

PSYC 493
Psychology and Law
Fall 2017

Instructor:	Dr. Melissa Boyce	Lecture Location:	ES 920
Phone:	403-210-6257	Lecture Days/Time:	MWF 4:00 – 4:50pm
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Office:	A258		
Office Hours:	TBA		

Course Description

This course focuses on the application of behavioral science research and theory to the legal system. The primary goal of this course is to expose you to some of the ways that psychology and the legal system intersect. Throughout the course, we will examine some of the legal system's basic assumptions and procedures in light of empirical social scientific evidence as we seek to understand how the system actually works - not just how the law assumes that it works.

Course Learning Outcomes

The Department of Psychology is committed to student knowledge and skill development. The table below lists the key learning outcomes for this course, the program-learning outcomes they facilitate (see psyc.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate/program-learning-outcomes), and the expected level of achievement.

Course Learning Outcomes	Assessment Methods	PLO(s)	Level(s)
Analyze the validity of assumptions made by the legal system using empirical data	Exams, In-Class Assignment 1, Position Paper	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7	A
Analyze research findings on a legal topic to draw appropriate conclusions	Exams, In-Class Assignment 2, Position Paper	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7	A
Apply major concepts discussed in class to generate solutions to a psycho-legal problem	Exams, In-Class Assignments 1 and 2	1, 2, 4, 6, 7	A
Critique legal procedures/phenomena and make recommendations for how to improve them based on empirical data	Exams, In-Class Assignment 2, Position Paper	1, 2, 4, 6, 7	A
Contrast multiple theories proposed to explain given psycho-legal phenomena	Exams	1, 2, 4	A

Notes. PLOs = Program-Learning Outcomes: 1 = demonstrate knowledge of psychological sciences, 2 = think critically and solve problems, 3 = conduct research and analyze data, 4 = communicate effectively, 5 = demonstrate information literacy, 6 = understand and implement ethical principles, 7 = apply psychological knowledge and skills. Level of PLO achievement facilitated by this course: I = introductory, C = competency, A = advanced.

Prerequisites

PSYC 200 and 201 – Principles of Psychology I & II

PSYC 312 – Experimental Design and Quantitative Research Methods in Psychology

Recommended Text

Pozzulo, J., Bennell, C., & Forth, A. (2015). *Forensic Psychology (4th Edition)*. Toronto, ON: Pearson Prentice Hall. (available in the bookstore)

Assessment Methods

Exams: Three exams are scheduled for this course focusing on lecture material (including any videos). The first two exams are non-cumulative and will consist of multiple-choice and short-answer questions. The final exam is 2 hours in length. It is cumulative and will consist of multiple-choice and short-answer questions. The use of iPods, iPads, computers, books or notes during tests is prohibited.

	Date	Material Covered	Worth
Exam 1	October 16, 2017	Ch. 1-4 and related readings and videos	15%
Exam 2	November 17, 2017	Ch. 5-7 and related readings and videos	15%
Exam 3	TBA (during final exam period)	All course material (with emphasis on chapters' 9, 11, 13, 14)	30%

In-Class Group Assignments: Two in-class group assignments (Oct 6, Dec 8) worth 5% each (max total = 10% of your mark). These assignments are intended to help you apply the concepts that you have learned in class to a real world forensic issue. You will work on these assignments in groups of 2-3 and hand them in at the end of class in hard copy or via the assignment dropbox in D2L. Late assignments will not be accepted without medical documentation.

Position Paper: One APA-formatted position paper 10-15 pages (excluding references) double-spaced with 12 pt font and 1" margins worth 30% of your mark. You will be provided with a list of potential topics at the beginning of the term. Students may also write about a topic of their choice as long as they receive permission from me first. Further details will be provided in class and posted on D2L. Due Monday, November 20 at the beginning of class.

