PSYCHOLOGY 331
Introduction to Forensic Psychology
Fall 2017
Wednesday 7:00 – 10:00PM
Location: Buchanan A 102

CONTACT INFORMATION

INSTRUCTOR: DR. CATHERINE WILSON
EMAIL: Catherine.Wilson@ubc.ca
OFFICE HOURS: BY APPOINTMENT

TEACHING ASSISTANT: MAX JATIVA
EMAIL: mjativa@psych.ubc.ca
OFFICE: 2136 WEST MALL, ROOM 2405
OFFICE HOURS: BY APPOINTMENT

PLEASE INCLUDE PSYC331 IN SUBJECT LINE WHEN EMAILING INSTRUCTOR OR TA. WE WILL STRIVE TO RESPOND TO ALL EMAILS WITHIN 24 HOURS (48 HOURS ON WEEKENDS/HOLIDAYS).

OVERVIEW

We will examine the ways in which the fields of psychology and law interact with one another. The focus is on the application of psychology to the criminal justice system, and concepts and research methodologies to understand human behaviour in the legal context. Students will explore the major areas of interest shared by psychology and law. Topics covered include (but not limited to): psychologists and the legal system, competency and fitness to stand trial, eyewitness identification, jury selection, the insanity defence, and forensic assessment.

MATERIALS

Required Text:
Forensic Psychology (5th ed.) by Joanna Pozzulo, Craig Bennell, & Adelle Forth. The text will be supplemented by articles from a variety of journals.

Website:
This course will make use of Connect (http://www.connect.ubc.ca) to provide links to online materials, make course announcements, provide lecture notes, post grades, and post other relevant information. Please ensure that this course is registered under your My Connect account. It is your responsibility to check in regularly for important updates and announcements.
PREREQUISITE

Either (a) Psych 100 or (b) Psyc 101, Psyc 102 or (c) 6 credits of 200-level psychology (but not Psych 205 or 263)

EVALUATION

Your grade in this course is based on a number of components (see below). PLEASE NOTE: It is YOUR responsibility to know all the assigned reading material, as we will not review all topics in lecture. Similarly, information presented in the lectures and videos may cover issues that are not addressed in the text.

Class Attendance: Students are expected to attend classes, to have read the course material before each class, and be prepared to discuss these readings in class. Attendance will not be taken and no marks will not be given or subtracted from a students’ grade; however, active participation in the class will enhance the learning experience.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COMPONENT</th>
<th>WEIGHT</th>
<th>DETAILS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CRITICAL QUESTIONS</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>Prior to two (2) classes this term, you will email a question to the instructor (<a href="mailto:catherine.wilson@ubc.ca">catherine.wilson@ubc.ca</a>). The question will be relevant to the topic to be covered in the following class and will demonstrate your critical thinking of the topic. I will integrate some of the questions within my lecture (note: grading not based on whether your question is discussed in class). Please make the subject line of your email ”Psyc331 Critical Question” so it is not missed. Due: Any 2 weeks of your choice – must be submitted by email (<a href="mailto:Catherine.wilson@ubc.ca">Catherine.wilson@ubc.ca</a>) by 7pm the night before lecture (i.e., Tuesday).</td>
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<tr>
<td>THOUGHT PAPER</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>Topic: False confessions. Using our lecture discussion and textbook material, you will write a 1-2 page paper identifying at least 2 risk factors for making a false confession (a specific case will be presented) and your opinion/perspective/experience. Due: Oct. 4, 2017 (7:00pm) - must be submitted to Turnitin.com</td>
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<tr>
<td>MIDTERM EXAM</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>The midterm exam will consist of multiple-choice questions. You are responsible for all material covered in the required readings and in class. Midterm Exam: Oct. 18, 2017 (7:00pm)</td>
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<tr>
<td>MEDIA CRITIQUE</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>Pick a forensic psychology topic and apply what you have learned about the topic to an episode of a fictional legal television show. Write a paper (4 PAGES MAX) critiquing the extent to which the media portrayal of forensic psychology is (in)accurate as per research on the topic. Due: Nov. 15, 2017 (7:00pm) - must be submitted to Turnitin.com</td>
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<tr>
<td>FINAL EXAM</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>The Final exam is non-cumulative (i.e., it will only test material covered since the midterm exam). It will include multiple-choice questions. Final Exam: TBD (during Final Exam Period: Dec. 5 – Dec. 20)</td>
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Extra credit (optional)

