

Faculty of Health
Department of Psychology
PSYC 3310 3.0 Section M: PSYCHOLOGY AND LAW
M W/11:30 – 2:30/ YK CLH E
S2/2019

Instructor and T.A. Information

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Course Prerequisite(s): Course prerequisites are strictly enforced

- HH/PSYC 1010 6.00 (Introduction to Psychology), with a minimum grade of C
- Completed at least 54 earned credits

Course Credit Exclusions

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

Course website: [Moodle](#)

Course updates, announcements, and materials will appear on the course moodle site. A shortened version of the lecture slides will be made available for download from moodle (<https://moodle.yorku.ca>) prior to the lecture to assist student learning. Additional material will be presented in class during discussions that will not appear in the lecture slides, so attendance is strongly encouraged. If you are unfamiliar with moodle, you are encouraged to review the training and help resources provided on moodle's website.

Course Description

This course explores the intersection of psychology and law, with particular focus on how psychological research can inform legal processes and outcomes. Students will be exposed to a wide range of topics derived from work in social, clinical, cognitive, and developmental psychology that have influenced legal and forensic procedures. The course explores a number of fundamental questions relating to legal assumptions about human behaviour. Major topics include false confessions, wrongful convictions, interrogation techniques, lie detection, eyewitness testimony, jury decision making, sentencing principles, mental illness, and psychopathy.

Program Learning Outcomes

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 the law.
5. Demonstrate ability to relate information psychology and the law to own and others' life experiences.

Specific Learning Objectives

Students will develop skills to think critically about how psychology applies to law, and whether our assumptions about human behaviour and cognition are accurate. Using psychological science, students will learn to question how the legal system operates, where the law is correct in its assumptions, and where it may need reform. Students will be encouraged to think critically about controversial topics related to psychology and law, such as the effect of mandatory minimums, how best to respond to defendant suffering from mental illness, or whether current police procedures are effective at screening out the innocent from the guilty.

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.*

The textbook is available for purchase in the Campus Bookstore. You should be able to find many copies of it in the used bookstore for a reduced price, or on amazon.ca. I have also placed several copies of the textbook on 2-hour reserve in Scott Library.

Course Requirements and Assessment:

Assessment	Date of Evaluation (if known)	Weighting
Midterm	July 8, 2019	40%
Final Exam	TBD (Final exam period)	40%
Written Assignment	July 29	20%
Total		100%

Description of Assignments

The Midterm Examination will be comprised of multiple choice and short essay questions, covering any material in an assigned reading or lecture, including videos or in class demonstrations. The Final Examination is non-cumulative, covering any material discussed after the midterm including assigned readings, lecture, videos or other in-class demonstrations.

There will also be one short written assignment to encourage students to engage with course-material in more depth, and to help put a human face on the subjects matter discussed. This project will be approximately 2-3 pages in length, should rely on at least two academic sources, and will be due prior to the final exam via Turnitin.

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 2018-19](#))

Late Work/Missed Tests or Exams

Students with a documented reason for missing a course test, such as illness, compassionate grounds, etc., which is confirmed by supporting documentation (Attending Physician Statement which can be found at:

<http://myacademicrecord.students.yorku.ca/pdf/attending-physicians-statement.pdf> may request accommodation from the Course Instructor. Further extensions or accommodation will require students to submit a formal petition to the Faculty.

You must contact the course instructor and TA by email at least one day before the exam if you anticipate that you will be unable to attend. In the event of an emergency, you must contact the instructor and TA as soon as possible after the exam and within 48 hours. In your email, you should explain the reason for your absence, and confirm that you have medical or other relevant documentation. Be sure to provide your name, student number, and course name and number in the subject line.

You must provide documentation verifying the circumstances for your absence. If you do not provide documentation, you will receive a grade of F on the exam.

Due to the shortened nature of the summer term, there will be only one make-up session per exam, which will be held within 7-10 days of the original test date. It is the student's responsibility to contact their TA to determine the date/time of the rewrite session, and are expected to attend the make-up session. If, due to extenuating circumstances, students are unable to attend both the exam and the re-write session, an alternative arrangement will be made. This may take the form of a modified final exam to cover the entire course content, writing both exams during the final exam period, or a written essay assignment in a form to be determined.

Tests missed on the grounds of non-medical circumstances must be supported by appropriate documentation (e.g., death certificates, obituary notice, automobile accident reports, airline/train/bus tickets, receipts for emergency travel with date of booking on ticket, etc.). Airline/train/bus tickets/receipts for emergency travel must indicate destination, departure, and return dates. Note that missing an exam for vacation, work, other scheduled tests, or community obligations are not valid excuses.

