

Forensic Psychology

PSYO 355 : September to December, 2020

Contact Information:

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

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

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

Class: a) 2:00PM-5:00PM Monday COM 201

TAs:

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

The AMAZING – Cassidy Wallis: cassidywallis13@gmail.com (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:

Pozzulo/Bennell/Forth - Forensic Psychology, 6/e, 6th edition

<https://www.pearson.com/store/p/pozzulo-bennell---forensic-psychology-6-e/P100002637637/9780135749999?tab=table-of-contents>

Required Readings:

Beginning in week 2 (September 20), 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:

The course is intended to be in-person and live. However, the following information is **incredibly important** to note:

All students, staff, faculty, and visitors to campus are subject to UBC's [COVID-19 campus rules](#). The campus rules provide multiple layers of protection including requirements for daily self-assessment, mandatory face coverings (masks), and regular Rapid Testing for those who are not fully vaccinated or who choose not to disclose their vaccination status. Keep in mind, masks are mandatory in all indoor and public space, and proof of vaccine for access to most all of the resources and spaces including restaurants and the gym on campus. As a UBCO student you would have received several messages from the President and the Dean of your Faculty about these measures. Details on UBC COVID response are readily available on the UBC websites. For instance, <https://fass.ok.ubc.ca/about/return-to-campus/> and <https://ok.ubc.ca/covid19/>.

The Provincial Health Officer has indicated in the [COVID-19 Return-to-Campus Guidelines](#) that given educational activities have shown to be low-risk sites for COVID-19 transmission, there are no limits on the number of participants for in-class educational activities and Fall classes should be scheduled without physical distancing requirements. They provide the specific example that a classroom with 30 seats can be scheduled with 30 students, and a lecture theatre with 150 seats can be scheduled with 150 students.

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 Pacific Time on Monday October 25, 2021. It is anticipated that 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%.

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 11 to 22nd.

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).

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 10th. 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

Monday Sept 13	Short Introduction & Housekeeping
Monday Sept 20	Introduction, overview, and history of the field
Monday Sept 27	Canadian legal system and roles of psychologists (Start deception?)
Monday October 04	Deception and deceptive behavior overview
Tues Oct 11	HOLIDAY
Monday Oct 18	Deception : continue overview plus deception and technology PLUS GUEST SPEAKER
Monday Oct 25	MIDTERM
Monday Nov 01	Deception plus interrogations and confessions
Monday Nov 08	READING WEEK
Monday Nov 15	Interrogations and confessions
Monday Nov 22	Memory and Crime
Monday Nov 29	Memory and Crime finish & Juries
Monday Dec 06	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:

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

Web: 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/>