You are expected to hand in a hard copy of your paper at the beginning of class on the due date. If you cannot attend class on that day, you must 1) deliver the paper to the main office to be put in my mailbox or 2) email me the paper as a Word file attachment, before noon on the due date. Late papers will be deducted 5% per day (including weekends) up to a maximum of 35% (7 days), at which point, late papers will no longer be accepted.

Department of Psychology Criteria for Letter Grades

Psychology professors use the following criteria when assigning letter grades:

A+ grade: *Exceptional Performance*. An A+ grade indicates near perfect performance on multiple choice and short answer exams. For research papers/essays/course projects/presentations, an A+ grade is awarded for exceptional work deserving of special recognition and is therefore not a common grade.

A, A- Range: *Excellent Performance*. Superior understanding of course material. Written work is very strong in terms of critical and original thinking, content, organization, and the expression of ideas, and demonstrates student's thorough knowledge of subject matter.

B Range: *Good Performance*. Above average understanding of course material. Written work shows evidence of critical thinking and attention to organization and editing but could be improved in form and/or content.

C Range: *Satisfactory Performance*. Adequate understanding of course material. Knowledge of basic concepts and terminology is demonstrated. Written work is satisfactory and meets essential requirements but could be improved significantly in form and content. Note: All prerequisites for courses offered by the Faculty of Arts must be met with a minimum grade of C-.

D range: *Marginally meets standards*. Minimal understanding of subject matter. Written work is marginally acceptable and meets basic requirements but requires substantial improvements in form and content. Student has not mastered course material at a level sufficient for advancement into more senior courses in the same or related subjects.

F grade: *Course standards not met*. Inadequate understanding of subject matter. Written work does not meet basic requirements. Student has not demonstrated knowledge of course material at a level sufficient for course credit.

Grading Scale

A+	96-100%	B+	80-84%	C+	67-71%	D+	54-58%
A	90-95%	B	76-79%	C	63-66%	D	50-53%
A-	85-89%	B-	72-75%	C-	59-62%	F	0-49%

As stated in the University Calendar, it is at the instructor's discretion to round off either upward or downward to determine a final grade when the average of term work and final examinations is between two letter grades. To determine final letter grades, final percentage grades will be rounded up or down to the nearest whole percentage (e.g., 89.5% will be rounded up to 90% = A but 89.4% will be rounded down to 89% = A-).

Tentative Lecture Schedule

Week	Date	Topic	Readings
1	M Sep 11	Intro to Psychology and Law	Course Outline
	W Sep 12	Psychology and Law vs. Forensic Psychology	Ch 1

	F Sep 15	Psychology and Law vs. Forensic Psychology	Ch 1
2	M Sep 18	Theories of Crime	Reading(s) to be posted on D2L
	W Sep 20	Theories of Crime	Reading(s) to be posted on D2L
	F Sep 22	Theories of Crime <i>Last day to drop full courses (Multi-term) and Fall Term half courses. No refunds for full courses (Multi-term) or Fall Term half courses after this date.</i>	Reading(s) to be posted on D2L
3	M Sep 25	Criminal Profiling <i>Last day to add or swap full courses (Multi-term) and Fall Term half courses. Last day for change of registration from audit to credit or credit to audit.</i>	Reading(s) to be posted on D2L
	W Sep 27	Criminal Profiling	Reading(s) to be posted on D2L
	F Sep 29	Interrogations and Confessions <i>Fee payment deadline for Fall Term full and half courses.</i>	Ch 3
4	M Oct 2	Interrogations and Confessions	Ch 3
	W Oct 4	Interrogations and Confessions	Ch 3
	F Oct 6	In-Class Assignment 1	
5	M Oct 9	Thanksgiving Day, University closed (except Taylor Family Digital Library, Law, Medical, Gallagher and Business Libraries). No lectures.	
	W Oct 11	Deception	Ch 4
	F Oct 13	Deception	Ch 4
6	M Oct 16	Exam 1	All material to date
	W Oct 18	Eyewitness Testimony: Recall	Ch 5
	F Oct 20	Eyewitness Testimony: Recall	Ch 5
7	M Oct 23	Eyewitness Testimony: Recognition	Ch 5
	W Oct 25	Eyewitness Testimony: Recognition	Ch 5
	F Oct 27	Child Victims and Witnesses	Ch 6
8	M Oct 30	Child Victims and Witnesses	Ch 6
	W Nov 1	Child Victims and Witnesses	Ch 6
	F Nov 3	Evidence	Reading(s) to be posted on D2L
9	M Nov 6	Evidence	Reading(s) to be posted on D2L
	W Nov 8	Jury Decision-Making	Ch 7
	F Nov 10	Reading Days. No lectures.	
10	M Nov 13	Remembrance Day (Observed). University Closed (except Taylor Family Digital Library, Law, Medical, Gallagher and Business Libraries). No lectures.	

