

# Forensic Psychology

PSYO 355 : September to December, 2020

## Contact Information:

Dr. Michael Woodworth | ASC205 | 250-807-8731

Email: [Michael.Woodworth@ubc.ca](mailto:Michael.Woodworth@ubc.ca) (Canvas messenger monitored by TA's)

Office Hours: Arrange by email and we can zoom or phone it up!

Class: a) 2 hrs of video by zoom per week

b) 10:30AM-11:30AM Tuesday discussion/clarification

## TAs:

The AMAZING – Katherine Rose: [katherine.rose@ubc.ca](mailto:katherine.rose@ubc.ca) (appointments available)

The AMAZING – Ian Wellspring: [iwellspr@mail.ubc.ca](mailto:iwellspr@mail.ubc.ca) (appointments available)

## 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, police, as well as memory and developing technologies 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, a database accessed through the UBCO Library. You may also follow this link <https://resources.library.ubc.ca/page.php?id=71>, and may have to use your CWL.

## Course Format:

Due to COVID, this course will be taught primarily using a video lecture method (both the Professor and numerous guest speakers). During this unusual year the Professor will also hold an **interactive group session from 10:30AM to 11:30AM** on Tuesday mornings. This is an opportunity for students to ask questions, seek clarification, and/or critically think about the material at an enhanced level. **Since not all students will be able to make these sessions only content that is in the video presentations is testable.**

**Commented [KR1]:** One thing to add might be when students can expect lectures (some get quite antsy if they don't now haha). Will we be uploading them within regular class time on schedule?

Attendance (i.e., watching recorded video lectures and keeping up with course content) 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.**

In order to engage fully with this course online, students are required to have a laptop or desktop computer and should attempt to seek stable Internet connection, particularly for the day/time of their exam. Students are encouraged to check out this link: <https://keeplearning.ubc.ca/setting-up/>

**Commented [KR2]:** This was another blurb suggested by the university. I modified it slightly

### **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. **It will be 2 hours long and will take place from 9:30AM to 11:30AM Pacific Time on Tuesday October 27, 2020. Please be advised this time and date is firm.** Your midterm will be hosted as a Canvas quiz. Instructions for how to access will be released prior to. Students who miss their midterm exam without justification and documentation will receive a grade of 0%.

**Commented [KR3]:** Do we know if it's open book or closed book yet?

For all examinations, it is the responsibility of the student to ensure that any technical issues are reported to the instructor immediately. If you cannot connect with the instructor, please document the issue or technical concern via a screenshot. This is the only circumstance in which it is appropriate to document (i.e., screenshot) exam material. Failing to report technical issues in a timely manner, may result in the issue not being resolved and may negatively impact your grade.

### **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. Your final exam date is set by the Registrar's office and will be December 7-22<sup>nd</sup>.

**Commented [KR4]:** Are we doing SONA this year?

### **Paper [25%] \*\*OPTIONAL\*\***

There will be one OPTIONAL major assigned paper. This will be an empirical research paper *no longer than 4 single spaced pages (or 8 double spaced) without references*. It must 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 but please use a minimum of 8 sources and, although it is not required it is recommended that students complete an abstract as well (does not count toward page limit).

**Commented [KR5]:** We've set this the past few years Mike, but if you want that gone we can totally do that.

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 **7th edition 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 36 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 Tuesday November 10<sup>th</sup>. However, students are free to hand them in earlier than this date. Instructions for digital submission will be provided by TA's at a later date.