You may earn up to 3% extra credit that will be added to your final grade. These extra credit points can be earned by doing up to three hours of study participation in the HSP (or summarizing three journal articles for the library option) as described below as the research experience component of the course.
Participate in the Psychology Department Human Subjects Pool

Most students will choose to earn their research experience component by spending **two hours participating in psychology studies (worth 1% point for each hour)** through the Department of Psychology’s Human Subject Pool (HSP) system. You can locate, create an account, and sign up for studies by going to [https://hsp.psych.ubc.ca](https://hsp.psych.ubc.ca). **Please register in the system by the end of the first month of classes to have the opportunity to earn your first ½ hour credit with a brief online survey that will increase your eligibility for more studies.**

Once registered in the system, you will be able to browse through and select which studies you wish to participate in, sign up for an available timeslot, and confirm your accumulated credits afterward. At the end of the last day of class for the term, the subject pool is closed. At that point, you will no longer be able to receive credits. I strongly urge you to participate in and confirm your credits long before the last week of class. Further instruction on how to use the HSP online system can be found at [http://www.psych.ubc.ca/resguide.psy](http://www.psych.ubc.ca/resguide.psy) in the document entitled “Subject Pool Information for Participants.”

**Alternative assignment:**

**The Library Option**

As an alternative to participation in psychology subject pool experiments, you may complete a library-writing project. Such projects consist of reading and summarizing 1) the research question, 2) the methods and 3) the results (in written form) of a research article from the peer reviewed journal *Psychological Science*. You will receive one (1) research participation credit for each article summary that meets the following requirements.

Requirements:

- The article must have been published in the journal titled “*Psychological Science*”
- The article must have a publication date from the year 2000 to present (i.e. papers from 2001 are acceptable; those from 1999 or earlier are not)
- The article must be a research article; it cannot be a review article, a news item, a notice, or a letter to the editor, for example
- The summary should be approximately 500 words in length
- You must include your name, student number, course, section, instructor and email address on each summary
- You must log on to the Human Subject Pool system ([http://hsp.psych.ubc.ca/](http://hsp.psych.ubc.ca/)) and create an account before submitting your article summaries. Your credit is assigned using the online system.

For each course, you may obtain the same number of extra credits via the library option as specified in the course syllabus (i.e. the same number of credits available for students who participate in research).

**Summaries must be submitted no later than 10 days before the end of classes.**

You are to submit your article and your summary to turnitin.com. If you don’t have a turnitin account already (from a previous course), you will need to create a user account in Turnitin. For the library assignment the **class ID is 6880064, class name is Library Option for HSP, and password is research**. See [www.turnitin.com](http://www.turnitin.com), and click on the “Training” link at the top of the page for detailed instructions on how to submit papers to Turnitin.

Any student who is suspected of plagiarism will, at a minimum, not be granted credit, and their course instructor will be notified. Further action may be taken at a departmental or university level.
MISSED EXAMS/LATE ASSIGNMENTS

The University accommodates students: 1) with disabilities who have registered with the Disability Resource Centre and 2) whose religious obligations conflict with attendance and examinations. Please let your instructor know in advance (by the end of the first week of class) if you will require any special requirements. A person who misses an exam for an unexpected illness or event must contact the instructor as soon as possible. Appropriate documentation regarding the reason for your absence (e.g., doctor's note) is required. Students who plan to miss exams or assignments for other reasons (e.g., vacation, work scheduling, etc.) will not be accommodated.

The thought paper and written assignment are due at the start of class on the due date. A late penalty of 10% per day (including weekends and holidays) will be strictly enforced. Written assignments submitted more than one week (7 days, including weekends and holidays) after the due date will not be graded. Extensions are granted only in cases of unanticipated absences.

