



Department of Arts and Education
Course Outline — Winter 2021
PY3950 (A3): Forensic Psychology – 3 (3-0-0) 45 Hours for 15 Weeks

Instructor: Dr. Connie Korpan Ph.D. **Phone:** 780-539-2032
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Office Hours: By appointment

WINTER 2021 DELIVERY:

Remote Delivery. This course is delivered remotely. There are no face-to-face or onsite requirements. Students must have a computer with a webcam and reliable internet connection. Technological support is available through helpdesk@gprc.ab.ca
Note: GPRC reserves the right to change the course delivery.

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.

PREREQUISITE(S)/COREQUISITE: PY1040 and PY1050

REQUIRED TEXT/RESOURCE MATERIALS:

Pozzulo, J., Bennell, C., & Forth, A. (2018) *Forensic psychology* (5th edition). Pearson Canada Inc.

The book adopted this year is an ebook (check the GPRC bookstore website for details). Hardcopies of this book was used last year and is acceptable for winter 2021.

DELIVERY MODE(S):

Lectures will be delivered remotely via Zoom. The Zoom link for this course is posted on the course homepage of myClass. Students will attend lectures via zoom. Students will complete chapter assignments, engage in online discussions, access all exams and submit assignments via myClass.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

Students will be taught how research in Forensic Psychology has been applied to practice within criminal and civil legal systems. Topics covered will include:

- The history of forensic psychology
- The Canadian legal system
- Forensic Assessment in Criminal and Civil Domains
- Forensic Treatment
- Children and the Law (e.g., child witnesses)
- Juveniles and the Law (e.g., accountability)
- Eyewitness Testimony
- Police Investigations—interrogations and confessions
- Police Psychology—training, criminal profiling
- Juries
- Risk Assessment/Risk Management
- Offenders

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

As a result of taking this course, students will be able to

- demonstrate fundamental knowledge and comprehension of major concepts, theoretical perspectives and empirical findings in the areas of forensic psychology
- demonstrate understanding of forensic assessment in criminal and civil domains, including issues pertaining to determination of fitness to stand trial, determination of criminal responsibility, determination of risk for recidivism, assessment for the purpose of civil commitment, assessment for the purpose of determining parental capacity, and assessing risk for child maltreatment
- demonstrate understanding of how offenders with mental illness receive treatment and the impact of treatment on recidivism
- demonstrate understanding of how children who are witnesses for criminal and civil cases are assessed for competence to provide testimonies and the nature of testimonial supports available to child witnesses
- demonstrate understanding of the rights of young offenders and how these rights have evolved over that last century
- demonstrate understanding of how eyewitness memory/accounts are affected by the nature of the event to be remembered, interview techniques, etc.
- demonstrate understanding of the nature of interrogation and how interrogation techniques affect confessions
- demonstrate understanding of how criminal profiles are constructed and used to solve crimes
- demonstrate understanding of how juries make decisions pertaining to guilt and issues that affect decision making
- demonstrate knowledge of various types/subtypes of offenders
- demonstrate basic level understanding of various research methods used in scientific investigations of psychological phenomena
- apply their knowledge of basic research methodology to critically evaluate psychological research

TRANSFERABILITY:

This course is considered a University Transferable Course; however, the student has the final responsibility for ensuring the transferability of this course to Alberta Colleges and Universities.

Please consult the Alberta Transfer Guide for more information. You may check to ensure the transferability of this course at the Alberta Transfer Guide main page <http://www.transferalberta.ca> .

** Grade of D or D+ may not be acceptable for transfer to other post-secondary institutions.

Students are cautioned that it is their responsibility to contact the receiving institutions to ensure transferability and transferable grades.

EVALUATIONS:

1. 4 Quizzes—5% each for a course total of 20%;
2. Midterm Exam—20%; Final Exam—30%
3. Participation/Attendance—5%
4. Online Discussions—5%
5. Chapter Assignments— course total of 10%
6. Annotated Bibliography—10%

PLEASE NOTE: In order to preserve an evaluation system that is fair to ALL students, requests for additional/substitute work will NOT be granted to students wishing to compensate for poor grades on assignments, quizzes, midterm exam or final exam.