## Schedule of Topics & Readings

Tuesday Sept 08	Short Introduction & Housekeeping
Tues Sept 15	Introduction, overview, and history of the field
Tues Sept 22	Canadian legal system and roles of psychologists (Start deception?)
Tues Sept 29	Deception and deceptive behavior overview
Tues Oct 06	DOCUMENTARY TBA
Tues Oct 13	Deception : continue overview plus deception and technology
Tues Oct 20	Deception plus interrogations and confessions
<b>Tues Oct 27</b>	<b>MIDTERM</b>
Tues Nov 3	Interrogations and confessions
Tues Nov 10	GUEST SPEAKER TBA
Tues Nov 17	Memory and Crime
Tues Nov 24	Memory and Crime finish & Juries
Tues Dec 01	Finish Juries and police and crime/technology

### 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 AND RESOURCES**

**Conflicts, Late or Missed Evaluations:** The following is an overview of UBCO's campus-wide policy of academic concessions. Students are asked to familiarize themselves with **full policy**, available here: <http://www.calendar.ubc.ca/okanagan/?tree=3,48,0,0>.

In sum, students may request academic concession in circumstances that may adversely affect their attendance or performance in a course or program. Generally, such circumstances fall into one of two categories: **conflicting responsibilities** and **unforeseen events**. Students with **conflicting responsibilities** have a duty to arrange their course schedules so as to avoid as much as possible any conflicts with course requirements. Students with such responsibilities are also required to discuss with their course instructor(s) at the start of each term, or as soon as a conflicting responsibility arises, any accommodation that may be requested. Students who, because of **unforeseen events** or, are absent during the term and are unable to complete tests or other graded work, should discuss with their instructors how they can make up for missed work. Instructors are not required to make allowance for any missed test or incomplete work that is not satisfactorily accounted for. Students who, because of unforeseen events, experience a prolonged absence during a term or who miss a final or term-end examination, must report to their dean or director to request academic concession as close as possible to the time when attendance is adversely affected. Full policy details are available at the provided link.

**Pandemic:** During this pandemic, the shift to online learning has greatly altered teaching and studying at UBC, including changes to health and safety considerations. Keep in mind that some UBC courses might cover topics that are censored or considered illegal by non-Canadian governments. This may include, but is not limited to, human rights, representative government, defamation, obscenity, gender or sexuality, and historical or current geopolitical controversies. If you are a student living abroad, you will be subject to the laws of your local jurisdiction, and your local authorities might limit your access to course material or take punitive action against you. UBC is strongly committed to academic freedom, but has no control over foreign authorities (please visit <http://www.calendar.ubc.ca/vancouver/index.cfm?tree=3,33,86,0> for an articulation of the values of the University conveyed in the Senate Statement on Academic Freedom).

We recognize that students will have legitimate reason to exercise caution in studying certain subjects. If you have concerns regarding your personal situation, consider postponing taking a course with manifest risks, until you are back on campus or reach out to your academic advisor to find substitute courses. For further information and support, please visit: <http://academic.ubc.ca/support-resources/freedom-expression>

**Academic Integrity and Plagiarism:** The academic enterprise is founded on honesty, civility, and integrity. As members of this enterprise, all students are expected to *know, understand, and follow* the codes of conduct regarding academic integrity. At the most basic level, this means submitting only original work done by you and acknowledging all sources of information or ideas and attributing them to others as required. This also means you should not cheat, copy, or mislead others about what is your work. **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 (your TA's will provide resources to avoid plagiarism prior to). Violations of academic integrity (i.e., misconduct) are subject to a harsh sanctions, including an assigned mark of 0% in the evaluation, and more serious consequences if the matter is referred to the President's Advisory Committee on Student Discipline. Careful records are kept in order to monitor and prevent recurrences. 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](mailto:equity.ubco@ubc.ca)

**Web:** [www.ubc.ca/okanagan/equity](http://www.ubc.ca/okanagan/equity)

**Unit Equity Representatives:**

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

**Thrive Thursdays Walk-in Wellness Clinic:** A barrier-free wellness clinic, accessible without an appointment to students, staff, faculty and community members. Complete a brief meeting with a graduate clinician alongside a registered psychologist for 30 – 45 minutes to develop the right wellness plan for you. Services are free of charge. Thursdays 10:00 am – 3:00 pm. Visit: <https://psych.ok.ubc.ca/psychology-clinic/thrive-thursdays/>