



Department of Psychology
Psychology 503 (L02) – Selected Topics: Forensic Psychology
Winter 2009

Instructor:	Dr. Andrew Haag	Lecture Location:	Admin 253
Phone:	403-227-3391 ext 1482	Lecture Days/Time:	Wednesdays @ 18:00
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Office Hours:	TBA		

Course Description and Goals

This course will provide a broad overview of the relationship between psychology and various aspects of the legal system. A variety of topics will be discussed and critically evaluated, including offender profiling, eyewitness testimony, police issues, jury decision-making, treatment of offenders, psychopathy, risk assessment, criminal responsibility, and fitness to stand trial. Classes will consist of lectures, activities, video presentations, and discussions. I hope that presenting the material in this way will allow students to better appreciate and understand the topics we explore while making the course more exciting and fun.

Required Text

Pozzulo, J., Bennell, C., & Forth, A. (2009). *Forensic Psychology*. (2nd ed.). Toronto: Pearson.

Optional Textbook

American Psychological Association (APA). (2001). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (5th ed.). Washington, D. C.: Author.

Evaluation

Week	Topic	Text Chapter
January 14	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Introduction• Review Syllabus• Overview of Forensic Psychology	1
January 21	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Policing Issues	2, 5, 6
January 28	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Psychology of Violence	11
February 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Criminal Profiling	3
February 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mid-term	
February 18	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reading Week	
February 25	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Psychology of Confession	
March 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Deception	4
March 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sexual Assault	10
March 18	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Domestic Violence	10
March 25	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Correctional Psychology	9, 12, 13
April 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Psychology and the Court System	7, 8
April 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Victims of Crime	
April 15	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ethics in Forensic Psychology	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Final Exam	

Weighting of Final Grade

- 15% - Class Presentation
- 15% - Paper
- 30% - Mid Term
- 40% - Final Exam

Mid-term and Final Exams:

The mid-term and final exam will each be a multiple choice exam. The content of the final exam **will not** be cumulative from the beginning of the course. In other words, for the final exam students only need to study materials learned from the point in time after the mid-term exam. Exams will consider materials presented in the text and materials presented in class.

The final exam will be scheduled during final exam week.

Graded final examinations will be available for supervised review at the request of the student.

Class Presentation:

A class presentation on one of the bolded topics above is required of each student. Depending on the enrolment level of the class, students may be expected to work with a co-presenter. Topic assignments will be made on the first or second day of class and delivered on the respective date on which it is noted on the syllabus. Each presentation should run for about a half an hour. **Each presentation must be accompanied with a paper hand out and bibliography.** A supplement as to how the presentation will be graded will be handed out on the first day of class. Students will be expected to review and know the respective chapter(s) on which they are presenting. Additionally, students are expected to do substantial additional research and reading related to the topic chosen. Presenters should ensure that there is time in their presentation for questions or comments. Presenters should expect that the professor will be asking questions of them during the question time. Students are encouraged to use the class resources at their disposal such as PowerPoint, white boards, appropriate videos, etc.

Paper:

Students will be required to write a paper between eight and ten pages in length (excluding references) on the topic in which they present. Students will be required to cite empirical articles and are encouraged to review meta-analytic studies on the topic of their choosing. The paper is to be in APA format. **The paper is to be submitted in Word format to Dr. Haag via email.** Papers are to be submitted by **11:59 PM on the date that they make their presentation.** Please include your student ID with your paper. Late papers will be deducted 5% per day including weekends.

Opportunity for additional course credit:

Research Participation. Students can complete this course component by creating an account and participating in Departmentally approved research studies at <http://ucalgary.sona-systems.com>. Students earn 0.5% (0.5 credits) for each full 30 minutes of participation. Each study will be followed by an educational debriefing experience. A maximum of two credits (2%) may be applied to an individual's final grade. 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. The last day to participate in studies and to assign earned credits to your course is **April 16, 2009**.

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-).

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. 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 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 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/Counsellor 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 Counsellor Statement.

Student Organizations

Psychology students may wish to join the Psychology Undergraduate Students' Association (PSYCHS). They are located in Administration 170 and may be contacted at 220-5567.

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

Important Dates

The last day to drop this course and still receive a fee refund is **January 23, 2009**. The last day to withdraw from this course is **April 17, 2009**