

Faculty of Health
Department of Psychology

PSYC 3310 3.0 Section M: PSYCHOLOGY AND LAW
Tuesdays 11:30 am to 2:30 pm
Room: VH A
Winter 2023

Lectures will be held in-person in Vari Hall A every Tuesday from 11:30 am to 2:30 pm.

Instructor & T.A. Information

Instructor: Alisha Salerno
Office hours: By appointment
Email: Sal3rnoa@yorku.ca

Teaching Assistants:

Surname	A - L	M - Z
TA	Courtney Chan	Jessica Padgett
Email	chanco@yorku.ca	jpadgett@yorku.ca
Office Hours	by appointment	by appointment

Email Protocol: When you email the course director or teaching assistants please include your full name in the body of your email, with “PSYC 3310 Psychology and Law” in the subject line. Please read the syllabus before contacting the course instructors or teaching assistants. Please allow *two business days* for a reply. Emails regarding issues covered in the syllabus will not be answered.

Course Prerequisite(s): Course prerequisites are strictly enforced

- HH/PSYC 1010 6.00 (Introduction to Psychology), with a minimum grade of C.

Course Credit Exclusions

Please refer to [York Courses Website](#) for a listing of any course credit exclusions.

Course website: [E-class](#)

eClass will be your central access point for all course materials including important announcements from the instructor, weekly content-based slides, weekly Q&A discussion forums, assignment instructions and submissions, and information regarding TA and instructor office hours.

***** It is absolutely necessary that you regularly access eClass to be successful in this course.** This means that you should be logging on to eClass every week. “I didn’t know it was on eClass” or “I don’t know how to use eClass” are not acceptable excuses for missing any course component. It is the student’s responsibility to review and become comfortable with using eClass for the purposes of this course. ***

Office Hours:

Email your TA(s) in advance to schedule a meeting during their posted office hours (or by appointment). They will respond by email with a specific timeslot. Meetings may be in person or over Zoom (at the TAs discretion). Meetings are 15-minutes.

COURSE OBJECTIVE

The purpose of this course is to provide you with a solid foundation in the field of psychology and law. As you will see in the weekly schedule posted below, psychology is a broad discipline that addresses behaviour at many different levels of analysis.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The legal system governs our lives from the time before we are born until years after we die, with rules and laws touching on every aspect of life in between. In doing so, the law relies on a number of assumptions about how people think and behave, many of which may be faulty. This course examines how psychological science can test these assumptions, explore the consequences of faulty assumptions, and offer solutions for improvement. Students will be exposed to a wide range of topics derived from work in social, clinical, cognitive, and developmental psychology. Major topics include false confessions, wrongful convictions, police interrogation, lie detection, eyewitnesses, jury behaviour, sentencing and incarceration, “insanity” and psychopathy.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:

1. Demonstrate in-depth knowledge in psychology and the law.
2. Articulate trends in psychology and the law.
3. Express knowledge of psychology and the law in written form.
4. Describe and explain limits to generalizability of research findings in psychology and law.
5. Demonstrate ability to relate information in psychology and the law to own and others’ life experiences.

SPECIFIC LEARNING OBJECTIVES

In this course, I hope to provide you an introduction to the exciting field of psychology and law. More importantly, I hope that you can flexibly and fluently apply the concepts and methods learned in this course to novel scenarios or studies. I hope to provide you with a basis of knowledge that will allow you to seek out and comprehend additional information

on your own. I also hope to provide you information that is timely and current, by using popular media as reference points and by inviting guest speakers.

Required Text

Costanzo, M., Krauss, D., Schuller, R.A., & McLachlin, K. (2014). Forensic and Legal Psychology, Psychological Science Applied to Law (First Canadian Edition). New York: Worth Publishing.

Please note that this is the Canadian edition of this textbook. The US version of the textbook is not acceptable for use in this course. Please do not contact the TAs or the course instructors to ask whether previous versions or the US version of this textbook is adequate.

Course Requirements and Assessment:

Technical Requirements: Several platforms will be used to support this course (eClass, Zoom, Turnitin). These platforms will allow you to interact with the course materials, the course director/teaching assistant, as well as with one another.