NOTE REGARDING EXAMINATIONS: Students might be expected to take examinations [quizzes, midterm and final examination] online with the use of Respondus Lockdown Browser and Respondus Monitor exam proctoring software. The instructor's decision to use Respondus will depend upon student compliance to the instructor's examination expectations. These expectations are that for the full duration of all examinations, students: (1) have their cameras on, (2) are in full view of the camera (not just the forehead!), (3) are zoomed in during the examination, (4) are not accessing other devices during the examination, (5) have other materials put away and out of site during the examinations, and of course (6) are not cheating.

If the instructor determines that it is necessary to use Respondus Lockdown Browser and Respondus Monitor, students must download both programs on the device used to take the examinations. Lockdown Browser and Respondus Monitor be on the myClass platform. The proctoring software is a requirement to uphold academic integrity and is necessary to meet accreditation requirements. Lockdown Browser and Respondus Monitor requires Windows or Mac desktop, laptop, or iPad platforms. Chromebooks, smart phones, and other tablets are not supported. If you do not have access to a Windows or Mac desktop, laptop or iPad, you can book a College PC via the GPRC App -> On-campus Reservations. You can learn more about Respondus Lockdown Browser and Respondus Monitor here:

<https://web.respondus.com/lockdownbrowser-student-video/>. It is important to note that the software recordings are automated systems and are designed to be less intrusive than in-person proctors. The software is only running while you are signed in during your exam. The exam administrators only review the recordings after the exam is submitted and only if it was flagged due to suspicious activity. The collection and use of your personal information is in accordance with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act S. 33 (c) which states that

“No personal information may be collected by or for a public body unless that information relates directly to and is necessary for an operating program or activity of the public body.” In addition S. 39 (4) states, “A public body may use personal information only to the extent necessary to enable the public body to carry out its purpose in a reasonable manner.” If you are unable to complete your [quizzes/examinations] using the proctoring software you may request alternative accommodations to the online testing by contacting your instructor and the GPRC Testing Centre by telephone at 780-539-2212 to arrange to write your exam. Students must book their [quizzes/examinations] no less than 2-weeks in advance of the test date and students are choosing to write the [quizzes/examination] in the GPRC Testing Centre are responsible for the \$30 sitting fee.

- 1. Quizzes:** There will be four multiple choice quizzes based on material covered in both the textbook and the lectures. Each quiz is worth 5%, for a course total of 20%. These quizzes will be written online via myClass during class time (dates are posted on page 6 of this outline). **If the decision is to use Zoom rather than Respondus, students must be connected to Zoom during these quizzes. Students who are not connected via zoom during the quizzes will be assigned a grade of 0 (zero) for that quiz.** Please refer to page 8 of this course outline for more information on missed quizzes.
- 2. Midterm and Final Exams:** The midterm and final exams will include multiple-choice questions based on material covered in both the textbook and the lectures. **The final exam will NOT be cumulative;** it will cover material from the class immediately after the midterm to the end of term. **If Respondus is not being used, you must be connected to Zoom during the midterm and final exam. Students who are not connected via zoom during the exams will be assigned a grade of 0 (zero) for those exams.** Please refer to pages 8 of this outline for more information on missing the midterm exam and/or final exam.
- 3. Participation/Attendance:** Student input during lectures is enthusiastically welcomed and strongly encouraged. Attendance will be taken every class (Zoom records attendance). **Please ensure that your full first name and last name is associated with the device that you use for zoom.** Attendance may be taken more than once during a class period. **Please note that in my courses, students who miss more than 10% of classes without an acceptable excuse may be debarred from writing the final exam.**
- 4. Online Discussions:** Various discussion questions will be posted on myClass. Grades will be based on whether the student's posts move the discussion forward and on the quality of evidence students provide to back up their response to each discussion question. Information cannot be copied and pasted from other sources (see note on plagiarism on the last page of this outline). Students are expected to contribute to these discussions by posting new threads and replying to other students' threads.

Each discussion question is graded out of 5 points; to attain full marks for this component of the overall grade, students need to accumulate 25 points (minimum participation on 5 discussions). Students may participate in more than 5 discussions.

- 5. Chapter Assignments.** There will be 15 multiple choice chapter assignments, each comprised of questions taken from the test bank of the textbook. Your marks across all the assignments will be averaged; the average mark of all the assignments is worth 10% of your overall grade. These assignments will be posted on myClass and you will answer the questions on myClass. Deadlines for each assignment is included on this course outline (page 6).
- 6. Annotated Bibliography.** Details of this assignment are provided on a separate document.