A conflict in another course during the time of the makeup is not an acceptable reason for missing the make-up, unless there is an examination in the other course at that time. There will be one date set for the make up tests. If you are unable to make this date, other arrangements might not be possible – so please make every effort to attend at this date and we will do our best to provide graded feedback before the drop date. Please note, however, that if you miss a test and the makeup of the test prior to the drop date, regardless of your reason, you will have waived the right to have a specific percentage of graded feedback available to you prior to the drop date

Important New Information Regarding Missed Tests

For any missed tests or late assignments, students MUST complete the following online form which will be received and reviewed in the Psychology undergraduate office.

[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 test/assignment.

Reviewing Exams and Assignments

Students are encouraged to review their exams and assignments to improve their performance on future work. 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 revisions to grades.

Add/Drop Deadlines

For a list of all important dates please refer to: [Summer 2019 - Important Dates](#)

	SU	S1	S2
Last date to add a course without permission of instructor	12-May	3-May	21-Jun
Last date to add a course with permission of instructor	27-May	10-May	28-Jun
Last date to drop course without receiving a grade	28-June	27-May	15-Jul
Course Withdrawal Period	June 29-July 29	May 28-June 10	July 16-July 29

***Note:** *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

Papers will be submitted through turnitin to ensure that all work is original content. Student work showing evidence of plagiarism or uncited work may result in academic penalty or failure.

Electronic Device Policy

Students are asked to refrain from the use of cell phones during lecture. Phones should be turned off or muted to minimize disruption to others. Students wishing to record lectures should discuss this issue with the instructor at the beginning of the class.

Attendance Policy

The course will consist of three-hour lectures, held twice per week during the S2 2019 term. The course will incorporate media, video footage, in class demonstrations, or other content that may assist with learning course material, and this material may be testable on an exam. Students are encouraged to read all assigned chapters and supplementary materials, and to attend all lectures or to borrow notes from a classmate if they are unable to attend a lecture. Not all material in the textbook will be discussed in lecture, and not all lecture material will be discussed in the textbook, but all material is potentially testable on exams

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 information [SPARK Academic Integrity modules](#). These modules explain principles of academic honesty.

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.

Electronic Devices During a Test/Examination

Electronic mobile devices of any kind are not allowed during a test or examination. Students are required to turn off and secure any electronic mobile device in their bag which is to be placed under the chair while a test/exam is in progress. Any student observed with an electronic device during a test/exam may be reported to the Undergraduate Office for a potential breach of Academic Honesty.

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 [York](#)

[University Accessibility Hub](#) is your online stop for accessibility on campus. The [Accessibility Hub](#) provides tools, assistance and resources. Policy Statement.

Policy: York University shall make reasonable and appropriate accommodations and adaptations in order to promote the ability of students with disabilities to fulfill the academic requirements of their programs.

The nature and extent of accommodations shall be consistent with and supportive of the integrity of the curriculum and of the academic standards of programs or courses. Provided that students have given sufficient notice about their accommodation needs, instructors shall take reasonable steps to accommodate these needs in a manner consistent with the guidelines established hereunder.

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.

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](#).

Course Schedule and List of Assigned Readings

Date	Topic	Assigned Reading
Monday, June 17	Introduction to Psychology & Law Research Methods Course Overview	Chapter 1
Wednesday, June 19	Wrongful Convictions, False Confessions, & Police Interrogation	Chapter 2
Monday, June 24	Lie Detection	Chapter 3
Wednesday, June 26	Criminal Profiling	Chapter 4
Monday, July 1	NO CLASS – CANADA DAY	N/A
Wednesday, July 3	Eyewitness Testimony & Repressed Memories	Chapter 5
Monday, July 8	MIDTERM	Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4, 5
Wednesday, July 10	Child Witnesses and Recovered Memories	Chapter 6
Monday, July 15	Jury Selection and Bias Screening	Chapter 7
Wednesday, July 17	Jury Deliberation Processes	Chapter 8
Monday, July 22	Mental Illness in the Courts	Chapter 9
Wednesday, July 24	Psychopathy and Risk Assessment	Chapter 10
Monday, July 29	Sentencing	Chapter 11
DATE TBA (Exam period runs July 31 – August 9)	FINAL EXAMINATION	Chapters 7, 8, 9 10, 11