E-class: Course materials (lecture slides, handouts) will be available on the course e-class site, unless otherwise indicated by the course directors. The lectures will take place in person and will **not** be recorded. This site will be your central access point for course information and materials.

Turnitin: To promote academic integrity in this course, you will be required to submit your written work (i.e., mini-assignment, exam answers) through Turnitin (within the course Moodle). Turnitin reviews textual similarity and helps in the detection of possible plagiarism (see below). By using this software, you are allowing your submitted material to be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database, where they will be used only for the purpose of detecting plagiarism. Terms applying to the University's use of the Turnitin service are described on Turnitin.com.

Assessment	Date of Evaluation	Weighting
Test 1	February 7 th , 2023	25%
Test 2	March 14 th , 2023	25%
Assignment	April 8 th , 2023	20%
Applied reflections	Due on a weekly basis	10%
Test 3	TBD (during final exam period)	20%
Total		100%

Course Evaluations:

Tests: Tests will be based on course material associated with the section of the course that is being tested. This includes the lectures and associated content (e.g., podcasts, videos etc.) as well as the assigned chapters in the textbook. There will be three tests. The first two tests are worth 25% of your final grade, and the final test is worth 20%.

Final Assignment: You will have one final assignment for this course. This assignment is worth 20% of your final grade. The deadline for the ONLINE submission will be April 8th, 2023 (online submission to TurnItIn). More information regarding the assignment will be provided later in the term.

Applied Reflections: Each week after our lecture, an applied reflection pertaining to the activity we did in class will be posted to the forum on e-class. You can earn participation marks through responding to the forum with a minimum 250-word response. To earn participation marks, you must participate in the forum discussion before the following lecture. This means that you must post your response by Monday evening. There are no late submissions permitted and there is no exception to this rule. The forum closes Monday evening, meaning it is not possible to submit after the deadline. Each applied reflection is worth 1.25%. There are 10 applied reflections in total, complete 8 to earn full marks.

Reviewing Exams and Assignments: Requests to review exams or assignments should be made within two weeks of the grade posting. Note that grade changes will be made only in exceptional circumstances. After the two-week period, there will be no opportunity for review, or for revisions to grades.

Class Format and Attendance Policy

Students are expected to attend all lectures. In place of attendance, students will be graded on their weekly applied reflections, as detailed above.

Grading as per Senate Policy

The grading scheme for the course conforms to the 9-point grading system used in undergraduate programs at York (e.g., A+ = 9, A = 8, B+ = 7, C+ = 5, etc.). Assignments and tests will bear either a letter grade designation or a corresponding number grade (e.g. A+ = 90 to 100, A = 80 to 89, B+ = 75 to 79, etc.)

For a full description of York grading system see the York University Undergraduate Calendar - [Grading Scheme for 2022-23](#)

Missed Tests/Midterm Exams/Late Assignment:

Missed Tests: Students who miss a test due to illness or severe distress must email the instructor and TA within 24 hours and follow the Faculty of Health guidelines for missed tests or examinations. If this missed test is prior to the drop date, regardless of reason, the student has waived the right to have a specific percentage of graded feedback available to them prior to the drop date.

There will be one make-up test session held at the end of the semester. Please note that make-up exams may **not** necessarily be in the same format as the original exam.

For any missed quiz or late assignment, students MUST complete the following online form which will be received and reviewed in the Psychology undergraduate office. At this time, due to COVID-19 an Attending Physician’s Statement (APS) is not required, however, a reason for missing an evaluated component in the course must be provided.

[HH PSYC: Missed Tests/Exams Form](#). Failure to complete the form within 48 hours of the original deadline will result in a grade of zero for the missed quiz or late assignment.

