

PSYC 3310-M, Psychology and Law (Summer 2015)

	<u>Instructor</u>	<u>Teaching Assistants</u>	
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Office location:	BSB 321G	BSB 150C	BSB 268
Office hours:	By appointment	MW 1:15-2:15pm (see TA schedule)	
Mailbox:	BSB 101 - <i>Whenever you leave anything in a mailbox, email me to confirm its receipt.</i>		
Lectures:	MW 14:30-17:15	Location: CLH D	Exam Period: Aug. 24-28*

*Specific date will be determined by the department and you must be available the entire exam period.

Course secretary: Zehra Bandhu, BSB 284, (416) 736-2100 x66232

Prerequisite: Introduction to Psychology (PSYC 1010 6.0) with a minimum grade of C. *If you have registered for this course without this, the university may withdraw you without reimbursement.*

Read this syllabus carefully because it contains important information.

Information for students about University policies, including Academic Honesty/Integrity (and see below) can be found at: <http://www.yorku.ca/secretariat/policies/>

Textbook

Costanzo, Krauss, Schuller, & McLachlan (2014). *Forensic and Legal Psychology, First Canadian Edition*. ISBN: 978-4641-4901-6 or 1-4641-4901-1. This textbook was used in previous terms so there may be used copies available. One copy will be on reserve at the library. There will be other supplementary readings (e.g., journal articles) available through the library website. **Do not buy the American version; it's substantially different.**

Course Objectives

The course explores the relationship between psychology and the legal system by examining applications of psychology to legal issues and procedures. It will draw on areas including social, cognitive, developmental, personality, and clinical psychology and look critically at most aspects of the criminal justice system. The legal system makes many assumptions about human nature and these will be scrutinized from the perspective of psychological science. We will cover topics like police interrogations, confessions, eyewitness testimony, child witnesses, jury selection, decision making, and discrimination/biases in employment contexts. This is a psychology course and although we will cover some aspects of the law incidentally, its purpose is to expose you to psychological research and teach you to think about the legal system in a critical way, not to teach specifics of the law.

Class Format

Each week contains two lectures of 3 hours each and may include videos, demonstrations, and discussions. Each topic also has assigned readings to complete outside of class. Some information presented in the readings will not be covered in class and vice versa. Students have permission to record the lecture audio for their own studying but these recordings are not to be posted online. The instructor's lecture notes will not be provided to those who miss class; notes must be obtained from a classmate.

Although this is a summer condensed course, the workload will be the same as a regular section; please consider whether you will be able to keep up with the pace.

Information will be posted on Moodle (<https://moodle.yorku.ca/>) and sent via York email so you must check both regularly. Moodle will have a discussion board for questions and communicating with other students (e.g., trading notes, study groups).

Note: This course often refers to serious crimes, including serial murder, sexual assault, and child victimization (see course topics). Anyone who might have concerns about sensitivity regarding this material and would like more information about what will be covered should contact the instructor during the first week of class. By comparison, however, many mainstream network television crime shows are more graphic than anything found in this course.

Assistance outside of class

The instructor and teaching assistants are available to help you with any questions outside of class but because this section is quite large, here are a few guidelines so that we can be as efficient as possible in helping you. There will be a discussion board posted on the course website that we'll check regularly; please post your questions there first so that other students may also benefit from the answers. The TAs have weekly office hours for your benefit so try to make use of them whenever possible, especially for detailed questions that might be difficult to answer via email. Each week will have an assigned TA—see the schedule below. We'll do our best to respond within one business day and as quickly as possible closer to test dates. If you email questions, please try the TA's first. If the issue cannot be resolved after talking to them, then contact the instructor.

Grade Requirements & Test Format

Final grades will be based on two in-class midterms and a final exam during the exam period (i.e., based on three tests). Anything from lecture or readings might appear on tests and a portion of each test will include material exclusively in either lecture or the text. All tests will be non-cumulative except in cases when current material builds on past material in a direct way.

It is important to show up for all tests on time. To be fair to other students and to prevent cheating, students who are late may not be allowed to write if they arrive after other students have left. Makeup tests will be allowed at a designated session following each test, but only under the circumstances outlined below. We will take attendance at all tests so expect to sign in and show York identification.

Grading

The grading scheme conforms to the 9-point grading system used in undergraduate programs at York (e.g., A+ = 9, A = 8, B+ = 7, C+ = 5). For a full description of York's grading system see the York University Undergraduate Calendar.

Test	Date	Duration	Value	Format	Content
Midterm 1	July 20	70 minutes	33%	Multiple choice, 66 questions	Topics 1-4
Midterm 2	August 10	70 minutes	33%	Multiple choice, 66 questions	Topics 5-8
Final exam	TBA	90 minutes	34%	Multiple choice, 68 questions	Topics 9-12
Total			100%	200 questions / 2 = final mark	

As per university regulations, students must be available to sit for examinations during the entire exam period (Aug. 24-28). The last day to drop the course without receiving a grade is August 10, 2015.

