

| Course Outline (Day class): Winter of 2008-09 | |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| Tues, Wed, Fri. 12:30-1:20 pm | Instructor: Dr. R. B. Day |
| January 5th - April 7th, 2009 | Office: Psych Bldg, Room 404 |
| Room: TSH-120 | Phone: 525-9140 ext. 23006 |
| Email: dayrich@mcmaster.ca | |

Required Text: Pozzulo, Bennell, & Forth. *Forensic Psychology, 2nd Edition*. Pearson Education Canada.

Course Objectives: The goals of the the course are to familiarize students with the nature and scope of forensic psychology, to describe in more detail some of the specific responsibilities and activities of forensic psychologists, and to acquaint students with the theory and empirical evidence that guide forensic psychologists in their work within the legal system.

Course Topics: The table below shows the topics we will cover in this course, and the order in which we will discuss them. The specific weeks in which we will cover these topics may vary from the dates given below, depending on how deep and active our discussion of each topic becomes (and/or how long-winded I become), so take the dates below as approximate and subject to revision.

| Week of | Topic | Funder Readings |
|-------------------------------|---|--|
| Jan. 5 | Introduction to Forensic Psychology | Chapt. 1; Chapt 2 ** |
| Jan. 12 Jan. 19 Jan. 26 | Eyewitness Testimony: Interview and Interrogation Procedures, Detecting Deception | Chapt. 4 (pp. 89-105); Chapt. 5 (pp. 125-148); Chapt. 6 See note below table |
| * Feb. 2 Feb. 9 Feb. 23 | Profiling in Criminal Psychology | Chapt. 4 (pp. 106-121); Chapt. 12 |
| Mar. 2 Mar. 9 | The Psychology of Juries | Chapt. 8 |
| * Mar. 16 Mar. 23 | Assessment of Competence, Criminal Responsibility, Risk of Violence | Chapt. 9; Chapt. 11 |
| Mar. 30 Apr. 5 | Psychopathy | Chapt. 12 (pp. 386-395) |
| Exam Period | Final Examination | |

** Chapters in **Blue** will not be covered in their entirety (if at all) in lectures, but will be covered on the tests and exam.

Note: When pages in parentheses follow a Chapter number, that means that only those pages in the preceding chapter are assigned reading.

Course Evaluation: There will be two non-cumulative in-class tests, each worth 30% of your total course mark, and a cumulative final exam worth 40% of your course mark. In-class tests will contain 30-40 multiple-choice questions, and you will have approximately 45 minutes to complete each test. The final exam will take place during the April examination period. It will consist of 80 questions, which you will have two hours to complete. The tentative dates for the two in-class tests are listed below:

Test #1: Thursday, February 7th

Test #2: Thursday, March 20th

Final Exam: Saturday, April 26th

The actual dates of the in-class tests will depend on the availability of additional testing rooms (if required), and will be announced in class - and posted on the course website - at least 10 days prior to the actual test date. **IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO MAKE SURE THAT YOU GET THIS INFORMATION.**

Missed Work: If you miss one of the in-class tests for documented medical or compassionate reasons, you should complete a Missed Work form in the office of the Associate Dean (Studies) of your Faculty. Once your Associate Dean has accepted your reasons for absence, the remaining in-class test and the final exam will be reweighted (40% and 60%, respectively) to cover the missed in-class test.

Final Grade Calculation and Adjustment: The final mark in Psych 3CC3 will be computed by applying the following formula to the percentage scores on Test1, Test2 and the Final Exam:

$$(\text{Test1} \times .30) + (\text{Test2} \times .30) + (\text{Exam} \times .40) = \text{Final Course mark}$$

Apart from excused absences from an in-class test, every student will be assessed using the weighting formula shown above - with one exception: In assigning final letter grades for the course I look at the pattern of performance over the two in-class tests and the final exam. If the overall average, as calculated by the formula above, is on the borderline of the next higher letter grade (e.g. 49%, 66%, or 84%) and if the marks on both the final exam and one in-class test are at the next higher level (e.g., D-, C+, A), then I will assign the next higher letter grade. Apart from this one final adjustment, final course grades in Psych 3CC3 are not raised unless they have been calculated incorrectly.

Academic Integrity and Academic Dishonesty: Academic dishonesty consists of misrepresentation by deception or by other fraudulent means and can result in serious consequences, e.g. the grade of zero on an assignment, loss of credit with a notation on the transcript (notation reads: "Grade of F assigned for academic dishonesty"), and/or suspension or expulsion from the university.

It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty. For information on the various kinds of academic dishonesty please refer to the Academic Integrity Policy, specifically Appendix 3, located at http://www.mcmaster.ca/senate/academic/ac_integrity.htm

The following illustrates only three forms of academic dishonesty:

1. Copying or using unauthorized aids on tests and examinations.
2. Plagiarism, e.g. the submission of work that is not one's own or for which other credit has been obtained.
3. Improper collaboration in group work.