GRADING CRITERIA

Please note that most universities will not accept your course for transfer credit **IF** your grade is **less than C-**.

Alpha Grade	4-point Equivalent	Percentage Guidelines
A+	4.0	97-100
A	4.0	94-96
A-	3.7	90-93
B+	3.3	85-89
B	3.0	80-84
B-	2.7	75-79
C+	2.3	70-74
C	2.0	65-69
C-	1.7	60-64
D+	1.3	55-59
D	1.0	50-54
F	0.0	00-49

Note that each instructor may adopt unique criteria to assign final letter grades. Therefore, the criteria listed above might not be used by other instructors. Also, the grading system described on the college website and calendar is a guideline only.

COURSE SCHEDULE/**TENTATIVE** TIMELINE:

Chapter/Exam/Assignment		Lecture Date	Chapter Assignment Deadline
Chapter 1	Introduction to Forensic Psychology	January 6/11/13	January 10
Chapter 2/3	Police Psychology/Discretion	TBA	January 17 (x2)
Chapter 12	Young Offenders	January 18/20/25	January 24
Quiz 1	Chapters 1, 2, 3, 12	January 27	-
Chapter 13	Intimate Partner Violence	January 27	January 26
Chapter 14	Sexual Offenders	February 1/3	January 31
Chapter 15	Homicidal/Other Offenders	February 3/8/10/22	February 2
Reading Week	No Classes	February 15-19	Reading Week
Quiz 2	Chapters 13, 14, 15	February 22	-
Midterm	Chapters 1, 2, 3, 12, 13, 14, 15	February 24	-
Chapter 4	Deception	March 1/3	February 28
Chapter 5	Eyewitness Testimony	March 3/8	March 2
Chapter 6	Child Victims and Witnesses	March 10/15	March 9
Chapter 7	Juries	March 15/17	March 14
Quiz 3	Chapters 4, 5, 6, 7	March 17	
Chapter 8	The Role of Mental Illness	March 17/22	March 17
Annotated Bibliography		March 22	-
Chapter 9	Sentencing & Parole	March 24/29	March 23
Chapter 10	Risk Assessment	March 29/31	March 28
Chapter 11	Psychopaths	April 5/7/12	April 4
Quiz 4	Chapters 8, 9, 10, 11	April 12	-
Final Exam***	Chapters 4 to 11 inclusive	April 14-22	-

*The exact date/ time/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 22, inclusive. **DO NOT PLAN YOUR VACATION DURING THIS PERIOD**

OTHER IMPORTANT DATES

Jan 12	Last day to add courses and drop courses (UT); winter fees due
Feb 15-19	Winter Break—no classes
Mar 29	Last day to withdraw classes with a "W"
April 2	Good Friday—No classes
April 12	Last day of classes
April 14-22	Final Exam Period

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:

The college calendar has information regarding the conduct expected of students. Here are the expectations specifically for my classes:



1. **TALK TO ME IF YOU HAVE CONCERNS OR YOU ARE EXPERIENCING DIFFICULTIES THAT MAY HAVE NEGATIVE IMPACT ON YOUR ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE.** These concerns may include personal challenges or class-related issues (e.g., difficulty with material, disruptions from other students). Please know that I will keep your concerns confidential.

EXAM ACCOMODATIONS: Exam accommodations are used by any number of students whose learning disabilities affect processing and comprehending printed material, learning, and/or concentration (either due to the condition itself, or the effects of the medication which is used to treat the condition). Accommodations can also be sought by students with conditions that include, but are not limited to, mental health conditions, chronic illness, neurological disorders, visual disabilities and motor disabilities.

If you require exam accommodations due to a disability or condition, you must contact Accessibility Supports and Disability Services (via the Learning Commons Centre at GPRC). You can contact them at asds@gprc.ab.ca. Information is also available at <https://www.gprc.ab.ca/services/accessibility/>. Please note that when you contact an advisor, you will be asked to provide them with documentation supporting your request for an accommodation. After the advisors inform me of your need for accommodation, I will extend the allotted exam writing times by an appropriate amount.