LETTER GRADES

This course uses the Standard UBC Letter Grading Scale:

- 80-100 A
- 68-79 B
- 55-57 C
- 50-54 D
- 00-49 F

Psychology Department’s Policy on Grade Distribution and Scaling

In order to reduce grade inflation and maintain equity across multiple course sections, all psychology courses are required to comply with departmental norms regarding grade distributions. According to departmental norms, the mean grade in a 300-level class is 70 for a good class, 68 for an average class, and 66 for a weak class, with a standard deviation of 13. Scaling is likely to be used in order to comply with these norms; grades may be scaled up or down as necessary by the instructor or department. Grades are not official until they appear on a student’s academic record.

ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

Psychology Department’s Position on Academic Misconduct

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 must submit for grading will be scanned and compared to over 4.5 billion pages of content located on the internet or 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. 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) and read the University’s Policy 69 (available at http://universitycounsel.ubc.ca/files/2010/08/policy69.pdf).

OTHER RESOURCES

Accommodations for Disabilities: Reasonable accommodations will be made for students with verifiable disabilities. Students who require academic accommodations and support due to a disability or ongoing medical condition must register with Access and Diversity (http://students.ubc.ca/success/student-supports/academic-accommodations; 604-822-5844).

UBC Policies and Procedures: The UBC Academic Calendar is a comprehensive guide to all programs, courses, services, and policies at UBC, including academic policies and procedures (http://www.calendar.ubc.ca/).

WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS

Developing writing skills is an important component of university education. The 2 assigned writing components will provide you practice in writing and assist you in becoming a more proficient writer.

THOUGHT PAPER

Purpose: Understand the assigned topic (False Confessions) by applying concepts discussed in class and from the text in a less formal paper.

In class, we will discuss different types of false confessions and risk factors for making a false confession. We will also review cases that resulted in false confessions. Following our class discussion, you will write a thought paper (1-2 pages, double spaced) that identifies at least 2 risk factors associated in the false confessions for a specific case (to be discussed in class). You will also provide evidence of thought/reflection/argument/opinion/personal perspective to your paper. A thought paper can be written in more of an informal style and you do not need to follow APA guidelines (required for Media Critique); however, you must still use good academic writing style (proper spelling, grammar).
MEDIA CRITIQUE

Purpose: (1) Apply what you have learned in forensic psychology course, and (2) consider the screen media’s effect on people’s understanding of forensic issues.

Pick a topic within the area of psychology and law (e.g., eye witness, jury selection, line-up identification, etc.) and apply what you have learned about the topic to an episode of a fictional legal television show of your choice. Write a paper (maximum 4 pages in length, double-spaced) critiquing the extent to which the media portrayal is in line with, or diverges from, the psychological research on the topic.

Your critique should include the following sections:

1. **Introduction.** The introductory paragraph presents the topic you will discuss and television show you will critique. (~1/2 page)

2. **Psychological Literature Review.** The introduction should be followed by a literature review that provides an overview of the recent psychological research and theory relevant to the topic. You must include at least 2 empirical peer-reviewed psychology research articles on the topic to demonstrate the current understanding/acceptable practice in the field. Course readings may be used as additional reference. (~2 pages)

3. **Media Portrayal.** Next, provide a summary of how the topic is represented in the television show and whether the show provides an accurate or inaccurate portrayal of the topic (as per the literature reviewed in the previous section). (~1 page)

4. **Conclusion.** Your concluding paragraph should summarize the key points that you have made in your paper and discuss the potential implications (e.g., for the criminal justice system, legal decision-making, society). (~1/2 page)

The media critique must be submitted via Connect by (20%).

**SUBMISSION GUIDELINES FOR WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS**

Nearly all manuscripts and published works in Psychology follow a standard set of conventions outlined by the American Psychological Association. The media critique must be written in a format consistent with the guidelines set out in *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association* (6th edition, 2010). Papers must be double-spaced, typed in Times New Roman font size 12, with 1-inch margins on all four sides. The website is a useful guide regarding how to format your papers in APA style: [https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/](https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/)

Submitted assignments must include a title page and reference page (not included in page limits). Give the full reference for any cited article, including name of author(s), title of the article, title of the journal, year, volume, and page numbers (see APA guide for details). The library has a useful handout that summarizes APA citation procedures ([http://wiki.ubc.ca/images/6/6f/Apastyle.pdf](http://wiki.ubc.ca/images/6/6f/Apastyle.pdf)). The title page should include your name, student ID number, course number, instructor and TA’s name. Spelling and grammar will be considered in evaluating all written work.
Student Account Setup

To submit your papers on www.turnitin.com, you will need to create a unique user profile, consisting of a username (e-mail address) and password.