	W Nov 15	Jury Decision-Making	Ch 7
	F Nov 17	Exam 2	All material since Exam 1
11	M Nov 20	Sentencing and Parole	Ch 9 Position Paper Due
	W Nov 22	Sentencing and Parole	Ch 9
	F Nov 24	Domestic Violence	Ch 13
12	M Nov 27	Domestic Violence	Ch 13
	W Nov 29	Sexual Offenders	Ch 14
	F Dec 1	Sexual Offenders	Ch 14
13	M Dec 4	Video: Murder on a Sunday Morning	
	W Dec 6	Video: Murder on a Sunday Morning	
	F Dec 8	In-Class Assignment 2 <i>Last day to withdraw from full courses and Winter Term half courses.</i>	
	Dec 11-21	Final Exam	All material with an emphasis on material since Exam 2

Reappraisal of Grades

A student who feels that a piece of graded term work (e.g., term paper, essay, test) has been unfairly graded, may have the work re-graded as follows. The student shall discuss the work with the instructor within 15 days of being notified about the mark or of the item's return to the class; no reappraisal of term work is permitted after the 15 days. If not satisfied, the student shall immediately take the matter to the Head of the department offering the course, who will arrange for a reassessment of the work within the next 15 days. The reappraisal of term work may cause the grade to be raised, lowered, or to remain the same. If the student is not satisfied with the decision and wishes to appeal, the student shall address a letter of appeal to the Dean of the faculty offering the course within 15 days of the unfavourable decision. In the letter, the student must clearly and fully state the decision being appealed, the grounds for appeal, and the remedies being sought, along with any special circumstances that warrant an appeal of the reappraisal. The student should include as much written documentation as possible.

Plagiarism and Other Academic Misconduct

Intellectual honesty is the cornerstone of the development and acquisition of knowledge and requires that the contribution of others be acknowledged. Consequently, plagiarism or cheating on any assignment is regarded as an extremely serious academic offense. Plagiarism involves submitting or presenting work in a course as if it were the student's own work done expressly for that particular course when, in fact, it is not. Students should examine sections of the University Calendar that present a Statement of Intellectual honesty and definitions and penalties associated with Plagiarism/Cheating/Other Academic Misconduct.

Academic Accommodations

The student accommodation policy can be found at: ucalgary.ca/access/accommodations/policy.

Students needing an Accommodation because of a Disability or medical condition should communicate this need to Student Accessibility Services in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy. Students needing an Accommodation based on a Protected Ground other than Disability, should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to the instructor.

Absence From A Test/Exam

Makeup tests/exams are **NOT** an option without an official University medical excuse (see the University Calendar). A completed Physician/Counselor Statement will be required to confirm absence from a test/exam for health reasons; the student will be required to pay any cost associated with this Statement. Students who miss a test/exam have up to 48 hours to contact the instructor and to schedule a makeup test/exam. Students who do not schedule a makeup test/exam with the instructor within this 48-hour period forfeit the right to a makeup test/exam. At the instructor's discretion, a makeup test/exam may differ significantly (in form and/or content) from a regularly scheduled test/exam. Except in extenuating circumstances (documented by an official University medical excuse), a makeup test/exam must be written within 2 weeks of the missed test/exam during exam make-up hours provided by the department <http://psychology.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate/exam-and-course-information#mues>. If a student cannot write their final exam on the date assigned by the Registrar's Office, they need to apply for a deferred exam http://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/exams/deferred_final. Under no circumstances will this be accommodated by the department.

