

Psych 3CC3 – Forensic Psychology – Summer 2016

Course Information

<i>Instructor:</i>	Tyler Pollock
<i>Contact:</i>	polloctj@mcmaster.ca
<i>Office Hours:</i>	PC 152, by appointment
<i>Lectures:</i>	BSB 147, Mon & Wed 6:00 – 9:00 PM
<i>Required Textbook:</i>	Pozzulo, Bennell, and Forth. Forensic Psychology, Fourth Edition. Pearson Education Canada.

Course Objectives

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

Evaluations

1) Avenue Quizzes – 10% of Final Grade

Five short quizzes will be made available online via Avenue on certain Wednesdays throughout the term. These quizzes are not cumulative and cover material from the lectures (not textbook readings) since the last quiz. Students are expected to complete these quizzes before the start of the lecture on the following Monday (see schedule below).

2) Midterm Test – 30% of Final Grade – Wednesday July 13

The midterm test will be held at the beginning of the regularly scheduled meeting on Wednesday July 13 and will cover lectures 1–6 and the corresponding textbook readings.

3) Assignment – 15% of Final Grade – Wednesday July 20

The requirements for this assignment are described in detail in a separate document. Students will read an assigned scientific research article on a specific topic in forensic psychology and then critically evaluate this article.

4) Final Examination – 45% of Final Grade – Wednesday August 3

The cumulative final examination will be held during the regularly scheduled meeting on Wednesday August 3 and will cover all lectures and textbook readings, with emphasis on material not previously tested.

Schedule of Lecture Topics, Readings, and Evaluations

Day	Date	Topic	Textbook Readings	Evaluations
Mon	June 20	Introduction	Chapter 1	
Wed	June 22	Interview and Interrogation	Chapter 3 (58-77)	Quiz 1 Released
Mon	June 27	Detecting Deception	Chapter 4 (92-112)	Quiz 1 Due
Wed	June 29	Eyewitness Testimony I	Chapter 5 & Chapter 6 (154-173)	Quiz 2 Released
Mon	July 04	Eyewitness Testimony II Criminal Profiling I	Chapter 3 (78-90)	Quiz 2 Due
Wed	July 06	Criminal Profiling II	Chapter 3 (78-90)	Quiz 3 Released
Mon	July 11	The Psychology of Juries I	Chapter 7	Quiz 3 Due
Wed	July 13			Midterm Test
Mon	July 18	The Psychology of Juries II	Chapter 7	
Wed	July 20	Assessment of Competence	Chapter 8	Assignment Quiz 4 Released
Mon	July 25	Risk of Violence	Chapter 10	Quiz 4 Due
Wed	July 27	Psychopathy	Chapter 11	Quiz 5 Released
Mon	August 01	<i>Civic Holiday - No Class</i>		Quiz 5 Due
Wed	August 03			Final Examination

General Policies

Students are expected to attend lecture regularly. Some information that is not available in assigned readings will be given in lectures, and vice versa. Lecture slides will be posted online; however, they may not contain all information presented in lecture. Students are responsible for both lecture material and assigned readings.

The midterm test can **only** be written at the time indicated, so plan to attend. There can normally be no make-up tests or special sessions for any student. If you are absent from the university for a minor medical reason, lasting fewer than 3 days, you may report your absence, once per term, without documentation, using the McMaster Student Absence Form (MSAF). Absences for a longer duration or for other reasons must be reported to your Faculty or Program office, with documentation, and relief from term work may not necessarily be granted. When using the MSAF, report your absence to polloctj@mcmaster.ca within two working days. You then may be granted relief for the missing course evaluation component as described below. Please note that the MSAF may not be used for the midterm test or the final examination. If absence from a midterm test is approved, the final examination will be reweighted to 75% of the final grade. If absence from the assignment deadline is approved, an extension will be granted on a case-by-case basis. No penalties will be applied to assignments submitted late with approval. No assignments will be accepted after the deadline without approval. The tests and examination may consist of questions in diverse formats, including true-false, multiple choice, short answer, and essay questions, at the instructor's discretion. Grades will be assigned according to the following convention: 90-100% = A+, 85-89% = A, 80-84% = A-, 77-79% = B+, 73-76% = B, 70-72% = B-, 67-69% = C+, 63-66% = C, 60-62% = C-, 57-59% = D+, 53-56% = D, 50-52% = D-, 0-49% = F. Appeal procedures for grading of the midterm tests are strictly structured and involve a written submission with a deadline approximately one week following the return of graded tests in class, as will be explained by the instructor.

The instructor and university reserve the right to modify elements of the course during the term. The university may change the dates and deadlines for any courses in extreme circumstances. If either type of modification becomes necessary, reasonable notice and communication with the students will be given with explanation and the opportunity to comment on changes. It is the responsibility of the student to check their McMaster email and the Avenue course page frequently during the term and to note any changes.

Attention is drawn to the Statement on Academic Ethics and the Senate Resolutions on 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 a test or assignment, loss of credit with a notation on the transcript, 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 (<https://www.mcmaster.ca/policy/Students-AcademicStudies/AcademicIntegrity.pdf>).