

Instructor: Julia Shaw
Office: Portables, P1 OR St. Jerome's College Rm. 2021
Phone: 884-8111 ext. 28200
Email: julishaw@gmail.com
Office Hours: 13:00-14:00 MW

Class Meets: STJ 2017, 11:30-12:50 MW

Text: Pozzulo, J., Bennel, C. & Forth, A. (2006). *Forensic Psychology, Second Ed.* Toronto, ON: Pearson Prentice Hall.

Course Objectives and Content:

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 in the area 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.

Requirements and Evaluation:

There will be two exams: one mid-term and one final. Each will cover one-half of the course material (i.e., they will be non-cumulative), and each will be worth 50% of your final grade. The exams will be 1.5 hours in length. They will be structured as follows:

- 50% of the marks will be based on answers to multiple-choice or fill-in-the-blank questions. These questions are designed to test your recognition and basic comprehension of material presented in the text.
- 25% of the marks will be based on answers to short-answer questions. These questions are designed to test your ability to understand and recall material presented in the text and in class.
- 25% of the marks will be based on the answers to a long-answer or essay question. This question will be designed to test your ability to critically evaluate material presented in the text and to integrate it with material presented in lectures. One week before each exam, I will give students four (4) possible essay questions to help them prepare; I will choose only one (1) to be included in the exam.

Test results will be posted on ACE as soon as they are available. Please check your mark after each test, as we do not generally release marks over the phone or by e-mail, and university policy prohibits final grades from being posted prior to the end of the examination period.

The mark received for a graded component stands – it will not be dropped, re-weighted, etc. because you weren't feeling well, had a lot on your mind, etc., nor will "extra" assignments given to students who are dissatisfied with their grades. My goal is to be fair to everyone – please don't ask for special treatment. However, it is fair for a test to be rescheduled for *legitimate* medical, compassionate, or religious grounds. Unless circumstances make it impossible to do so, please inform us PRIOR to the scheduled test to arrange a timely makeup, and to provide acceptable documentation to support a medical, compassionate, or religious claim (Page 1:8-9 in the University of Waterloo Calendar). Make-up exams may differ in format from the original.

NOTE: You will be deducted 5% of your final exam grade for each Guest Lecture you fail to attend. Guest lectures are on May 13th, June 10th, July 15th and July 22nd. Attendance will be taken only on these four days.

Special Needs

Students with documented or suspected disabilities (i.e., physical, learning, or sensory disabilities or chronic medical conditions) are encouraged to contact the Office for Persons with Disabilities (OPD) to determine eligibility for their services. OPD is located in Needles Hall Room 1132 and can be contacted at 519-888-4567 ext. 35082, TDD/TTY 888-4044. In the event that you require an adapted learning or testing environment, please provide us with OPD documentation *at the beginning of the term*.

Academic Offenses:

A word about cheating – don't. It is lazy, disrespectful, and immoral. People who cheat or plagiarize are 1) incompetent – they haven't learned the material, and 2) untrustworthy – they are willing to mislead others and taken 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 statement: "All students registered in the courses of the Faculty of Arts and its

University colleges are expected to know what constitutes an academic offense, to avoid committing academic offenses, and to take responsibility for their academic actions. When the commission of an offense is established, disciplinary penalties will be imposed in accord with Policy #71 (Student Academic Discipline) which is supplied in the University of Waterloo Undergraduate Calendar (p. 1:10) and St. Jerome's University Calendar (pp. 16 – 17) [or on-line at <http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy71.pdf>]. If you believe you have been wrongfully or unjustly penalized, you may grieve this decision in accord with Policy #70, (Student Grievance, p. 17–18 SJU Calendar). If you need help in learning how to avoid offenses such as plagiarism, cheating and double submission, or if you need clarification of aspects of the discipline policy, ask your course instructor for guidance. Other resources regarding the discipline policy are your academic advisor, the appropriate St. Jerome's departmental chair and ultimately the Appeals Officer (currently the Associate Dean) for St. Jerome's University.”

On Doing Your Best

As an alternative to cheating there are some things that you can do to put in the best performance possible in this class. First, come to class! Be alert. Do more than mindlessly write down whatever appears on an overhead: *Think* about the material – try to come up with your own examples and illustrations by applying the material to the things you already know. Don't simply assume that it's easy or common sense – often, it is not. (A good test of your own understanding of concepts is whether you can explain them to others.)

Second, do the readings! Ideally, read them more than once. Don't mindlessly run a highlighter over the words: *Think* about the material – write down questions, observations, possible examples, etc. as you read.

Third, look for connections! I will be dealing with a lot of specific phenomena in this class, but there will be some big themes that will keep recurring throughout the term. Look for them. Look also for connections between lecture and assigned readings. Think about what *this* theorist might say about *that* topic, etc. – even if it is never addressed in class.

It isn't good enough to memorize the material – you need to take the time to think about it and make the effort to really understand it.

Course Schedule

Dates	Topics	Assigned Reading
May. 4	Welcome	
6	Introduction to Psychology and Law	Ch. 1
11	Origins of Violence/Crime	
13	GUEST LECTURE: Social Theories of Transgression: Dr. John Rempel	
18	NO CLASS (Victoria Day)	
20	Mental Illness and Violence/Crime	Ch. 11
25	Psychopaths	
27	Police Psychology	Ch. 2
June 1	Memory and Police Investigations	Ch. 3
3	Police Investigations	
8	Deception	Ch. 4
10	GUEST LECTURE: Profiling: Dr. Chris Burris	
15	Juries	Ch. 7
17	MIDTERM	
22	Eyewitness Testimony	Ch. 5
24	Child Witnesses and Victims	Ch. 6
29	Evaluating Testimony	
July 1	NO CLASS (Canada Day)	
6	Mental Illness in Court	Ch. 8
8	Risk Assessment	Ch. 12
13	Sentencing	Ch. 9
15	GUEST LECTURE: Community Justice Initiatives: Julie Thompson	
20	Minority Offenders	Ch. 13
22	GUEST LECTURE: John Howard Society: Tracy Strangward	
27	Recidivism and Treatment of Offenders	
Aug. 5	FINAL EXAM	

NOTE: We are *not* covering topics in Chapter 10. If you are interested in learning about issues pertaining to Domestic Violence, I recommend taking Dr. Rempel's "Dark side of Sex" course.