



St. Jerome's University in the University of Waterloo
Department of Psychology
Psych 230 held with LS 272
PSYCHOLOGY AND LAW
Winter 2021
Online

Instructor and T.A. Information

Instructor: Dr. John K. Rempel
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Office Hours: by appointment
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T.A.: TBA
Email: T.A. 1 Email
Office: T.A. 1 Office
Office Hours: T.A. 1 Hours

Course Description

Psychological principles drawn from a variety of subdisciplines (e.g., social, clinical, cognitive) will be surveyed in terms of their relevance and application to the legal system. Topics may include jury selection and decision-making, eyewitness testimony, insanity defense, competency assessment, risk assessment, and attitudes toward law and the legal process.

Course Goals and Learning Outcomes

This course is a general overview of psychology and law. The goal is to provide you with basic information and a working vocabulary about psychological concepts and principles as they pertain to phenomena encountered in the criminal justice system. This course will look at important research and examine the contemporary methodologies being used in social and forensic psychology. This course is designed to develop the ability to use scientific methods to examine behaviors that occur in a legal context and to lay the foundations for further study in the areas of psychology and law.

Required Text

Pozzulo, J., Bennell, C. & Forth, A. (2018). *Forensic Psychology*, 5th Edition. Toronto, ON: Pearson Prentice Hall.

Readings available on library course reserves

Research Methods
Values and Gender article
Theories of Criminality article

Course Requirements and Assessment

| Assessment | Week of Evaluation | Weighting |
|--|--------------------|-----------|
| Test 1 | Jan 28 | 25% |
| Test 2 | Feb 25 | 25% |
| Test 3 | Mar 25 | 25% |
| Test 4 | Apr 15 | 25% |
| Optional Research Experience bonus grade | | 3% |
| Total | | 100% |

I will let the text provide a general overview of the material for a given topic and I will use class time to add new material, amplify important issues, and focus on specific topics in more depth. Thus, although there will be some overlap between class and text material, there will be a lot of different material in each.

Assessment

There will be four regular term multiple-choice/short answer tests during the weeks of: Test 1, January 25, Test 2 February 22, Test 3 March 22, Test 4 April 12. Specific times during the week will be determined at a later date. Each test will be worth 25% of your final grade. The tests will contain a balance of lecture and textbook material and will primarily include material covered after the previous test. All tests will be online via LEARN. Grades will be posted as soon as they are available. The tests will be open book but please note that they will have a strict time limit. You will not have time to learn the material during the test.

The mark received for a test stands – it will not be dropped or re-weighted because you weren't feeling well, had a lot on your mind, etc., nor will “extra” assignments be given to students who are dissatisfied with their grades. My goal is to be fair to everyone – please don't ask for special treatment. Of course, it is fair for a test to be rescheduled for legitimate medical, compassionate, or religious grounds.

Students requesting accommodation for course requirements (assignments, midterm tests, final exams, etc.) due to illness should do the following:

- seek medical treatment as soon as possible and obtain a completed uWaterloo Verification of Illness Form: <https://uwaterloo.ca/health-services/student-medical-clinic/services/verification-illness>
- submit that form to the instructor within 48 hours.
- (preferably) inform the instructor by the due date for the course requirement that you will be unable to meet the deadline and that documentation will be forthcoming.

In the case of a missed assignment deadline or midterm test, the instructor will either:

1. waive the course component and re-weight remaining term work as he/she deems fit according to circumstances and the goals of the course, or
2. provide an extension.

In the case of bereavement, the instructor will provide similar accommodations to those for illness. Appropriate documentation to support the request will be required.

Students who are experiencing extenuating circumstances should also inform their academic advisors regarding their personal difficulties.

Bonus Grades: Research Experience Marks

Experiential learning is considered an integral part of the undergraduate program in Psychology. Research participation is one example of this, article review is another. A number of

undergraduate courses have been expanded to include opportunities for Psychology students to earn grades while gaining research experience.

