



**Department of Arts and Education**  
**Course Outline—Winter 2011**  
**PY3950 (A3 & TC) Forensic Psychology 3(3-0-0) UT 45 Hours**

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<b>Office Hours:</b>	Mondays 1130 – 12:30 & Wednesdays 1:30-2:30		
<b>Prerequisites:</b>	PY1040 and PY1050		
<b>Required Text:</b>	Pozzulo, J., Bennell, C., & Forth, A. (2009). <i>Forensic Psychology</i> (2 <sup>nd</sup> Ed). Pearson Prentice Hall		

### **CALENDAR DESCRIPTION**

This is an overview of research, practice, and policy issues in Forensic Psychology. Both criminal and civil forensic topics will be discussed, including the history of forensic psychology, ethical issues in forensic practice, police selection processes, theories of criminal behaviour, criminal profiling, jury selection, validity of eyewitness reports, abuse against women and children, child custody, and insanity/competency.

**CREDIT/CONTACT HOURS:** PY3950 consists of three hours of instructional time per week.

**DELIVERY MODE(S):** This course includes lectures, class discussions and take-home exercises. Lectures will be delivered concurrently at the GPRC campus and via videoconferencing.

### **COURSE OBJECTIVES**

Students will demonstrate an understanding of the application of psychological research and practice to the criminal and civil legal systems.

### **TRANSFERABILITY**

At GPRC, a "D" is considered a minimal pass and will *normally* meet the requirements for the next level of study. However, other post-secondary institutions may not grant credit for D or D+ (i.e., grades below C- may not be given credit). Furthermore, some institutions accept D for transfer credit, but may not allow students to use the course as a prerequisite for other courses. Therefore, if you receive a D or D+ in any of your courses, it is strongly advised that you check the requirements of your transfer institution to see if they will consider a D or D+ sufficient for credit or as a prerequisite for other courses.

This course transfers to Athabasca University (PSYC 395), MacEwan University (PSYC 337), Kings University College (3XX), University of Alberta (PSYCO 2XX Arts), University of Calgary (Sr. PSYC) and University of Lethbridge (PSYC 3XX)

## GRADING CRITERIA

<i>Alpha Grade</i>	<i>4-Pt Equivalent</i>	<i>% Guidelines</i>	<i>Designation</i>
A+	4.0	97 - 100	Excellent
A	4.0	94-96	
A-	3.7	90-93	First Class Standing
B+	3.3	85-89	
B	3.0	80-84	Good
B-	2.7	75-79	
C+	2.3	70-74	Satisfactory
C	2.0	65-69	
C-	1.7	60 - 64	Poor
**D+	1.3	55 - 59	
**D	1.0	50 - 54	Minimal Pass at GPRC
F	0.0	0 - 49	Fail -no credit received

## EVALUATION

1. **Quizzes/Exams.** There will be four quizzes; each will be in a multiple choice format. Each quiz is worth 5%, for a total of 20%. Please refer to page 3 for more information on missed quizzes. The midterm and final exams will include multiple-choice and short answer questions. The multiple choice questions are taken "primarily" from the test-bank and the short answer questions will be taken primarily from the lecture material. The final exam will not be cumulative; it will cover material from after the midterm to the end of term.

The date of the final exam will be announced by the Student Services office, but note that it will be between April 14 and April 27, 2011

**Weight: Quizzes 5% each for a total = 20%; Midterm exam = 25%; Final exam = 25%.**

2. **Research and Writing Skills Assignment** This assignment entails completed several components that culminates in a paper. You will choose a question that is relevant to Forensic Psychology, do library research to find answers to that question, and write a paper. Please note that I reserve the right to use any means available, including electronic searches, to check for plagiarism.

All components are due at the beginning of class on the stipulated due-dates. Anything submitted after the beginning of class will be considered late. Any component handed in later than the stipulated due dates will be docked up to 25% per day (at my discretion).

**Weight of paper and related components: 20%**

3. **Attendance.** Student input during lectures is enthusiastically welcomed and strongly encouraged. There are a variety of ways that you can contribute to the lectures, such as asking relevant questions, making insightful comments during the lectures, contributing to discussion during group work. Attendance is taken during each class.

**Weight: 5% .**

4. **Chapter Assignments.** There will be 13 multiple choice chapter assignments, each comprised of 5 multiple choice questions taken the test bank. Your marks across all the assignments will be averaged.

**Weight: The average mark of all the assignments is worth 5% of your overall grade.**

## **STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES**

### **Lecture Attendance/Absences**

Students are held accountable for all lecture and textbook material. It is your responsibility to keep up with class work. Therefore, you are expected to attend all lectures. Attendance will be taken every class. If you miss a class, your grade will be docked unless you provide an acceptable reason for missing the class (via email only). **Email the explanation to me, writing “PY3950—missed class” in the subject box.**

If you are absent from a class, all missed material is to be obtained by approaching a fellow student, not by getting the notes from the instructor. It would be very unfair for students who miss lectures to be advantaged by getting the instructor's notes. Typically, the quality of note-taking by students is quite variable. Therefore, if you miss a lecture and need to rely on another student as a source for the missed lecture material, it is advised that you pick your sources very carefully. The notes for each chapter are available on “Moodle”. These are not the full notes; you need to attend the lectures to fill in the missing information.

Please note that according to GPRC policy, instructors reserve the right to **bar a student from writing the final exam** when the student is excessively absent from class (See the calendar.)

### **Preparation**

You are also expected to prepare for each lecture by reading the assigned chapters and handouts. Not surprisingly, students who prepare for lectures learn and perform much better than students who do not prepare.

