



PSY328S– Psychology and the Law L0101 Summer 2023

Tuesday/Thursday 4pm – 7pm

Sidney Smith Hall Room 1088

Contact Information

Professor:

Dr. Will Huggon

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Office Hours: by appointment

Teaching Assistant:

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Office Hours: by appointment

Course Description

An introduction and overview of psychological research as it pertains to the justice system. Topics that will be covered include eyewitness memory, expert witnesses, police procedures, jury decision making, sentencing, violence and risk assessment, psychopathy, and profiling. This course will look at the important research in the area and examine the contemporary research methodologies being used in social and forensic psychology. This course is designed to develop the ability to use rigorous scientific method to examine behaviors that occur in a legal context.

Reading Material

Pozzulo, J. (2021). *Revel Forensic Psychology* (6th Cdn edition). Pearson. 5th Cdn Edition is fine!

Email:

E-mails need to come from an utoronto account (NOT QUERCUS!). E-mails regarding class material should be **directed to the TA**, who may choose to forward more difficult inquiries on to the Instructor. Students can expect a response to a **legitimate inquiry** within **48 hours**, not including weekends. If you don't receive a reply in this time period, please re-send your message. The **course code (PSY328)** should appear in the **subject-heading** of all e-mails, to prevent messages from being discarded as spam. E-mail should not be seen as an alternative to meeting with the instructor (or the TA). Nor should e-mail be used as a mechanism to receive private tutorials (especially prior to tests) or to explain material that was covered in lectures you missed.

Course Evaluation

Homework Assignment

May 16th, 2023 (midnight)

Midterm (25%)

May 23rd

Content: All lecture material and videos to date, assigned readings. Format: Multiple choice, short essay answer.

Amicus Brief (35%)

Sunday June 4th, 2023 (midnight)(-5% per day late)

Final Exam (40%)

June 2023 Final Exam Period

Content: Non-cumulative (after the midterm) slides, assigned readings. Format: MC, short essay answer.

Academic Guidelines:

Pre-Requisites: PSY201H1/ECO220Y1/EEB225H1/GGR270H1/POL222H1/SOC202H1/STA220H1/STA238H1/STA248H1/STA288H1/PSY201H5/STA215H5/STA220H5/PSYB07H3/STAB22H3/STAB23H3/STAB57H3, and PSY220H1/PSY220H5/PSYB10H3/SOC213H1

Co-requisites: None; Exclusions: PSY328H5/PSYC39H3; Breadth Requirement: Thought, Belief and Behaviour (2)

Credits: 0.5. It is your responsibility to ensure that you have met all prerequisites listed in the College Calendar for this course. If you lack any prerequisites for this course, the Department may cancel your registration at any time. Further information about academic regulations, course withdrawal dates and credits can be found in the University of Toronto Calendar. <http://www.artsci.utoronto.ca/>

Course Webpage

Log in through the Quercus portal: <http://q.utoronto.ca>

Lecture slides (for the most part) will be posted the week before class, download and use these slides attending lecture – that way you can concentrate on noting important points and extras instead of writing out notes.

Departmental Policy on Missed Tests:

For 2023-23, the Verification of Illness (or “doctor’s note”) is not required. Students who are absent from academic participation for any reason (e.g., COVID, cold, flu and other illness or injury, family situation) and who require consideration for missed academic work have been asked to record their absence through the ACORN online absence declaration. The absence declaration is considered sufficient documentation to indicate an absence and no additional information or documentation should be required when seeking consideration from an instructor. **Students should also advise their instructor of their absence within seven calendar days of the missed test. If your request is approved, the value of the test will be redistributed to the amicus brief and final exam.**

Students who miss the **final exam** should file a petition for a deferred exam with their College Registrar’s Office. Medical notes for late essays are NOT acceptable (unless circumstances warrant).

Penalties for Lateness:

Term work must be submitted by the assigned date. Penalties of 5% per calendar day (including weekends) up to and including the last day of the term, will be applied by the Instructor.

Religious Accommodation:

As a student at the University of Toronto, you are part of a diverse community that welcomes and includes students and faculty from a wide range of backgrounds, cultural traditions, and spiritual beliefs. Every reasonable effort will be made to avoid scheduling tests, examinations, or other compulsory activities on religious holy days not captured by statutory holidays. Further to University Policy, if you anticipate being absent from class or missing a major course activity (like a test, or in-class assignment) due to a religious observance, please let me know as early in the course as possible, and with sufficient notice (at least two to three weeks), so that we can work together to make alternate arrangements.

