



# ST. JEROME'S UNIVERSITY

**St. Jerome's University in the University of Waterloo**  
**Department of Psychology**  
**Psych 230/LS 272**  
**Psychology and Law**  
**Winter 2019**  
**Tues/Thurs 11:30-12:50, SJ2 1002**

## **Instructor Information**

Instructor: Dr. Becky Earhart  
Office: SH 2114  
Office Phone: TBA  
Office Hours: Thursdays 1-2pm  
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## **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 police psychology.

## **Course Goals and Learning Outcomes**

This course is a general overview of psychology and law. The goal is to provide you with introductory 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 area of psychology and law.

## **Disclaimer**

The material covered in this class will include topics (e.g., sexual offences against children) and possibly images or descriptions of crimes that are graphic and disturbing. I encourage you to carefully consider whether you wish to remain in this class, especially if you or someone you are close to has been the victim of a sexual or violent crime.

## **Required Text**

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

## Course Requirements and Assessment

The four non-cumulative in-class term tests will be multiple choice format. Each test will be worth 25% of your final grade. In general, the four tests will be based equally on lecture and textbook material, and will primarily include material covered after the previous test. All tests will make use of scannable computer cards, so please bring a pencil and eraser.

Assessment	Date of Evaluation	Weighting
Test 1	Jan. 22	25%
Test 2	Feb. 12	25%
Test 3	Mar. 12	25%
Test 4	Apr. 2	25%
Total		100%

Test results will be posted as soon as they are available. The mark received for a test stands, and will not be dropped or re-weighted for any reason. There will be no extra assignments for students who are dissatisfied with their grades.

Students are entitled to reschedule a test for legitimate medical or compassionate reasons. Students are also entitled to reschedule a test based on religious grounds. If a student should wish to reschedule a test for one of these reasons, it is the student's responsibility to inform the instructor **prior to the test date** to arrange a timely makeup exam and to provide **acceptable documentation** to support a medical, compassionate, or religious claim. Makeup exams may differ in format from the original exam.

## Course Outline / Class Schedule

Week	Date	Topic	Readings Due
1	Jan. 8 & 10	Introduction; Theories of Crime	Chapter 1
2	Jan. 15 & 17	Police Investigations	Chapter 3
3	<b>Jan. 22*</b> & 24	Test 1; Police Psychology	Chapter 2
4	Jan. 29 & 31	Detecting Deception	Chapter 4
5	Feb. 5 & 7	Eyewitness Testimony; Child Witnesses	Chapters 5 & 6
6	<b>Feb. 12*</b> & 14	Test 2; Mental Illness in Court	Chapter 8
7	Feb. 19 & 21	<b>No class – Reading Week</b>	
8	Feb. 26 & 28	Jury Selection and Jury Psychology	Chapter 7
9	Mar. 5 & 7	Psychopathy; Risk Assessment	Chapters 10 & 11
10	<b>Mar. 12*</b> & 14	Test 3; Sentencing and Parole	Chapter 9
11	Mar. 19 & 21	Sexual Offenders	Chapter 14
12	Mar. 26 & 28	Homicidal Offenders	Chapter 15
13	<b>Apr. 2*</b>	Test 4	

## Electronic Device Policy

If you bring a laptop to class, you are expected to use it only for note-taking purposes. Any other use of an electronic device is very distracting to other students. Students who use their laptops inappropriately may lose the privilege of bringing them to class. Please turn off your cell phones and put them out of sight before class begins. There is no reason to use your phone during class.

## Attendance Policy

Missing even a single class could be very detrimental to your grade, given the frequency of term tests. I strongly advise you to ensure that you are present at every lecture. I do not provide my complete lecture notes for any reason. Please ask a fellow student for notes if you miss a class.

## Important 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 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.

### Mental Health Services:

- Counselling Services: [counselling.services@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:counselling.services@uwaterloo.ca) / 519-888-4567 x32655
- MATES: one-to-one peer support program offered by Federation of Students (FEDS) and Counselling Services
- Health Services Emergency service: located across the creek from the Student Life Centre
- Good2Talk: Free confidential help line for post-secondary students. Phone: 1-866-925-5454
- Grand River Hospital: Emergency care for mental health crisis. Extended Assessment Unit Phone: 519-749-4300 x6880
- Here 24/7: Mental Health and Crisis Service Team. Phone: 1-844-437-3247
- OK2BME: Support services for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or questioning teens in Waterloo. Phone: 519-884-0000 x222