Add/Drop Deadlines

For a list of all important dates please refer to: [Fall/Winter 2022-23 Important Dates](#)

	Fall (Term F)	Year (Term Y)	Winter (Term W)
Last date to add a course without permission of instructor (also see Financial Deadlines)	Sept 20	Sept. 20	Jan. 22
Last date to add a course with permission of instructor (also see Financial Deadlines)	Oct. 4	Oct. 25	Feb. 6
Drop deadline: Last date to drop a course without receiving a grade (also see Financial Deadlines)	Nov. 11	Feb. 10	March 17
Course Withdrawal Period (withdraw from a course and receive a grade of “W” on transcript – see note below)	Nov. 12 – Dec. 7	Feb. 11 – April 11	March 18 – April 11

Add and Drop Deadline Information

There are deadlines for adding and dropping courses, both academic and financial. Since, for the most part, the dates are **different**, be sure to read the information carefully so that you understand the differences between the sessional dates below and the [Refund Tables](#).

You are strongly advised to pay close attention to the "Last date to enrol without permission of course instructor" deadlines. These deadlines represent the last date students have unrestricted access to the registration and enrolment system.

After that date, you must contact the professor/department offering the course to arrange permission.

You can drop courses using the registration and enrolment system up until the last date to drop a course without receiving a grade (drop deadline).

You may [withdraw from a course](#) using the registration and enrolment system after the drop deadline until the last day of class for the term associated with the course. When you withdraw from a course, the course remains on your transcript without a grade and is notated as 'W'. The withdrawal will not affect your grade point average or count towards the credits required for your degree.

Information on Plagiarism Detection

Turnitin and other software may be used to detect plagiarism. Any student found to be engaging in plagiarism or other academically-dishonest behaviour will be reprimanded in accordance with university policy.

Electronic Device Policy

This course will be delivered in an online format and therefore electronic devices (e.g., tablets, laptops) are permitted during class time for course-related purposes. **No exam in this course is open-book** and so you are expected to complete the exams without the use of any external aid.

Academic Integrity for Students

York University takes academic integrity very seriously; please familiarize yourself with [Information about the Senate Policy on Academic Honesty](#).

It is recommended that you review Academic Integrity by completing the [Academic Integrity Tutorial](#) and [Academic Honesty Quiz](#)

Test Banks

The offering for sale of, buying of, and attempting to sell or buy test banks (banks of test questions and/or answers), or any course specific test questions/answers is not permitted in the Faculty of Health. Any student found to be doing this may be considered to have breached the Senate Policy on Academic Honesty. In particular, buying and attempting to sell banks of test questions and/or answers may be considered as “Cheating in an attempt to gain an improper advantage in an academic evaluation” (article 2.1.1 from the Senate Policy) and/or “encouraging, enabling or causing others” (article 2.1.10 from the Senate Policy) to cheat.

Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities

While all individuals are expected to satisfy the requirements of their program of study and to aspire to do so at a level of excellence, the university recognizes that persons with disabilities may require reasonable accommodation to enable them to do so. The university encourages students with disabilities to register with ***Student Accessibility Services (SAS)*** to discuss their accommodation needs as early as possible in the term to establish the recommended academic accommodations that will be communicated to Course Directors as necessary. **Please let me know as early as possible in the term if you anticipate requiring academic accommodation so that we can discuss how to consider your accommodation needs within the context of this course.**

<https://accessibility.students.yorku.ca/>

Excerpt from Senate Policy on Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities:

1. Pursuant to its commitment to sustaining an inclusive, equitable community in which all members are treated with respect and dignity, and consistent with applicable accessibility legislation, York University shall make reasonable and

appropriate accommodations in order to promote the ability of students with disabilities to fulfill the academic requirements of their programs. This policy aims to eliminate systemic barriers to participation in academic activities by students with disabilities.

All students are expected to satisfy the essential learning outcomes of courses. Accommodations shall be consistent with, support and preserve the academic integrity of the curriculum and the academic standards of courses and programs. For further information please refer to: [York University Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities Policy](#).

Course Materials Copyright Information

These course materials are designed for use as part of the PSYC 3310 course at York University and are the property of the instructor unless otherwise stated. Third party copyrighted materials (such as book chapters, journal articles, music, videos, etc.) have either been licensed for use in this course or fall under an exception or limitation in Canadian Copyright law. You are not permitted to share or post any course materials to any websites.

Copying this material for distribution (e.g. uploading material to a commercial third-party website) may lead to a violation of Copyright law. [Intellectual Property Rights Statement](#).