Although the instructor feels that all the material in the text book is important and interesting, **limited class time prevents discussion of all the material covered in the text.** You are responsible for learning textbook material (assigned chapters only) that is not discussed in class. Please feel free to approach me outside of class if you wish to get clarification on this material.

### **Missed Exams**

Dates for the quizzes and midterm are included on this course outline. If a student misses a quiz due to **verified** illness, dentistry, accident, emergency, or GPRC obligations (e.g., you are away due to the requirements of another course) the **weight of the quiz will be transferred to the final exam**. If a student misses a quiz for reasons that do not include verified illness, dentistry, accident, or emergency, then a “0” (zero) will be assigned to that quiz. Holidays, employment, etc. are not considered to be excusable reasons to miss any exam in this course. Missing any quiz without explanation from the student will result in a “0” on that quiz.

According to GPRC policy, deferring a missed **Midterm Exam** is at the discretion of the instructor. In my courses, students who miss a midterm because of illness, dentistry, accident, or emergency (verified) may write the midterm at a later date (set by the me). When students miss the midterm for reasons that do not include verified illness, dentistry, accident, or emergency, a “0” is assigned to that the midterm. Missing the midterm without explanation from the student will result in a “0” on the midterm.

Absences from a registrar-scheduled **Final Exam** fall under GPRC Examination Policy. It is the responsibility of the student to be informed about these policies prior to the final examination period. A description of the policy is available in the GPRC Calendar and in the Student Handbook. Yet again, **final exams begin April 14 and end by April 27.** These dates have been available to students for several months. Therefore, activities such as holidays or employment during this period are **not** considered excusable reasons for missing the final. Students who chose to miss the final exam for employment, holiday, or similar reasons will receive a “0” on the final. Also note that **the final exam will not be scheduled early** for students who plan their holidays or other activities during the final exam period.

If the final exam is missed due to illness, you will be required to submit an application to the Registrar's office for permission to write a deferred exam and must do so within 48 hours of the scheduled exam time. You may defer the final exam for up to 20 days of the end of the examination period. (Please see the College Calendar)

## **Student Conduct**

It is expected that all students will display a respectful attitude and behaviour in the classroom. This includes coming to class on time and leaving without disruption to others. Also expected is attention to the instructor and fellow students during discussions of topics relevant to the course. Disrespect will not be tolerated. Examples of disrespectful behaviour include talking while the instructor or fellow students are discussing course material, making rude, destructive comments, reading the newspaper, putting your feet up on the desk, putting your head down on the desk for a nap, and so on. Also, unless you are awaiting a call about something of a very very very very serious nature, **TURN OFF YOUR CELLPHONE RINGER!!!!!!**. Phones that ring during lectures cause a lot of distraction. Furthermore, people answering these calls during class cause even more distraction. Loving to listen to music is wonderful, but **LISTEN TO YOUR MUSIC OUTSIDE OF CLASS!!!** Instructors and other students can often hear the music which creates a distraction. Furthermore, such behaviour is disrespectful to instructors. Finally, **TEXTING IN CLASS IS ABSOLUTELY FORBIDDEN!!!!!!** Although texting is not disruptive per se, it detracts from your learning and again, is quite disrespectful. Students unable to meet these expectations will be required to leave the class in the interest of preserving the learning opportunities of other students.

Please refer to pages 49-50 of the College calendar for more information regarding the conduct expected of students

## **STATEMENT ON PLAGIARISM AND CHEATING:**

Please refer to pages 48-50 of the College calendar regarding plagiarism, cheating, disruptive conduct, and the resultant penalties. These are serious issues and will be dealt with severely.

Instructors reserve the right to use electronic plagiarism detection services on written assignments.

Instructors also reserve the right to bar the use of any form of electronics (cell phones, Blackberries, iPods, scanning pens, electronic dictionaries, etc.) during exams.

### Exam Schedule/Tentative Lecture Schedule

Chapter/Exam/Assignment	Topic	Date
Chapter 1	Introduction to Forensic Psychology	Jan 10
Chapter 2	Police Psychology	Jan 17
Chapter 3	The Psychology of Police Investigations	Jan 19
<b>Quiz 1</b>	<b>Chapters 1, 2, 3</b>	<b>January 26</b>
Chapter 4	Deception	January 26
Chapter 5	Eyewitness Testimony	February 2
<b>Research Question Due</b>		<b>February 9</b>
Chapter 6	Child Victims and Witnesses	February 9
<b>Quiz 2</b>	<b>Chapters 4, 5, 6</b>	<b>February 14</b>
<b>Midterm Exam</b>	<b>Chapters 1 to 6 inclusive</b>	<b>February 16</b>
Reading Week	No Classes	February 21 - 25
Chapter 7	Juries	February 28
Chapter 8	Mental Illness in Court	March 7
<b>Reference Page Due</b>		<b>March 7</b>
Chapter 9	Sentencing and Parole in Canada	March 14
<b>Quiz 3</b>	<b>Chapters 7, 8, 9</b>	<b>March 21</b>
Chapter 10	Domestic Violence & Sexual Offenders	March 21
<b>Paper Due</b>		<b>March 23</b>
Chapter 11	Homicidal and Psychopathic Offenders	March 28
Chapter 12	Risk Assessment	April 4
Chapter 13	Assessment & Treatment of Young, Female, and Aboriginal Offenders	April 6
<b>Quiz 4</b>	<b>Chapters 10, 11, 12, 13</b>	<b>April 12</b>
<b>Final Exam***</b>	<b>Chapters 7 to 13 inclusive</b>	<b>April 14 to 27</b>

\*\*\*The exact date, time, and location of the final exam is set by the registrar's office and will be announced in class as soon as this information is available. Again, the dates for **the final examination period fall between April 14 and 27, inclusive, SO DO NOT PLAN YOUR VACATION DURING THIS PERIOD**