In order to protect your privacy, please follow these instructions.

1. Create an anonymous email address using one of the available free services.
3. At the top right, go to Create Account and select Student.
4. Enter the Class ID (16187237) and Enrolment Password (Psyc331) given to you by your instructor.
5. Create an alias or pseudonym. Please remember to let your instructor know your alias.

You can submit a paper in two ways:

- File Upload - Turnitin currently accepts submissions in Microsoft Word, WordPerfect, RTF, PDF, PostScript, plain text, and HTML formats.
- Cut and Paste - You can cut and paste the text of your submission into a text box.

Removing Identifying Information:

Please delete any identifying information from the original document prior to uploading it. This includes your name and student number in the document, as well as any metadata or hidden data that might be stored in the document itself.

To remove metadata from your Microsoft Word document:

- Windows: You can remove the hidden data by using Microsoft Word's Document Inspector.
- Mac: You can remove the hidden data by clicking on Word > Preferences > Security, then selecting Remove personal information from this file on save.

ADDITIONAL COURSE INFORMATION

Classroom Participation and Etiquette

Comments and questions are welcome in class! Discussion is an important component of the learning process. Thoughts and opinions are welcome and should be shared in a respectful manner. Similarly, please be respectful and supportive of your classmates’ contribution to a discussion. With that said, we have a great deal of information to cover in limited time and we have a relatively large class, at times I may need to end a class discussion to continue on with the course material. If that happens, I will try to come back to the topic if time provides.

In consideration of your classmates’, please turn off your cellphones during class. The use of laptops is accepted, but please do not distract your classmates by surfing the Internet, using Facebook, playing games, etc.
Communication with the Instructor and TA – Email Etiquette

In your email, please include a meaningful subject line and the course number. Use standard spelling and grammar; text message language, abbreviations, etc., are not acceptable. We will make every effort to respond to your email as soon as possible (please note that we tend to receive a greater number of emails around exam times, so plan accordingly). Prior to emailing us, you are encouraged to check the course syllabus, the course website or ask a classmate – you may find that the answer is easily available and you won’t have to wait for us!
## COURSE SCHEDULE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CLASS</th>
<th>TOPIC</th>
<th>REQUIRED READINGS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(1) Sept. 6</td>
<td>Course Syllabus&lt;br&gt;Introduction to Forensic Psychology and Canadian Legal System</td>
<td>Chapter 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(3) Sept. 20</td>
<td>Police Psychology</td>
<td>Chapter 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(4) Sept. 27</td>
<td>Police Investigations, Interrogations &amp; Confessions</td>
<td>Chapter 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(5) Oct. 4</td>
<td>Eyewitnesses&lt;br&gt;Deception&lt;br&gt;*THOUGHT PAPER DUE (before class)</td>
<td>Chapters 5 &amp; 6&lt;br&gt;Chapter 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(6) Oct. 11</td>
<td>Juries, Sentencing &amp; Parole</td>
<td>Chapter 7, 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(7) Oct. 18</td>
<td>*MIDTERM EXAM&lt;br&gt;NCRMD</td>
<td>Chapter 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(8) Oct. 25</td>
<td>Risk Assessment</td>
<td>Chapter 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(9) Nov. 1</td>
<td>Homicidal offenders</td>
<td>Chapter 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(10) Nov. 8</td>
<td>Juvenile Offenders</td>
<td>Chapter 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(11) Nov. 15</td>
<td>Intimate Partner Violence&lt;br&gt;*TERM PAPER DUE</td>
<td>Chapter 13</td>
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<tr>
<td>(12) Nov. 22</td>
<td>Sex Offenders</td>
<td>Chapter 14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(13) Nov. 29</td>
<td>Psychopathy</td>
<td>Chapter 11</td>
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*Subject to modification

FINAL EXAM: TBD (during Final Exam Period Dec. 5 - 20)