2. **ZOOM EXPECTATIONS**

- A camera and microphone are mandatory; the camera must be kept on during the lectures, but the microphone should be on mute except when you wish to speak up (i.e., ask questions or make comments relevant to the lecture/class discussions).
- Your name must be displayed with your image.
- The chat feature in Zoom is to be limited to questions to the instructor or supportive comments to students-it is NOT a place to have a general text chat.
- Although lectures will be recorded, each recording will be made available ONLY to students who remotely attend the lecture at the scheduled class time (and wish to review the lecture) and to students who have an excused absence for a particular lecture.
- Students are expected to exhibit respectful behavior to the instructor, guest speakers and other students. We will discuss topics in class that may cause disagreement. It is expected that all participants will deal with such disagreements WITHOUT resorting to behaviors/comments that are dismissive, demeaning or threatening to others. Swearing and use of slurs against individuals or groups (racial, religious, gender, etc.) are unacceptable. 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 the GPRC calendar for more information regarding student conduct.



3. ATTEND CLASS (ZOOM LECTURES) AT THE SCHEDULED CLASS TIMES:

This term, all lectures will be delivered remotely at the scheduled class times via Zoom; students are expected to attend lectures at the scheduled class times via Zoom. Attendance will be taken every class and may be taken more than once each class.

Missed Lecture Material: Although notes are available on myClass, they are not complete; attendance is required to get full lecture information. If you miss a class, you are to obtain missed material by approaching a classmate, not the instructor. It would be unfair for students who miss lectures to be advantaged by getting the instructor's notes.

Missed Quizzes/Exams: Dates for the quizzes and midterm are included on page 4 of this course outline. Missed quizzes will generally not be rescheduled. If you miss 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; missed Quiz 1 or 2 will be transferred to the midterm exam, missed Quiz 3 or 4 will be transferred to the final exam. Quizzes missed for reasons that do not include verified illness, dentistry, accident, or emergency, will be assigned a "0" (zero). Holidays, employment, etc. are NOT considered to be excusable reasons to miss any exam in this course. Furthermore, quizzes missed without explanation from the student will assigned "0".

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 me—I will choose a date that is mutually convenient for me and the student). 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. Students who miss the midterm without explanation will receive 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.

If you miss the final exam 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. You will be required to provide documentation for your illness.



4. LEARN & RECORD ASSIGNMENT DEADLINES AND EXAMINATION DATES/TIMES

These dates are posted on this course outline and on myClass. You can set the notifications on myClass to remind you of upcoming assignment deadlines and exams. For the sake of fairness for ALL students, assignment deadlines will NOT be extended for those who miss an assignment. If you know that you will be away when an assignment is due, it is expected that you hand in that assignment earlier than the announced/posted date. FYI—myClass chapter assignments can started/completed before the announced/posted deadlines.



5. OUT-OF-CLASS WORK

Students are expected to prepare for each lecture by reading the assigned chapters and lecture notes that are posted in advance. Although all information in the textbook is important and interesting, limited class time prevents discussion of all the material covered in the assigned chapters. You are responsible for learning the material covered in the assigned chapters, including material that is not discussed in class.

STATEMENT ON PLAGIARISM AND CHEATING:

Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated and there will be penalties. For a more precise definition of plagiarism and its consequences, refer to the Student Conduct section of the College Calendar at <http://www.gprc.ab.ca/programs/calendar/> or the College Policy on Student Misconduct: Plagiarism and Cheating at <https://www.gprc.ab.ca/about/administration/policies>

**Note: all Academic and Administrative policies are available on the same page.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Student Rights and Responsibilities Policy: Please refer to college's website <https://www.gprc.ab.ca/about/administration/policies/> to access this link.

Friendship Centre: The Friendship Centre at Grande Prairie Regional College provides a space for all students to meet, do homework, retrieve or leave messages, obtain community resources material, or just relax. The on-campus Friendship Centre is available for sharing circles, gatherings, study groups, and tutoring sessions. Everyone is welcome.

Campus Security: You should be aware that GPRC is no safer than the rest of Grande Prairie. Attacks on campus, as well as theft and vandalism have been occurring with increasing frequency. For your safety, Campus Security will provide a 24-hour Safe Walk service anywhere on campus. Call 780-539-2700 or use the blue phones on campus.

Learning Commons: The Learning Commons is available to all students who wish to improve their academic skills and ability to learn.

You can access information about the Learning Commons via:

- https://www.gprc.ab.ca/learning_commons/
- learningcommons@gprc.ab.ca
- 780-539-2939