



**Department of Arts and Education
Course Outline—Winter 2012
PY3950 Forensic Psychology 3 credits(3-0-0) UT 45 Hours**

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Office Hours: Mondays 1:00 – 2:00 or by appointment

PREREQUISITES: PY1040 and PY1050

REQUIRED TEXT: Pozzulo, J., Bennell, C., & Forth, A. (2012). *Forensic psychology* (3rd 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

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 16 and April 26, 2012

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.

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

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 16 and end by April 26**. 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 49-52 of the College Admissions Guide for more information regarding the conduct expected of students

STATEMENT ON PLAGIARISM AND CHEATING:

Please refer to pages 50 of the GPRC Admissions Guide regarding plagiarism, cheating and the resultant penalties. You may also refer to the GPRC Policies website to get more information on Plagiarism and Cheating:

<http://www.gprc.ab.ca/downloads/documents/Student%20Misconduct%20Plagiarism%20and%20Cheating.pdf>

Plagiarism and cheating are taken seriously 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 ban the use of any form of electronics (cell phones, Blackberries, iPods, scanning pens, electronic dictionaries, etc.) during class and during exams.

Exam Schedule/Tentative Lecture Schedule

Chapter/Exam/Assignment	Topic	Date
Chapter 1	Introduction to Forensic Psychology	Jan 9
Chapter 2 & 3	Police Psychology	Jan 16
Chapter 4	Deception	Jan 18
Quiz 1	Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4	January 25
Chapter 5	Eyewitness Testimony	January 25
	Research Question Due	January 30
Chapter 6	Child Victims and Witnesses	February 1
Chapter 7	Juries	February 8
Quiz 2	Chapters 5, 6, 7	February 13
Midterm Exam	Chapters 1 to 7 inclusive	February 15
Reading Week	No Classes	February 20-24
Chapter 8	Mental Illness in Court	February 27
	Reference Page Due	February 27
Chapter 9	Sentencing and Parole in Canada	March 7
Chapter 10	Domestic Violence & Sexual Offenders	March 14
	Paper Due	March 21
Chapter 11	Psychopathic Offenders	March 21
Quiz 3	Chapters 8, 9, 10	March 26
Chapter 13	Domestic Violence	March 28
Chapter 14	Sexual and Homicidal Offenders	April 4
		April 9
Quiz 4	Chapters 11, 13, 14	April 11
Final Exam***	Chapters 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14	April 16 to 26

***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 16 and 26, inclusive, SO DO NOT PLAN YOUR VACATION DURING THIS PERIOD**

FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

Student Rights and Responsibilities: Please refer to page 49-52 of the Admissions Guide regarding Student Rights and Responsibilities or refer to the college website <http://www.gprc.ab.ca/downloads/documents/StudentRightsandResponsibilities.pdf>

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 Support Centre: The Learning Support Centre is available to all students who wish to improve their academic skills and ability to learn. Students can receive help with their writing (essay structure, grammar, formatting), as well as with math and science problems. Workshops on exam anxiety, study skills, noting taking, and other important skills are also offered here. The Learning Centre is in the Library.