan Ewanation  
**Office Hours:** by appointment  
**Email:** lewan@yorku.ca

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>T.A.</th>
<th>Amir Zarie</th>
<th>Lana Vedelago</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Email</td>
<td><a href="mailto:am1r@my.yorku.ca">am1r@my.yorku.ca</a></td>
<td><a href="mailto:lvedelag@yorku.ca">lvedelag@yorku.ca</a></td>
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<td>Office Hours</td>
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**Course Prerequisite(s):** Course prerequisites are strictly enforced

- HH/PSYC 1010 6.00 (Introduction to Psychology), with a minimum grade of C.
- Completed at least 54 credits

**Course Credit Exclusions**

Please refer to [York Courses Website](https://www.yorku.ca/courses/) for a listing of any course credit exclusions.

**Course website:** [eClass](https://eclass2.yorku.ca/)

All course materials will be available on the course eClass site, unless otherwise indicated by the instructor. The site will be your central access point for course materials (e.g., assigned readings, assignment instructions, etc.)
Course Description

The law and legal system governs our lives from the time before we are born until years after we die, with rules and laws touching on every aspect of life in between. In doing so, the law relies on a number of assumptions about how and why people think and behave the way they do. Empirical research has demonstrated that many of these assumptions are incorrect. This course examines how psychological science can test these assumptions, explore the consequences of faulty assumptions, and offer solutions for improvement. Students will be exposed to a wide range of topics derived from work in social, clinical, cognitive, and developmental psychology, with a particular focus on the Canadian context. Major topics include false confessions, wrongful convictions, police interrogation, lie detection, eyewitnesses, jury bias, sentencing and incarceration, “the insanity defense,” 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. Develop understanding of the research processes used in psychology and law.
5. Describe and explain limits to generalizability of research findings in psychology and law.
6. Demonstrate ability to relate information in psychology and the law to their own and others’ life experiences.
7. Think critically about psychology and law research and its day-to-day applications.

Specific Learning Objectives

Students will develop skills to think critically about how psychology applies to the law and legal system and whether our assumptions about human behaviour and cognition are accurate. Together, we will consider controversial topics related to psychology and law, such as the effect of mandatory minimum sentences, whether people falsely confess to crimes they did not commit, whether recovered/repressed memories are real, whether juries are able to make decisions free of bias, and how to respond to mentally ill defendants. Many of these topics are covered widely in media outlets, often in inflammatory and inaccurate ways. Upon completion of this course, students develop an understanding of the strengths and limitations of the Canadian legal system.

Required Text

There is no textbook for this course. Instead, assigned readings will consist of 1-2 journal articles which will be posted online on the eClass site. I have made this decision for a number of reasons, but it is primarily to get students more comfortable reading empirical journal articles.
Course Requirements and Assessment:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment</th>
<th>Date of Evaluation (if known)</th>
<th>Weighting</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Blog Post</td>
<td>Due July 12</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterm Exam</td>
<td>Due July 20</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation Quizzes</td>
<td>Recurring</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paper</td>
<td>Due August 9</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>Final Exam Period</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
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Description of Assignments

**BLOG POST (10%) – Due by 11:00 pm on July 12, 2021**
Each student will prepare a short blog (approximately 1 page double-spaced) about a study of their choice that relates to forensic psychology/psychology and the law. The blog must be written in a way that captures the reader’s interest and is widely accessible in terms of writing style and language.

**MIDTERM EXAM (30%) – Due by 7:00 pm on July 20, 2021**
Halfway through the course, there will be a 2-hour online exam consisting of multiple-choice and short-answer questions covering material from lectures 1-6. Questions will cover both the lecture and reading material. Students will be able to write the online exam anytime between July 15 at 8am EST and July 20 at 7 pm EST.

Those with appropriate medical documentation will have the opportunity to reschedule their midterm (see below).

**PARTICIPATION QUIZZES (5%)**
Students will take 10 online quizzes on eClass. The quizzes will be participation-based, meaning students will receive full marks for each quiz completed. The purpose of these quizzes is to better-learn the material covered in lectures and readings. A new quiz will be available after each lecture other than our first and last lecture. You will have until 11:59 pm the following day after lecture to complete the quiz.

**PAPER (25%) – Due by 11:00 pm on August 9, 2021**
For the paper, you will be asked to conduct a literature review relating to a topic of your choice within the field of forensic/legal psychology. The literature review will consist of 3 primary empirical journal articles relating to your selected topic. The paper should be approximately 4-5 pages in length. More details concerning this assignment will be posted on the course’s eClass website.

