

Forensic Psychology

PSYO 355 : September to December, 2019

Contact information:

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ASC 205

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Office Hours:
Class:

Arrange by email or knock!
Wed - 6:30 to 9:20pm in the Commons big space

TAs: The AMAZING – Katherine Rose: Katherine.rose@ubc.ca

The AMAZING – Ian Wellspring: iwellspr@mail.ubc.ca

Course Description:

The goal of this course is to provide students with an understanding of the basic areas of forensic psychology. This will include an initial overview and history of the field. Further it will consider the contributions of theory and research in a variety of areas such as deception detection, interrogations and confessions, juries, risk and dangerous offender assessments, as well as memory in the context of the legal system. The potential applied value of these (and other) areas of research will also be considered.

Suggested Reading:

Porter, S. & Wrightsman, L. (2013). *Forensic Psychology, Second Edition*. Toronto, Canada: Nelson.

Required Readings:

Beginning in week 2, the instructor will assign two recent journal articles that are relevant to the following week topic (all articles will be available on Psych Info).

Format:

This course will be taught primarily using the lecture method in combination with discussions, videos, *field trip*, and guest speakers. Given the nature of the instruction (**which will strongly encourage group debate and discussion**), it is very important that the assigned readings are reviewed BEFORE class according to the schedule.

Attendance at the lectures is absolutely expected according to UBC Okanagan policy. **This is particularly important as there is no required textbook so, outside of the required readings, all testable content will be from the lectures.**

Prerequisites:

Students must have completed PSYO 111 & 121, as well as **6 credits** of second year psychology.

Course Grading Scheme

Midterm [40%]

Before the final exam students will write one midterm exam. This will consist of multiple choice questions based on information that has been covered in the class (including the assigned readings) up until the exam.

Final Exam [60%]

The final exam will consist of multiple-choice questions related to areas that have been covered in the class. While the final exam this semester is cumulative, there will be a **much** heavier emphasis on the material learned after the midterm exam.

Paper [25%] **OPTIONAL**

There will be one OPTIONAL major assigned paper. This will be an empirical research paper and can be *no longer than 4 single spaced pages (or 8 double spaced) without references* and focus in a clear and concise manner on a topic covered in PSYO 355 (or you can discuss other ideas with your Professor or TAs). Papers longer than above guidelines **will not be accepted**. There is no official limit for the length of the reference section and, although it is not required it is recommended that students complete an abstract as well (does not count toward page limit).

The main goal of this paper will be to examine the relevant literature in the field. If the student wishes they can propose a theory or hypothesis based on their literature review. In order to demonstrate a suitable and informed level of knowledge; the paper must include primary sources [i.e., original research articles]. It is also possible for this paper to be in the form of a short formal research proposal. You will need to obtain permission for your topic PRIOR to submitting a paper.

Papers must be written according to the American Psychological Association format and must typed. All written material will be assessed both for content and style. While I expect all work to be your own, this does not mean that you should not have friends or family proofread your work in order to identify errors.

This paper option is only available for the first 35 topics that are received by the instructor. The student's final exam will then count for 35% of their grade. The final day the optional paper can be handed in is Wednesday November 6th. However, students are free to hand them in earlier than this date.

Schedule of Topics & Readings

Wednesday Sept 04	Introduction & housekeeping
Wed Sept 11	Introduction, overview, and history of the field
Wed Sept 18	Canadian legal system and roles of psychologists (Start deception?)
Wed Sept 25	Deception and deceptive behavior overview
Wed Oct 02	DOCUMENTARY TBA
Wed Oct 09	Deception : continue overview plus deception and technology
Wed Oct 16	Deception plus interrogations and confessions
Wed Oct 23	MIDTERM
Wed Oct 30	Interrogations and confessions
Wed November 06	GUEST SPEAKER TBA
Wed Nov 13	Memory and Crime
Wed Nov 20	Memory and Crime finish & Juries
Wed Nov 27	Juries and dangerous offender/ERT/risk

****FINAL EXAM DURING FINAL EXAM PERIOD* Dec 2 - 17***

GRADING SCHEME

A+ (90-100), A (85-89), A- (80-84), B+ (76-79), B (72-75), B- (68-71), C+ (64-67), C (60-63), C- (55-59), D (50-54), F (0-49).

CLASS POLICIES

Lateness and Absences: If you must be late to class, please try not to disturb the class. Getting the material from someone in the class is better than not attending at all. You are encouraged to obtain course notes from a classmate if you are absent. All course and textbook material may appear on the exams. Absences from class exams will result in a grade of 0 on that exam unless a valid doctor's note is given to the instructor or TA (indicating you were medically unable to complete the exam). In cases of documented serious illness or death in the family, make-up examinations will be scheduled.

Cellular phones and social media: Please turn off your phones prior to the start of class. If you must have your cell phone on, please turn the ringer off and put it on vibrate. If you must use your cell phone for emergency purposes, please exit the class quietly. **There will be one social media nutrition break about 50 minutes into each class.**

Cheating: Formal guidelines from University of British Columbia – Okanagan academic misconduct and disciplinary measures can be found on the UBC-O Academic Calendar website: <http://okanagan.students.ubc.ca/calendar/index.cfm>.

Disability Services: If you require disability-related accommodations to meet the course objectives, please contact the Coordinator of Disability Resources located in the Student Development and Advising area of the student services building. For more information about Disability Resources or academic accommodations, please visit the website at: <http://web.ubc.ca/okanagan/students/disres/welcome.html>

EQUITY, HUMAN RIGHTS, DISCRIMINATION AND HARASSMENT: UBC Okanagan is a place where every student, staff and faculty member should be able to study and work in an environment that is free from human rights-based discrimination and harassment. Under UBC's Policy 3 on Discrimination and Harassment, UBC prohibits discrimination and harassment on the basis of the following grounds: age, ancestry, colour, family status, marital status, physical or mental disability, place of origin, political belief, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation or unrelated criminal conviction. If you require assistance related to an issue of equity, discrimination or harassment, please contact the Equity Office, your administrative head of unit, and/or your unit's equity representative.

IKBSAS Unit 4 Equity Representative: Paul Gabias: paul.gabias@ubc.ca, 250-807-9383

UBC Okanagan Equity Advisor: ph. 250-807-9291; email equity.ubco@ubc.ca

Web: www.ubc.ca/okanagan/equity

Unit Equity Representatives:

<http://www.ubc.ca/okanagan/equity/programs/equityreps/unitcontacts.html>

Plagiarism:

Plagiarism is the presentation of another person's work or ideas without proper or complete acknowledgement. Plagiarism can be intentional or unintentional, and includes self-plagiarism where a student submits work that is the same or substantially the same as work prepared or performed for credit in another course. Both are serious forms of academic misconduct subject to disciplinary action. In the context of this course, plagiarism and self-plagiarism are most likely to occur in the term paper assignment, take-home exam, and presentations of reading summaries in class. In order to help you avoid plagiarism, there are a number of other resources that you can refer to including the American Psychological Association (APA) Publication Manual (6th ed., 2009), or the following website: http://www.psychologicalscience.org/teaching/tips/tips_0403.html, which has a number of recommended readings and references on the topic.

A more detailed description of academic integrity, including the policies and procedures, can also be found at:

<http://web.ubc.ca/okanagan/faculties/resources/academicintegrity.html>, or at,

<http://okanagan.students.ubc.ca/calendar/index.cfm?tree=3,54,111,0>