

Psychology 493	Psychology and Law	Winter 2021
<b>Instructor:</b>	Dr. Sally (Sara) During	<b>Lecture Location:</b> Web-Based
<b>Phone:</b>	403-640-6270	<b>Lecture Days/Time:</b> MWF 11:00-11:50
<b>Email:</b>	<a href="mailto:during@ucalgary.ca">during@ucalgary.ca</a> *Please include the course # when emailing me	
<b>Office:</b>	Admin 155B	
<b>Office Hours:</b>	By Appointment	

### Course Description

This course focuses on all aspects of human behavior (i.e. emotion, cognition, physiology, bias, decision-making) as it relates to the law or legal system. The primary goal of the course is to introduce some of the ways that psychology and the law intersect; forensic psychologists focus on examining how people function in a legal context. You will be exposed to theory and scientific evidence as it pertains to the field, but also to inherent challenges. The course will confront the views of forensic psychology that you may have acquired through media portrayals and present the realities of the field.

### 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 <https://live-arts.ucalgary.ca/psychology/about#program-learning-outcomes>), and the expected level of achievement.

Course Learning Outcomes	Assessment Methods	PLO(s)	Level(s)
Examine assumptions made by the legal system and applicability to relevant psychological principles	Exams, Thought Papers, Research Paper	1, 2, 4,5,6,7	A
Reflect on empirical findings to formulate valid conceptualizations	Exams, Thought Papers, Research Paper	1, 2, 4, 5,6,7	A
Apply concepts discussed in class to own perceptions of psychology and the law	Thought Papers	1, 2, 4, 5,6,7	A
Understanding of factors that contribute to the effective practice of forensic psychology	Exams, Thought Papers, Research Paper	1, 2, 4, 5,6,7	A
Demonstrate understanding of ways that the legal and psychological fields interact	Exams	1,2,7	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 in a diverse world, 7 = apply psychological knowledge and skills, 8 = Demonstrate multicultural competence and awareness of issues related to equity, diversity,\* and inclusion. Level of PLO achievement facilitated by this course: I = introductory, C = competency, A = advanced.

### **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.

### **Course Format**

Lectures will be taught live via Zoom during each scheduled class as per the course schedule below and will be recorded and posted to D2L after class.

### **Prerequisites**

Psyc 200 and 201 – Principles of Psychology I and II

Psyc 312 – Experimental Design and Quantitative Research Methods in Psychology

### **Required Text**

Pozzulo, J., Bennell, C., & Forth, A. (2018). Forensic Psychology (5<sup>th</sup> Ed). Toronto, ON: Pearson Prentice Hall. (Available in the bookstore and in the reserved reading room). Used copies of the 4<sup>th</sup> edition may also be available.

### **Assessment Methods**

Students are expected to attend Zoom lectures regularly and to participate in online discussions. There will be three noncumulative exams in this course, one of which is during the final exam period. The exams will most likely consist of multiple-choice and short-answer questions from the text, class discussions, and lectures/PowerPoint slides. The two midterms will occur during the class time slot (50 minutes) and the final exam will be two hours. Exams in this course are closed book. The use of resources, including class notes, the textbook, online resources, and calculators is prohibited during the exams in this course. Students may not communicate with others about course material or the exam either in person or electronically during exams.

**If an exam is missed, it can only be made up following instructor approval that is provided in the required time frame – Please follow the “Absence from a Test/Exam” rules listed later in this course outline. Not reading the guidelines will not be accepted as a reason for failing to book makeup exams appropriately; failure to follow the makeup exam requirements will result in a grade of zero being assigned for that exam.**