**FINAL EXAM (30%) – Final Exam Period**
The final exam will consist of multiple-choice and short-answer questions covering material from lectures 8-13. Questions will cover both the lecture and reading material. Students will be given two hours to complete the exam.
Class Format and Attendance Policy

As described above, lectures will be delivered during class via Zoom, with recorded lectures posted on the course webpage that afternoon. Although attendance is not mandatory, it is strongly encouraged.

Technical requirements for taking the course: Students should have zoom installed on their computers in advance of the class to take part in weekly lectures and for any meetings with the TA or instructor. You will need access to high speed internet to watch videos when you are able to. You will also need to have wifi access to upload assignments and complete exam responses.

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 89, B+ = 75 to 79, etc.)

For a full description of York grading system see the York University Undergraduate Calendar - Grading Scheme for 2020-21

Missed Tests/Midterm Exams/Late Assignment

For any missed quiz or late assignment, students MUST complete the following online form found at HH PSYC: Missed Tests/Exams Form, which will be received and reviewed in the Psychology undergraduate office. At this time, due to COVID-19 an Attending Physician’s Statement (APS) is not required, however, a reason for missing an evaluated component in the course must be provided. Failure to complete the form within 48 hours of the original deadline will result in a grade of zero for the missed quiz or late assignment.

Add/Drop Deadlines

For a list of all important dates please refer to: Summer 2021 Important Dates

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>S2</th>
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<tr>
<td>Last date to add a course without permission of instructor</td>
<td>02-Jul</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Last date to add a course with permission of instructor</td>
<td>09-Jul</td>
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<tr>
<td>Last date to drop course without receiving a grade</td>
<td>23-Jul</td>
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<tr>
<td>Course Withdrawal Period (withdraw from course and receive a “W” on transcript – see Add and Drop Deadline Information below)</td>
<td>July 24-Aug. 10</td>
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Add and Drop Deadline Information

There are deadlines for adding and dropping courses, both academic and financial. Since, for the most part, the dates are different, be sure to read the information carefully so that you understand the differences between the sessional dates below and the Refund Tables.

You are strongly advised to pay close attention to the "Last date to enrol without permission of course instructor" deadlines. These deadlines represent the last date students have unrestricted access to the registration and enrolment system.
After that date, you must contact the professor/department offering the course to arrange permission.

You can drop courses using the registration and enrolment system up until the last date to drop a course without receiving a grade (drop deadline).

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**

Students will be required to submit the blog and paper to Turnitin to ensure that all work is original content. Student work showing evidence of plagiarism or improper citation may result in penalty, failure, or reporting for academic dishonesty. If you are unfamiliar with how to properly cite your sources, please reach out to the instructor or your TA for assistance.

**Electronic Device Policy**

This course will be delivered in an online format and therefore electronic devices (e.g., tablets, laptops) are permitted during class time for course-related purposes. It is expected that you would complete tests/exams in a manner that does not require consulting an unauthorised source during an examination unless the tests/exams are open-book.

**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.

**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 university encourages students with disabilities to register with Student Accessibility Services (SAS) to discuss their accommodation needs as early as possible in the term to establish the recommended academic
accommodations that will be communicated to Course Directors as necessary. Please let me know as early as possible in the term if you anticipate requiring academic accommodation so that we can discuss how to consider your accommodation needs within the context of this course.

https://accessibility.students.yorku.ca/

Excerpt from Senate Policy on Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities

1. Pursuant to its commitment to sustaining an inclusive, equitable community in which all members are treated with respect and dignity, and consistent with applicable accessibility legislation, York University shall make reasonable and appropriate accommodations in order to promote the ability of students with disabilities to fulfill the academic requirements of their programs. This policy aims to eliminate systemic barriers to participation in academic activities by students with disabilities.

All students are expected to satisfy the essential learning outcomes of courses. Accommodations shall be consistent with, support and preserve the academic integrity of the curriculum and the academic standards of courses and programs. 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.
## Course Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Lecture Topic</th>
<th>Readings</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>June 28</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td>n/a</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 12</td>
<td>Criminal Profiling</td>
<td>BLOG DUE</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 19</td>
<td>MIDTERM EXAM</td>
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| August 9 | Sentencing | **PAPER DUE**  
|  | **FINAL EXAM** |  |