Percentage	Letter Grade	Percentage	Letter Grade
90+	A+	60-64.9	C
80-89.9	A	55-59.9	D+
75-79.9	B+	50-54.9	D
70-74.9	B	40-49.9	E
65-69.9	C+	0-39.9	F

Due to time constraints and class size it's not possible to return tests in-class. Students who wish to review their tests should contact the assigned TA or visit during office hours. Any requests for re-evaluation should be directed to a TA first. If the TA's response is unsatisfactory, students may request re-evaluation by the instructor. This request should be in writing or by email and state what aspect of the marking is believed to be incorrect. Any re-marking may result in a raised or lowered mark. All requests for re-evaluation of tests must be received before the last day of class or, for the final exam, within 5 business days of marks being released. Re-marking will only occur to remedy marking mistakes, not for non-academic reasons. There will be no extra credit assignments.

Learning Disability Services & The Alternative Exam Centre

York University has policies in place to ensure that all students have equal opportunity to attain their educational goals. Accommodations related to diagnosed learning disabilities will be made but they must be arranged through Learning Disability Services. It is your responsibility to be aware of and meet their deadlines and requirements put in place by the alternative testing centre; in the absence of other exigent circumstances, extensions will not be granted if those deadlines are missed and the only remaining option will be to write with the class. For more general help with academic skills, such as strategies to study effectively, see Learning Skills Services.

Important links

- Learning Disability Services: <http://lds.info.yorku.ca/>
- Alternate Exam and Test Scheduling: <http://www.yorku.ca/altexams/>
- Learning Skills Services: <http://lss.info.yorku.ca/>

Religious Observances

York University is committed to respecting the religious beliefs and practices of all members of the community and making accommodations for observances of special significance. Students who have religious commitments that conflict with academic obligations on certain holy days and wish accommodation may submit York's religious accommodation form to the instructor in accordance with the procedure in York's religious accommodation policy.

Missed Tests

Missing a Test Due to Extenuating Circumstances

From time to time students become ill or have other unavoidable conflicts that prevent them from meeting academic obligations. The university is committed to assisting these students, but adjustment of due dates or deferrals of midterms or final examinations are not automatic upon the presentation of suitable verification. The TA's and instructor will use this documentation among all information available when determining whether accommodation is warranted. **Failure to follow the instructions below or to provide appropriate documentation in the form specified and within the required time limits will result in a grade of zero on the missed work.**

To be fair to all students, there will be no makeup tests except under the unavoidable, extraordinary circumstances described below. Allowable circumstances include sickness, an accident, or family misfortune that requires an urgent response. Vacation, work, other scheduled tests, or community obligations are not acceptable reasons to miss or defer an exam.

If you miss or know you will miss a midterm/exam, you must email your TA as soon as possible or **within 24 hours** of missing the test. Include the course name, your full name, and your student number. If you do not meet this deadline, subsequent documentation accounting for the delay will be required. In this email (i) outline the reason for your absence, and (ii) confirm that you have or will presently obtain the relevant documentation to support this reason. Although email is preferred, if you cannot access email within the 24 hour time frame because of your circumstances you may leave an initial phone message with the course secretary—but you must still email your TA as soon as possible. Documentation (see below) must be provided when requested.

Documentation for Missed Tests

Students who miss a test must provide (i) a written or emailed reason for missing a test and (ii) independent documentation that corroborates one's reason for missing the test. Usually you will be asked to bring this with you to the makeup test. If you do not bring documentation to the makeup, you will not be allowed to re-write and will receive a zero. By submitting documentation you consent to its verification with the individual or organization providing it. False claims of illness and/or the submission of false supporting documentation is an academic offence. Personal emails or notes (e.g., from a parent) are not acceptable documentation.

For medical circumstances, your physician, psychologist, or counsellor must complete a form providing the necessary details and dates. This individual must be willing to state that you were medically unable to take the test. The attending physician's statement linked below is preferred but any letter that includes the same information is sufficient. For non-medical reasons, supporting third-party documentation is still mandatory in whatever form is requested (e.g., death certificate, accident report, airline ticket for emergency travel). If you are unsure about what type of documentation might be

acceptable, check with the instructor in advance. **In sum, if at any point there is the possibility that you will miss a test, you should immediately consider what kind of documentation will corroborate your circumstances and take steps to obtain it.**

Important forms (also posted on Moodle): <http://psyc.info.yorku.ca/forms/>

Makeup Tests

For students with approved absences, there will be **one** set date for each makeup test, which will be approximately a week after the original date and outside of class. You must be available for this session regardless of when it is scheduled. There can be no individual makeup sessions; the only exception to this rule is that students registered with Learning Disability Services may arrange to write a makeup at the alternative exam centre on or before the designated makeup date, in keeping with the centre's regulations. Deferred final exams will be held schedule permitting, which may be held after the exam period concludes. If the exam makeup is after the due date for grades submission, students who do not want a lower grade submitted temporarily may choose to submit a Deferred Standing Agreement.