- 1) **25% of your mark** will be based on a **Midterm Exam #1 on Wednesday, February 3, 2021**. Midterm Exam #1 will consist of material from **Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6**. The exam will be available online for 24 hours from the beginning of class time on February 3, 2021 (11 a.m.) until 11 a.m. on February 4, 2021. You can begin the exam at any time during that 24-hour period, and will have 75 minutes to complete the exam and submit it to Dropbox on D2L.
- 2) **25% of your mark** will be based on a **Midterm Exam #2 on Friday, March 12, 2021**. Midterm Exam #12 will consist of material from **Chapters 5, 7, 8, 10 and readings for Criminal Profiling**. The exam will be available online for 24 hours from the beginning of class time on March 12, 2021 (11 a.m.) until 11 a.m. on March 13, 2021. You can begin the exam at any time during that 24-hour period, and will have 75 minutes to complete the exam and submit it to Dropbox on D2L.
- 3) **20% of your mark** will be based on a **Final Exam scheduled by the Registrar**. The Final Exam will consist of material from **Chapters 11, 13, 14, and 15**. The exam will be available online for 24 hours prior to, and ending with scheduled exam time. You can begin the exam at any time during that 24-hour period, and will have 3 hours to complete the exam and submit it to Dropbox on D2L.
- 4) **25% of your mark** will be based on your work in the **paper component** of the course. Students will write an APA-style paper of 10-12 pages in length (typed, double-spaced, 12-point font, 1" margins) which describes (1 to 1.5 pages), and then discusses (9 to 10 pages) an area of Forensic Psychology of the student's choice (i.e. deception, profiling, jury selection) and the related controversies (i.e. clinical utility; issues with accuracy and bias; sampling errors in related research; base rate issues). The paper should conclude with a 1 to 2-page conclusion of possible "next steps" in the area. Do not simply state an area of controversy; you must explain why the controversy exists and refer to relevant research findings.
- 5) APA formatting will be included as part of the evaluation of your paper. Details and a sample APA-style paper are provided here: <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/18/>
- 6) More specific details regarding grading and expectations will be discussed in class on January 11, 2021 and posted on D2L under "Communications". The paper should be submitted to the relevant dropbox on D2L by the **end of class on Monday, March 29, 2021 at the latest**. Late assignments will be accepted with a 5% deduction penalty per day, including weekends, and without instructor approval, assignments more than 7 days late (35% deduction) will no longer be accepted.
- 7) Papers will be graded according to: adequate length; comprehensive consideration of your topic; grammar; spelling and punctuation; sentence construction; ability to effectively condense information; summary. More detailed information about the paper will be provided in class and on D2L.
- 8) **5% of your mark** will be based on completion of **three brief thought papers** (approximately one page in length, single spaced) that occur throughout the semester (**Due January 25, February 26, April 12, 2021**). More detailed information about the thought papers will be provided in class and on D2L. **Send your thought papers to the course Dropbox on D2L by the end of class on the day that each thought paper is due.** In general, students will need to write a short document (can be in point form) in response to questions that will be posted on D2L under "Communications" prior to the due date (i.e. Ways in

which media portrayals of forensic psychology topics influence beliefs; Factors that bias witness recall and other aspects of the field; Factors that may contribute to offenders being seen as “untreatable”). Grade will reflect handing in of all three documents on time, appropriate length, and thoughtful discussion of the posted questions: if you meet these requirements, you will earn a grade of 100% on each assignment. ***Late thought papers will be accepted with a 5% penalty per day, including weekends, and without instructor approval, thought papers more than 3 days late will not be accepted.***

### **University of Calgary Academic Integrity Policy**

Academic integrity is the foundation of the development and acquisition of knowledge and is based on values of honesty, trust, responsibility, and respect. We expect members of our community to act with integrity.

Research integrity, ethics, and principles of conduct are key to academic integrity. Members of our campus community are required to abide by our institutional code of conduct and promote academic integrity in upholding the University of Calgary’s reputation of excellence. It is your responsibility to ensure that you have read and are familiar with the student academic misconduct policy:

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-academic-misconduct-policy.pdf>.

### **Department of Psychology Criteria for Letter Grades**

Psychology course instructors 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-). Work that was previously given a grade cannot be regraded at the end of the term to impact rounding.**

**Tentative Lecture Schedule**

Date	Topic/Activity/Readings/Due Date (revise and add columns & rows as necessary)	
M Jan 04	<i>Winter term begins (block week January 4-8)</i>	
M Jan 11	Course Introduction and explanation of requirements and grading	Course Outline
W Jan 13	History of Forensic Psychology: Psychology and the Law	Chpt. 1
F Jan 15	Police Psychology	Chpt. 2-3
M Jan 18	Police Psychology	Chpt. 2-3
W Jan 20	Police Psychology	Chpt. 2-3
R Jan 21	<i>Last day to drop Winter Term half-courses.</i>	
F Jan 22	Deception <i>Last day to add or swap a course</i>	Chpt. 4
M Jan 25	Deception <b>Thought Paper #1 Due** (submit your paper to Dropbox on D2L by the end of class)</b>	Chpt. 4

