

# Psychology 331-001/901: Forensic Psychology 2015

**Dr. Don Dutton**

*“the proper design of public policies requires a clear and sober understanding of the nature of man, and in particular, of the extent to which that nature can be changed by plan”.*

*J.Q. Wilson Thinking About Crime*

# Psych 331 Website

- 1) Course Website:
- URL: [courses.drondutton.com](https://courses.drondutton.com)
- Enrollment Key: psyc331201508241636
- Password: Your own

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# Psychology 331 (Forensic Psychology)

- applications of psychology to the criminal justice system
- Psychological explanations for violent behaviour
- the relationship of these explanations to criminal justice policy.
- The focus of the course will be on
- 1) research on the psychology of evidence, credibility assessment, risk assessment, deterrence, domestic violence, mass and serial murderers and the criminal justice system.
- 2) the intersect of law and psychology, especially in issues such as insanity self defence pleas and battered person self defences.
- 3) Court cases involving expert testimony will be covered with a focus on psychological testimony in court.
- 4) those personality disorders that maximize likelihood of criminality ( Anti-social PD, Borderline PD, Psychopathy, Narcissistic PD, Sadistic PD)

# **Professor**

- Dr. Don Dutton [dondutton@shaw.ca](mailto:dondutton@shaw.ca)

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(office hours after class or arranged by e mail)

# Office hours

- by appointment (just e mail me [dondutton@shaw.ca](mailto:dondutton@shaw.ca)).
- If you would like to see your TAs, please email them to set up an appointment.
- if you have questions leading up to the exams, please leave time for your TAs to respond. In other words, do not email the night before and expect a response before your exam.
- Please put **'Psyc 331'** in the **subject line** of all emails to ensure a quicker response (or any response at all).
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# Teaching Assistants

- Section 901 -  
Tianyou Qiu [serenetianyouqiu@gmail.com](mailto:serenetianyouqiu@gmail.com)
- Psych 331-001
- Zachary Witkower [zakwitkower@gmail.com](mailto:zakwitkower@gmail.com)

# Course Text:

- J. Pozzulo, C. Bennell, A. Forth (2015)  
Forensic Psychology: Fourth Edition: Pearson  
Canada , Toronto
- [www.mypsychkit.com](http://www.mypsychkit.com) accompanies text but  
will not be used as exam material

# Examinations:

- **Tentative dates 2015 :**
- **Midterm:** Section 901 Wednesday October 21
- Section 001 Thursday October 22
- **Last class :** Wednesday Dec 2 (901) Thursday Dec 3 (001)
- **Final exam :** December ( date TBA ) :
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- -Both exams are of equal value (50%) of year total).
- -The format will be multiple choice
- - the final exam is not cumulative
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# Course Outline

- 1. Intro to./ History of the trial (week of September 8)
- 2. Psychology of evidence (week of September 15)
- 3. Credibility assessment ( week of September 22)
- 4. Deterrence (week of September 29)
- 5. Risk assessment (week of October 6)
- 6. Evil ( Sadism/Psychopathy) (week of October 13)
  
- << mid term exam >> (October 21 (901), 22 (001) )
  
- 7. Intimate Partner Violence (week of October 27)
- 8. The abusive personality (week of November 3)
- 9. Battered Woman/Person Self Defense (week of November 10)
- 10. Not Guilty by Reason of a Mental Defect (week of November 17)
- 11. Mass murderers (week of November 24)
- 12. Serial killers ( week of December 1)
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# Topic 1

- A brief history of the trial and the role of psychologists in court
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- Text: Chapter 1
- How did our modern legal procedures for the “trying of fact” evolve?
- When and how did psychology enter the picture?
- Current issues of free will and open court impact on legal process

# Topic 2

- Evidence- eyewitness testimony, recovered memory
- text chapter 3, 5, 6
- How reliable is eyewitness or memory testimony?

# Topic 3

- Credibility assessment
- Text: Chapter 4
  
- How does psychology assess credibility of people in court?

# Topic 4 Deterrence

- Deterrence
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- Chapters 2, 9
  
- Does punishment by the criminal justice system deter crime?

# Topic 5 Risk prediction/ forensic assessment

- Chapters 9, 10
- How accurate is the prediction of future risk in offender populations?

# Topic 6 Psychopathy and anti-social personality

- text : Chapter 11, 12

What is a psychopath? What characterises their behaviour? How do people become psychopathic? What should we do about them?

# Topic 7 Intimate partner Violence

- Text: Chapter 13
- How do research data contradict the “gender paradigm”? What alternative model do they suggest?

# Topic 8 :The Abusive Personality

- Readings on website
- What is the abusive personality? How are they formed? How should they be treated?

# Topic 9 Battered Woman/Person Self Defense

- Chapter 7
- What are the laws of self defense? How are they altered in the case of battered people?

# Topic 10 : Not Guilty by Reason of Mental Defect

- Text: Chapter 8
- What defines whether some one is not “of sound mind” and therefore not responsible for their actions?

# Topic 11 Mass murderers

- Mass murderers
- Reading on website
- What causes rare cases where people kill *en masse* (such a school shooters)? Can we predict such events?

# Topic 12 : Serial Killers

- text: Chapter 14, 15
- What is the modus operandi of a serial killer?  
Do we know how they are developed?

# Coming trials

- Ivan Henry (Vancouver) Fall 2015
- James Forcillo (Toronto) Fall 2015

# Psychology Department's Position on Academic Misconduct

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- Cheating, plagiarism, and other forms of academic misconduct are very serious concerns of the University, and the Department of Psychology has taken steps to alleviate them. In the first place, the Department has implemented software that can reliably detect cheating on multiple-choice exams by analyzing the patterns of students' responses. In addition, the Department subscribes to *TurnItIn*--a service designed to detect and deter plagiarism. All materials (term papers, lab reports, etc.) that students submit for grading will be scanned and compared to over 5 billion pages of content located on the Internet or in TurnItIn's own proprietary databases. The results of these comparisons are compiled into customized "Originality Reports" containing several, sensitive measures of plagiarism; instructors receive copies of these reports for every student in their class.
- In all cases of suspected academic misconduct, the parties involved will be pursued to the fullest extent dictated by the guidelines of the University. Strong evidence of cheating or plagiarism may result in a zero credit for the work in question. According to the University Act (section 61), the President of UBC has the right to impose harsher penalties including (but not limited to) a failing grade for the course, suspension from the University, cancellation of scholarships, or a notation added to a student's transcript.
- All graded work in this course, unless otherwise specified, is to be original work done independently by individuals. Do **not** use Google/Yahoo/MSN Search/etc. to find articles for assignments in this course. **Do** use any of the indexes and databases listed under Indexes and Databases, Subject Resources, OneSearch or Metasearch on the Library's website at <http://www.library.ubc.ca>. (Not sure which index to use? Click HELP on the library homepage at [www.library.ubc.ca](http://www.library.ubc.ca) or try Subject Resources.)
- If you have any questions as to whether or not what you are doing is even a borderline case of academic misconduct, please consult your instructor. For details on pertinent University policies and procedures, please see Chapter 5 in the UBC Calendar (<http://students.ubc.ca/calendar>).