Academic Resources

Accessibility Needs:

Students with diverse learning styles and needs are welcome in this course. If you have an acute or ongoing disability issue or accommodation need, you should register with Accessibility Services (AS) (www.accessibility.utoronto.ca) at the beginning of the academic year. Without registration, you will not be able to verify your situation with your instructors, and instructors will not be advised about your accommodation needs. AS will assess your medical situation, develop an accommodation plan with you, and support you in requesting accommodation for your course work. Remember that the process of accommodation is private: AS will not share details of your condition with any instructor, and your instructors will not reveal that you are registered with AS.

Writing Centre:

As a student here at the University of Toronto, you are expected to write well. The university provides its students with a number of resources to help them achieve this. For more information on campus writing centres and writing courses, please visit <http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/>

Academic Integrity and Plagiarism *READ*:

Academic integrity is essential to the pursuit of learning and scholarship in a university, and to ensure that a degree from the University of Toronto is a strong signal of each student’s individual academic achievement. As a result, the University treats cases of cheating and plagiarism very seriously. The University of Toronto’s Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters (www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/behaveac.htm) outlines the behaviours that constitute academic dishonesty and the processes for addressing academic offences.

Original:

Normally, students will be required to submit their course essays to the University’s plagiarism detection tool for a review of textual similarity and detection of possible plagiarism. In doing so, students will allow their essays to be included as source documents in the tool’s reference database, where they will be used solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism. The terms that apply to the University’s use of this tool are described on the Centre for Teaching Support & Innovation web site (<https://uoft.me/pdt-faq>).

AI and Large Language Learning Models:

Using programs like ChatGPT to write your paper for you is an academic offence as you probably realize you cannot obtain marks for work you didn't produce yourself (it's the same as plagiarism). That being said, doing the research, writing the paper, and getting someone to help you with edits (a friend in the class or ChatGPT) is okay, as long as it's an edit, and they are not writing the paper for you. Remember, ChatGPT is not a true AI. It's a very smart probability "filler-inner" it produces answers based on most common responses. I find ChatGPT papers repeat common info rather than making a true argument – repeating specific wording. They're also horrible at Reference Sections (just straight up making up references and cites). Large language models can also write plausible-sounding but incorrect (or nonsensical) answers (which won't make sense to your TA or myself and will be a red-flag). It is **always** better to write your own work from both a learning and ethical standpoint.

To be fair to the other students in the class, **All** suspected cases of academic dishonesty will be investigated following procedures outlined in the Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters. If you have questions or concerns about what constitutes appropriate academic behaviour or appropriate research and citation methods, you are expected to seek out additional information on academic integrity from your instructor or from other institutional resources (see www.utoronto.ca/academicintegrity/resourcesforstudents.html).

Equity Statement

The University of Toronto is committed to equity and respect for diversity. All members of the learning environment in this course should strive to create an atmosphere of mutual respect. As a course instructor, I will neither condone nor tolerate behaviour that undermines the dignity or self-esteem of any individual in this course and wish to be alerted to any attempt to create an intimidating or hostile environment. It is our collective responsibility to create a space that is inclusive and welcomes discussion. Discrimination, harassment and hate speech will not be tolerated.

Resources:

Student Life Programs and Services (<http://www.studentlife.utoronto.ca/>)

Academic Success Services (<http://www.asc.utoronto.ca/>)

Counselling and Psychological Services (<http://www.caps.utoronto.ca/main.htm>)

Course Outline

Date	Topic	Assignments
May 9	Introduction & Expert Witnesses	ch 1 An Introduction to Forensic Psych
May 11	Eyewitness Testimony and Wrongful Conviction	ch 5 Eyewitness Testimony
May 16	Interview and Interrogations	ch 3 (up to, but not including profiling) Amicus idea due
May 18	Deception Detection	ch 4 Deception
May 23	MIDTERM	Chapters 1,5,3,4
May 25	Jury Bias	ch 7 Juries as Fact Finders
May 30	Sentencing	ch 9 Sentencing and Parole in Canada
June 1	Violence and Risk Assessment/Parole	ch 9, ch 10 Risk Assessment
June 6	Psychopathic Personality	ch 11 Psychopaths
June 8	The Criminal Psychopath & Criminal Trends	ch 15 Homicidal Offenders
June 13	Behavioural and Geographic profiling	ch 3.3 Profiling Section
June 15	Review Exam Prep	

It is the student's responsibility to be available for the *entire* term and final exam period.