Course Description and Goals

This course is designed to provide students with an introductory overview of the interface between psychology and law. To this end, applications of the science of psychology to various civil and criminal legal issues will be addressed. We also review select topics in related disciplines (e.g., criminology; other forensic sciences). Issues of general relevance to the law from both applied and basic psychology will be examined.

Required Text


Evaluation

Exam #1 (25%) October 11, 2006
Exam #2 (25%) November 20, 2006
Final Exam (25%) To be scheduled by registrar during the final exam period
Research Paper (25%) Due no later than the beginning of class on November 27, 2006

Notes:
1. Each exam will be comprised of multiple choice questions covering both text and lecture material and must be completed within the allotted classroom period. Make-up exams will only be allowed under exceptional circumstances. A grade of zero will be assigned...
for each missed exam and the final grade will not be pro-rated. Failure to complete the research paper will result in a grade of zero for that portion of the course. Research papers must be submitted on paper, not through email. Late assignments will not be accepted.

2. The exams will correspond to a specific course module and are not cumulative. That is, exam #1 will cover material from module #1, exam #2 will cover material from module #2 and so on. Students are responsible for learning material in the entire text and all lecture information. Although the lectures and text readings will sometimes overlap with respect to broad content, there may be occasions when the lectures cover material not in the text. This does not mean that you should ignore the assigned reading. To reiterate, students will be tested on all assigned readings and lecture material.

3. Research papers must be submitted by the required date (or before) and be no longer than 15 double-spaced pages including references. The topic for each paper must be approved in consultation with one of the course instructors. Failure to receive approval for a specific topic may result in the paper being rejected as inappropriate to the course and a grade of zero assigned for this portion of the course. We strongly encourage students to select a topic, obtain the required approval, and begin working on this project as soon as possible. The paper should be written in APA style (references).

4. Each class will generally begin with a lecture, followed by a short break and then a conclusion to the lecture with discussion/question period available. The questions posed after each chapter in the text may be a useful guide to the discussion. We do not allow audio-taping of our lectures.

**Grading Scale**

The final grade for this course will be determined by averaging the results of the four equally weighted, evaluative components listed above. Letter grades will be assigned in the following manner:

- **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 examination is between two letter grades.

To determine final letter grades, final percentage grades will be rounded up or down to the nearest whole percentage (i.e., 89.5% will be rounded up to 90%; 89.4% will be rounded down to 89%, etc).

**Lecture Schedule**

**Module 1**
- September 11 - Introduction and history of forensic psychology (Dr. Nesca)
- September 18 - Memory and the law (Dr. Nesca)
- September 25 - The Canadian legal system/ Investigative psychology (Dr. Dalby)
- October 2 – Juries (Dr. Dalby)
- October 16 – Test #1 (lectures one to four and Chapters 1-6)

**Module 2**
- October 23 – Fitness to stand trial, criminal responsibility (Dr. Nesca)
October 30 – Special populations in the legal system (Dr. Dalby)
November 6 – Violence and risk assessment (Dr. Nesca)
November 20 – Test #2 (lectures five to seven and Chapters 7-12)

Module 3
November 27 – Family Law (Dr. Dalby)
December 4 – Psychological injuries, civil competencies and expert testimony (Dr. Nesca)
Test #3 (Final Exam) to be scheduled by registrar (lectures eight and nine and Chapters 13-15)

University of Calgary Core Competencies and Curriculum Redesign Features
University of Calgary Curriculum Objectives

This course addresses the following core competencies:
- Critical and creative thinking
- Effective written communication
- Gathering and organizing information
- Abstract reasoning
- Insight and intuition in generating and applying knowledge
- Integrating psychological knowledge with needs of the legal system

This course addresses the following curriculum redesign features:
- A broad understanding of the interdisciplinary relationship between psychology and law
- Exploration of a specific topic in forensic psychology in an in-depth manner
- Opportunity to interact with experts in the field of clinical forensic psychology

Reappraisal of Grades
A student who feels that a piece of graded term work (term paper, essay, test, etc.) has been unfairly graded, may have the work re-graded as follows. The student shall discuss the work with the instructor within fifteen days of being notified about the mark or of the item's return to the class. 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 fifteen 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 fifteen 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 Accommodation**

*It is the student’s responsibility to request academic accommodations.* If you are a student with a documented disability who may require academic accommodation and have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre, please contact their office at 220-8237. Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre are not eligible for formal academic accommodation. You are also required to discuss your needs with your instructor no later than fourteen (14) days after the start of this course.

**Absence From A Test**

Make-up exams are NOT an option without an official University medical excuse (see the University Calendar). You must contact the instructor before the scheduled examination or you will have forfeited any right to make up the exam. At the instructor’s discretion, a make-up exam may differ significantly (in form and/or content) from a regularly scheduled exam. Except in extenuating circumstances (documented by an official University medical excuse), a makeup exam is written within two (2) weeks of the missed exam.

A completed Physician/Counselor Statement will be required to confirm absence from a test for health reasons. The student will be required to pay any cost associated with the Physician Counselor Statement.

**Course Credits for Research Participation**

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 an individual's final grade. Students can create an account and access the Research Participation System website at [http://ucalgary.sona-systems.com](http://ucalgary.sona-systems.com). The last day to participate in research is December 7, 2006.

**Student Organizations**

Psychology students may wish to join the Psychology Undergraduate Students’ Association (PSYCHS). They are located in the Administration building, room 170 or may be contacted at 220-5567.

**Student Union VP Academic:** Phone: 220-3911 suvpaca@ucalgary.ca
**Student Union Faculty Rep.:** Phone: 220-3913 socialsciirep@su.ucalgary.ca

**Important Dates**

The last day to drop this course and still receive a fee refund is September 22, 2006. The last day to withdraw from this course is December 8, 2006.