

Instructor: Dr. John K. Rempel
Office: St. Jerome's College Rm. 2018
Phone: 884-8111 ext. 212
Class Meets: Monday, Wednesday 2:00 – 3:20, STJ 1030

Text: Schuller, R.A. & Ogloff, J.R.P. (2001). *Introduction to Psychology and Law: Canadian Perspectives* Toronto, ON: University of Toronto Press.

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 are two grading options. First, you may base your course grade entirely on your performance on four term tests on **Oct. 4, Oct. 27, Nov. 15, and Dec. 6**. Each test counts for 25% of your final grade. In general, the four term tests will be based equally on lecture and textbook material, and will only include material covered after the previous test. Make-up tests will **ONLY** be given if appropriate documentation is provided explaining why the test could not be written when scheduled. Otherwise, students will receive a zero for a missed test.

Second, you may base a portion of your grade on a research paper. With this option you are still required to write the four term tests. However, each test will be worth 17% of your final grade and the remaining third of your grade (32%) will be based on a research paper written on a topic of your choice related to psychology and law. You must discuss the topic with me prior to writing the paper. The paper is due on **Wednesday, November 24**. You may choose to write the paper at any time prior to the due date, but once you have handed it in, you will be graded according to the second grading option. A description of grading criteria and a list of possible topics will be available for those considering this second option.

Academic Offenses:

A word about cheating – don't. Here is a statement prepared by St. Jerome's University regarding academic offenses: "All students registered in courses at the University of Waterloo and its Federated University and Affiliated Colleges are expected to know what constitutes academic integrity, to avoid committing academic offenses, and to take responsibility for their actions. Students who are unsure whether an action constitutes an offense, or who need help in learning how to avoid offenses (e.g., plagiarism, cheating), or about 'rules' for group work / collaboration should seek guidance from the course professor, TA, academic advisor, the appropriate St. Jerome's departmental Chair, or ultimately the Appeals Officer (currently the Associate Dean) for St. Jerome's University. For information on categories of offenses and types of penalties, students should refer to Policy #71, *Student Academic Discipline*, <<http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy71.htm>>. Students who believe that they have been wrongfully or unjustly penalized have the right to grieve in accord with Policy #70, *Student Grievance*, <<http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy70.htm>>".

Dates	Topics	Assigned Reading
Sept.	13 Introduction	
	15 Research Methods	Ch. 1
	20 Values: the psychology <i>of</i> the law	Ch. 2
	22 Police attitudes and personality	assigned article
	27 Police Investigations: Interviewing	Ch. 3
29 Police Investigations: Interrogating		
Oct.	4 *** Test 1 ***	
	6 Psychological explanations of criminal behavior	assigned article
	11 *** Thanksgiving – no class ***	
	13 Criminal profiling	assigned article
	18 Memory biases	Ch. 4
	20 Eyewitness testimony	
	25 Children’s testimony	assigned article
	27 *** Test 2 ***	
	29 Jury process	
Nov.	1 Jury selection	Ch. 5
	3 Decision-making: judging guilt and innocence	Ch. 6
	8 Sentencing	Ch. 7
	10 Parole and public attitudes	
	15 *** Test 3 ***	
	17 After parole: options and alternatives	
	22 Fitness to stand trial	Ch. 10
	24 Violence and risk assessment *** optional research paper due ***	Ch. 11
	29 Treatment of offenders and inmates	Ch. 9
Dec.	1 Expert testimony	assigned article
	6 *** Test 4 ***	