Travel During Exams

Consistent with University regulations, students are expected to be available to write scheduled exams at any time during the official December and April examination periods. Requests to write a make-up exam because of conflicting travel plans (e.g., flight bookings) will NOT be considered by the department. Students are advised to wait until the final examination schedule is posted before making any travel arrangements. If a student cannot write their final exam on the date assigned by the Registrar's Office, they need to apply for a deferred exam http://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/exams/deferred_final. Under no circumstances will this be accommodated by the department.

Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act

The FOIP legislation disallows the practice of having student's retrieve tests and assignments from a public place. Therefore, tests and assignments may be returned to students during class/lab, or during office hours, or will be made available only for viewing during exam review sessions scheduled by the Department. Tests and assignments will be shredded after one year. Instructors should take care to not link students' names with their grades, UCIDs, or other FOIP-sensitive information.

Acknowledgments and Respect for Diversity

Our classrooms view diversity of identity as a strength and resource. Your experiences and different perspectives are encouraged and add to a rich learning environment that fosters critical thought through respectful discussion and inclusion. The Department of Psychology would also like to

acknowledge the traditional territories of the people of the Treaty 7 region in southern Alberta. The City of Calgary is also home to Métis Nation of Alberta, Region III.

Campus Mental Health Strategy

The University of Calgary recognizes the pivotal role that student mental health plays in physical health, social connectedness and academic success, and aspires to create a caring and supportive campus community where individuals can freely talk about mental health and receive supports when needed. We encourage you to explore the excellent mental health resources available throughout the university community, such as counselling, self-help resources, peer support or skills-building available through the SU Wellness Centre (Room 370, MacEwan Student Centre, <https://www.ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/services/mental-health-services>) and the Campus Mental Health Strategy website (<http://www.ucalgary.ca/mentalhealth/>).

Course Credits for Research Participation (Max 2% of final grade)

Students in most psychology courses are eligible to participate in Departmentally approved research and earn credits toward their final grades. **A maximum of two credits (2%) per course, including this course, may be applied to the student's final grade. Students earn 0.5% (0.5 credits) for each full 30 minutes of participation.** The demand for timeslots may exceed the supply in a given term. Thus, students are not guaranteed that there will be enough studies available to them to meet their credit requirements. Students should seek studies early in the term and should frequently check for open timeslots. Students can create an account and participate in Departmentally approved research studies at <http://ucalgary.sona-systems.com>. The last day to participate in studies and to assign or reassign earned credits to courses is **Dec 8, 2017**.

Evacuation Assembly Point

In case of an emergency evacuation during class, students must gather at the designated assembly point nearest to the classroom. The list of assembly points is found at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>. Please check this website and note the nearest assembly point for this course.

Student Organizations

Psychology students may wish to join the Psychology Undergraduate Students' Association (PSYCHS). They are located in Administration 130 and may be contacted at 403-220-5567.

Student Union VP Academic: Phone: 403-220-3911 suypaca@ucalgary.ca
Student Union Faculty Rep.: arts1@su.ucalgary.ca

Student Ombudsman's Office

The Office of the Student Ombudsmen provides independent, impartial and confidential support for students who require assistance and advice in addressing issues and concerns related to their academic careers. The office can be reached at 403-220-6420 or ombuds@ucalgary.ca (<http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds>)

Safewalk

The safewalk program provides volunteers to walk students safely to their destination anywhere on campus. This service is free and available 24 hrs/day, 365 days a year.
Call 403-220-5333.

Important Dates

The last day to drop this course with no “W” notation and **still receive a tuition fee refund** is **September 22, 2017**. Last day for registration/change of registration is **September 25, 2017**. The last day to withdraw from this course is **December 8, 2017**.