



UNIVERSITY OF
CALGARY

Department of Psychology
Psychology 503.5 (L02) – Psychology and Law
Winter 2009

Instructor: Dr. Melissa Boyce **Lecture Location:** SH 274
Phone: 403-210-6257 **Lecture Days/Time:** MWF 1:00 – 1:50pm
Email: mboyce@ucalgary.ca

Office: Admin 258
Office Hours: MW 2:30 – 3:30pm

Course Description and Goals

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.

Required Text

Pozzulo, J., Bennell, C., & Forth, A. (2009). *Forensic Psychology (2nd Edition)*. Toronto, ON: Pearson Prentice Hall. (available in the bookstore)

Course Website

The course website is located on blackboard: <https://blackboard.ucalgary.ca/webapps/login/>.

Notes for each week's classes will be posted at the beginning of the week. In addition, announcements and grades will be posted on this site.

Evaluation

Exams: Three exams are scheduled for this course covering text, readings, and lecture material (including any videos). Exams are non-cumulative and will consist of multiple-choice and short-answer questions.

	Date	Material Covered	Worth
Exam 1	February 9, 2009	Ch. 1-4 and related readings and videos	20%
Exam 2	March 20, 2009	Ch. 5-8 and related readings and videos	20%
Exam 3	TBA (during final exam period)	Ch. 9-13	20%

In-Class Group Assignments: Two in-class group assignments (Jan 30, April 13) worth 10% each (max total = 20% of your mark). These assignments are intended to help you apply the concepts that you have learned in class. You will work on these assignments in groups of 3-4 and hand them in at the end of class.

Research Paper: One research paper 8-10 pages double-spaced worth 20% 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 Blackboard. Due April 13.

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 assignments will no longer be accepted.

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-).

Lecture Schedule

Week	Date	Topic	Readings
1	Monday, Jan 12	Introduction to Psychology and Law	Course Outline
	Wednesday, Jan 14	Psychology and Law vs. Forensic Psychology	Ch. 1
	Friday, Jan 16	Theories of Crime	Reading(s) to be posted on blackboard
2	Monday, Jan 19	Theories of Crime	Reading(s) to be posted on blackboard
	Wednesday, Jan 21	Criminal Characteristics/Profiling	Reading(s) to be posted on blackboard
	Friday, Jan 23	Police Psychology <i>Last day for registration and change of registration. No fee refunds after today.</i>	Ch. 2
3	Monday, Jan 26	Police Psychology	Ch. 2
	Wednesday, Jan 28	Police Investigations	Ch. 3
	Friday, Jan 30	Police Investigations	Ch. 3
4	Monday, Feb 2	In-class Assignment 1	
	Wednesday, Feb 4	Deception	Ch. 4
	Friday, Feb 6	Deception	Ch. 4
5	Monday, Feb 9	Exam 1	All material to date
	Wednesday, Feb 11	Eyewitness Testimony: Recognition	Ch. 5
	Friday, Feb 13	Eyewitness Testimony: Recognition	Ch. 5
6	Monday, Feb 16		

	Wednesday, Feb 18	Reading Week – No classes	
	Friday, Feb 20		
7	Monday, Feb 23	Eyewitness Testimony: Recall	Ch. 5
	Wednesday, Feb 25	Eyewitness Testimony: Recall	Ch. 5
	Friday, Feb 27	Video: What Jennifer Saw	
8	Monday, Mar 2	Child Victims and Witnesses	Ch. 6
	Wednesday, Mar 4	Child Victims and Witnesses	Ch. 6
	Friday, Mar 6	Evidence	Reading(s) to be posted on blackboard
9	Monday, Mar 9	Evidence	Reading(s) to be posted on blackboard
	Wednesday, Mar 11	Video: Burden of Innocence	
	Friday, Mar 13	Jury Decision-Making	Ch. 7
10	Monday, Mar 16	Jury Decision-Making	Ch. 7
	Wednesday, Mar 18	Video: Inside the Jury Room	
	Friday, Mar 20	Exam 2	All material since Exam 1
11	Monday, Mar 23	Sentencing and Parole	Ch. 9
	Wednesday, Mar 25	Sentencing and Parole	Ch. 9
	Friday, Mar 27	Domestic Violence	Ch. 10
12	Monday, Mar 30	Sexual Offenders	Ch. 10
	Wednesday, Apr 1	Homicidal and Psychopathic Offenders	Ch. 11
	Friday, Apr 3	Homicidal and Psychopathic Offenders	Ch. 11
13	Monday, Apr 6	Video: Murder on a Sunday Morning	
	Wednesday, Apr 8	Video: Murder on a Sunday Morning	
	Friday, Apr 10	Good Friday – No classes	
14	Monday, Apr 13	In-class Assignment 2	<i>Research Paper due at the beginning of class</i>
	Wednesday, Apr 15	Risk Assessment	Ch. 12
	Thursday, Apr 16	<i>Last day to allocate research participation credits.</i>	
	Friday, Apr 17	Assessment and Treatment of Special Groups <i>Last day to withdraw.</i>	Ch. 13
	April 20-30	Final exam (scheduled by the Registrar)	All 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. 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/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 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.

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 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 **April 16, 2009**.

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 socialsciirep@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**.