All makeup dates will be posted in advance on the course website and it is your responsibility to check Moodle so that you are prepared and present to write the makeup test. Makeup tests will cover the same course topics but, to prevent cheating, the specific questions on and format of the makeup may or may not follow that of the original test. That is, you might be asked to write a combination or one of multiple choice, short answer, and essay questions.

NOTE: Students who miss a test must make all possible efforts to attend its makeup because only extremely unusual circumstances would warrant further accommodation. That is, the standard for an acceptable excuse will be more stringent than for when missing a test. If accommodation is granted it will likely be an alternative assignment in the form of a research paper on one of the topics covered by that test (approximately 8-10 pages). These arrangements are at the instructor's discretion. These procedures are in place to ensure that all students are fairly evaluated on all course content.

If you miss a test before the official drop date for any reason, you waive the right to receive the requisite feedback on your course work to determine if you need to drop the course or not. As a result, it is in your best interest to write the tests on the scheduled dates.

If you are facing extreme personal circumstances and are unable to get the required documentation, or have repeatedly been in need of accommodation, it may be prudent to drop the course and re-take it at a time when circumstances are more conducive to participating fully in it. Students must complete both midterms (or their makeups) before the final exam date or they will not be allowed to write the exam and will receive a zero on it.

Cheating/Plagiarism

The penalties for cheating of any kind are very harsh. Become familiar with the rules and regulations regarding cheating/plagiarism and academic honesty. See: <http://www.yorku.ca/academicintegrity/> and read the section 'For Students.'

Cheating: Cheating is the attempt to gain an improper advantage in an academic evaluation. Among the forms this kind of dishonesty can take are: obtaining a copy of an examination before it is officially available or learning an examination question before it is officially available; copying another person's answer to an examination question; consulting an unauthorized source during an examination;

obtaining assistance by means of documentary, electronic, or other aids that are not approved by the instructor; or changing a score or a record of an examination result. It is also a breach of academic honesty to have someone impersonate one's self in class, in a test or examination, or in connection with any other type of assignment in a course. Both the impersonator and the individual impersonated may be charged.

Sanctions for Academic Misconduct

When verified, a violation of academic honesty may lead to the following penalties:

1. Oral or written disciplinary warning or reprimand
2. A makeup assignment or examination
3. Lower grade or failure on assignment or examination
4. Failure in the course
5. Suspension from the University for a definite period
6. Notation on transcript
7. Withholding or rescinding a York degree, diploma or certificate

For more detailed information you may visit: <http://www.yorku.ca/academicintegrity/students/>

Weekly topics and readings are on the next page

Weekly Topics & Readings

Topic	Date	Topic	Readings	TA
1	July 6	An Introduction to Forensic Psychology	Chapter 1; Benforado (2015)	Simon
2	July 8	The Psychology of Police Investigations (1): Interrogation and Confessions	Chapter 2; Moore et al. (2009, pp. 378-404)	
3	July 13	The Psychology of Police Investigations (2): Profiling and Racial Bias	Chapter 4	Massimo
4	July 15	Deception and Lie Detection	Chapter 3	
	July 20	Midterm 1*		
5		Post-Midterm Video		
	July 21-24	Pan Am Games Break – No classes		
6	July 27	Eyewitness Testimony	Chapter 5	Simon
7	July 29	Children in the Justice system: Victims, Witnesses, Young Offenders	Chapter 6; Bonnie & Scott (2013)	
	August 3	Civic Holiday – No classes		
8	August 5	Juries: Fact Finders	Chapters 7 & 8	Massimo
	August 10	Midterm 2*		
9		Post-Midterm Video		
10	August 12	Clinical Psychology in Court (1): Fitness to stand trial and criminal responsibility	Chapter 9	Simon
11	August 17	Clinical Psychology in Court (2): Psychopathy and intimate partner violence	Chapters 10 & 12	Massimo
12	August 19	Workplace Discrimination	Chapter 13 (pp. 339-end); Fiske et al. (1991)	
	Aug. 24-28	Final exam period		

* Midterms will take up the first half of class (70 minutes) and the second half will be a video.

Readings

Because of copyright law, links to these articles will be posted on Moodle so that you can access them through the library but I cannot post the files directly.

Benforado, A. (2015, June 13) Flawed humans, flawed justice. *The New York Times*, retrieved from: <http://www.nytimes.com/2015/06/14/opinion/flawed-humans-flawed-justice.html>

Bonnie, R. J., & Scott, E. S. (2013) The teenage brain: Adolescent brain research and the law. *Current Directions in Psychological Science*, 22, 158-161.

Fiske, S. T., Bersoff, D. N., Borgida, E., Deaux, K., & Heilman, M. E. (1991). Social science research on trial: Use of sex stereotyping research in *Price Waterhouse v. Hopkins*. *American Psychologist*, 46(10), 1049–1060.

Moore, T.E., Copeland P., & Schuller, R.A. (2009). Deceit, betrayal and the search for truth: Legal and psychological perspectives on the “Mr. Big” strategy. *Criminal Law Quarterly*, 55, 348-404. **[You are responsible only for Sections 4-5: Psychological perspectives and conclusions (pp. 378-404)**