W Jan 27	Child Victims and Witnesses	Chpt. 6
F Jan 29	Child Victims and Witnesses <i>Fee payment deadline for Winter Term fees.</i>	Chpt. 6
M Feb 1	Child Victims and Witnesses	Chpt. 6
W Feb 3	<b>Midterm #1 (Worth 25%)**</b>	
F Feb 5	Juries	Chpt. 7
M Feb 8	Juries	Chpt. 7
W Feb 10	Eyewitness Testimony and Recall (potential guest lecturer)	Chpt. 5
F Feb 12	Eyewitness Testimony and Recall (potential guest lecturer)	Chpt. 5
M Feb 15	<i>Alberta Family Day</i>	
Feb 14- 20	<i>Term Break, No Classes (University if Open, Except on Alberta Family Day)</i>	
M Feb 22	Criminal Profiling	Reading(s) to be posted to D2L
W Feb 24	Criminal Profiling	Reading(s) to be posted to D2L
F Feb 26	Role of Mental Illness <b>Thought Paper #2 Due** (submit your paper to Dropbox on D2L by the end of class)</b>	Chpt. 8
M Mar 1	Role of Mental Illness	Chpt. 8
W Mar 3	Role of Mental Illness	Chpt. 8
F Mar 5	Risk Assessment	Chpt. 10
M Mar 8	Risk Assessment	Chpt. 10
W Mar 10	Risk Assessment	Chpt. 10
F Mar 12	<b>Midterm #2 (Worth 25%)**</b>	

M Mar 15	Psychopathy	Chpt. 11
W Mar 17	Psychopathy	Chpt. 11
F Mar 19	Psychopathy	Chpt. 11
M Mar 22	Sex Offenders	Chpt. 14
W Mar 24	Sex Offenders	Chpt. 14
F Mar 26	Sex Offenders	Chpt. 14
M Mar 29	Intimate Partner Violence <b>PAPER DUE (Worth 25%)** (submit your paper to Dropbox on D2L by the end of class)</b>	Chpt. 13
W Mar 31	Intimate Partner Violence	Chpt. 13
F Apr 2	<i>Good Friday, University Closed</i>	
M Apr 6	<i>Easter Monday, University Closed</i>	
W Apr 7	Homicidal Offenders	Chpt. 15
F Apr 9	Homicidal Offenders	Chpt. 15
M Apr 12	Homicidal Offenders <b>Thought Paper #3 Due: (submit your paper to Dropbox on D2L by the end of class)</b>	Chpt. 15
W Apr 14	Course Recap and Final Exam review	No Chpt.
R Apr 15	<i>Last day of classes, last day to withdraw from winter courses</i>	
Apr. 19-29	<i>Final Exam Period</i>	
R Apr 30	<i>End of Term</i>	

**Extra Research Participation Course Credit is Not Offered for this Course.**

**Absence From A Test/Exam**

Makeup tests/exams are **NOT** an option without the approval of the instructor. Students who miss a test/exam **have up to 48 hours** to contact the instructor to ask for a makeup test/exam. It's the

instructor's discretion if they will allow a make-up 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. **Once approved by the instructor a makeup test/exam must be written within 2 weeks of the missed test/exam on a day/time scheduled by the instructor. 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** <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/exams/deferred-exams>.

### **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** <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/exams/deferred-exams>. **Students with an exceptional extenuating circumstance (e.g., a family emergency) should contact the Department of Psychology (psyugrd@ucalgary.ca).**

**Reappraisal of Graded Term Work** <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/i-2.html>

**Reappraisal of Final Grade** <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/i-3.html>

### **Academic Accommodations**

Students seeking an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services; SAS will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors. For additional information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities, visit [www.ucalgary.ca/access/](http://www.ucalgary.ca/access/). Students who require an accommodation in relation to their coursework based on a protected ground other than disability should communicate this need in writing to their Instructor. The full policy on Student Accommodations is available at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy.pdf>.

### **Academic Misconduct**

For information on academic misconduct and its consequences, please see the University of Calgary Calendar at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>

### **Instructor Intellectual Property**

Course materials created by professor(s) (including course outlines, presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the professor(s). These materials may NOT be reproduced, redistributed or copied without the explicit consent of the professor.

The posting of course materials to third party websites such as note-sharing sites without permission is prohibited. Sharing of extracts of these course materials with other students enrolled in the course at the same time may be allowed under fair dealing.

### **Copyright Legislation**

All students are required to read the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright ([www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/acceptable-use-of-material-protected-by-copyright.pdf](http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/acceptable-use-of-material-protected-by-copyright.pdf)) and requirements of the copyright act (<https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html>) to ensure they are aware of the consequences of unauthorized sharing of course materials (including instructor notes, electronic versions of textbooks etc.). Students who use material protected by copyright in violation of this policy may be disciplined under the Non-Academic Misconduct Policy.

### **Freedom OF Information and Protection of Privacy**

Student information will be collected in accordance with typical (or usual) classroom practice. Students' assignments will be accessible only by the authorized course faculty. Private information related to the individual student is treated with the utmost regard by the faculty at the University of Calgary

### **Student Support and Resources**

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/course-outlines>

### **Important Dates**

The last day to drop this course with no "W" notation and **still receive a tuition fee refund** is **Thursday, January 21, 2021**. Last day add/swap a course is **Friday, January 22, 2021**. The last day to withdraw from this course is **Thursday, April 15, 2021** <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/academic-schedule.html>