Since experiential learning is highly valued in the Department of Psychology, students may earn a **"bonus" grade of up to 3%** in this course through research experience. Course work will make up 100% of the final mark and a "bonus" of up to 3% may be earned and will be added to the final grade if/as needed to bring your final grade up to 100%. For details on how to participate, please watch the following video. [How to use Psychology's Sona System](#)

Course Outline / Class Schedule

| Week of: | Topic | Readings Due |
|----------|--|------------------------------------|
| Jan 11 | Introduction The intersection of Psychology and the Legal System Research Methods | Ch. 1 Reserve reading |
| Jan 18 | Value Systems and the Law Psychological Explanations of Crime | Reserve reading Reserve reading |
| Jan 25 | *** Test 1 *** | |
| Feb 1 | Police Psychology Criminal Profiling | Ch. 2 Ch. 3 |
| Feb 8 | Investigations and Deception Jury selection | Ch. 4 |
| Feb 15 | *** study week – no lectures *** | |
| Feb 22 | *** Test 2 *** | |
| Mar 1 | Memories and Eyewitness Testimony Child Victims and Witnesses | Ch. 5 Ch. 6 |
| Mar 8 | Courtroom Process Jury Process | Ch. 7 Ch. 9 |
| Mar 15 | *** additional scheduled pauses – no lectures *** | |
| Mar 22 | *** Test 3 *** | |
| Mar 29 | Determinations of Guilt and Sentencing Sentencing Alternatives Mental Illness in Court | Ch. 8, 14 |
| Apr 5 | Risk Assessment Psychopathy Treatment of Offenders and Recidivism | Ch. 10 Ch. 11 |
| Apr 12 | *** Test 4 *** | |

Important Information

Academic Offenses: A word about cheating – don't. It is lazy, disrespectful, and immoral. I expect university students to be mature, responsible, accountable people who act with integrity. Students who cheat or plagiarize are 1) incompetent – they haven't actually learned the material, and 2) untrustworthy – they are willing to mislead others and take advantage of their fellow students in order to get ahead. I do not want incompetent, immoral people getting a university degree, much less a job in a position of responsibility. Therefore, if you are caught cheating I will, with little sympathy, lobby for the most severe consequences possible. Here's the official information:

Academic Integrity: To maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo and its Affiliated and Federated Institutions of Waterloo (AFIW) are expected to promote honesty, trust,

fairness, respect, and responsibility. See the [UWaterloo Academic Integrity webpage and the Arts Academic Integrity webpage for more information](#).

Discipline: A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity, to avoid committing academic offences, and to take responsibility for their actions. A student who is unsure whether an action constitutes an offence, or who needs help in learning how to avoid offences (e.g., plagiarism, cheating) or about “rules” for group work/collaboration should seek guidance from the course professor, academic advisor, or the Associate Dean. When misconduct has been found to have occurred, disciplinary penalties will be imposed under the [St. Jerome’s University Policy on Student Discipline](#). For information on categories of offenses and types of penalties, students should refer to [University of Waterloo Policy 71 - Student Discipline](#). For typical penalties check [Guidelines for the Assessment of Penalties](#).

Grievance: A student who believes that a decision affecting some aspect of their university life has been unfair or unreasonable may have grounds for initiating a grievance. Read the [St. Jerome’s University Policy on Student Petitions and Grievances](#).

Appeals: A decision made or penalty imposed under the St. Jerome’s University Policy on Student Petitions and Grievances (other than a petition) or the St. Jerome’s University Policy on Student Discipline may be appealed if there is a ground. A student who believes they have a ground for an appeal should refer to the [St. Jerome's University Policy on Student Appeals](#).

Note for Students with Disabilities: The [AccessAbility Services](#) office, located on the first floor of the Needles Hall extension (1401), collaborates with all academic departments to arrange appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities without compromising the academic integrity of the curriculum. If you require academic accommodations to lessen the impact of your disability, please register with the AS office at the beginning of each academic term.