

# PSYO 480F-001: Advanced Special Topics – Psychological Assessment and Treatment within Forensic Settings

## INSTRUCTOR

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## OFFICE LOCATION

ART 274C

## OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday, Friday 10:30-11:30

## COURSE OVERVIEW

In this course we will review the contemporary history and development of clinical practice and research within the criminal justice system. We will examine the advancements in the field across a variety of offender groups, including the unique challenges of, and progress within, each area. Throughout the course, there will be an emphasis on the integration of research and practice into the ever-changing landscape of the criminal justice system. Overall, the purpose of the course is to provide senior students with a critical and constructive framework to understand the past, present and future direction of forensic assessment and treatment within the criminal justice system.

## REQUIRED TEXT

Psychology of Criminal Behavior: A Canadian Perspective—3<sup>rd</sup> Edition (2024)  
*Shelly Brown, Mark Olver, Kelly Babchishin & Adelle Forth*

## Course Break Down/ Marking

This Course is evaluated through completion of the Final exam, the Mid-term exam, and through the completion of three separate “Thought Papers”.

**Thought papers** are expected to range from three to six pages. Students are graded on their understanding of the material and issues at hand, their creativity, their critical and constructive thoughts, and on their academic writing ability to convey thoughts in a clear and effective manner. Citations of supporting research (even cited from the textbook) are encouraged. Topics for the thought paper are presented at the end of class, and due by the start of the following class. A student will select and complete three thought papers, each worth 10% (3 X 10% = 30%). Topics are presented on May 15, 17, 21, 22, 24, 28, 29 and June 4, 5, 7, 11, 12, 14 and 18.

The Midterm Exam (May 31st) is worth 30% of your final mark and will test your comprehension of the material from the beginning of the course until Correctional Treatment (Part II). If you choose to complete a thought paper on this topic it will be due at the beginning of the exam.

The Final Exam (TBD) will be worth 40% of your final mark and based on the entire course.

### Course Schedule

	Tuesday	Wednesday	Friday
<b>Week 1</b>	<p>May 14<sup>th</sup>: <u>Introduction to course</u></p> <p>No assigned readings necessary for this day.</p>	<p>May 15<sup>th</sup>: <u>The Canadian Justice system and the professionals who work within it</u></p> <p>Assigned readings for this day is Chapter 1.</p>	<p>May 17: <u>Understanding Criminal Behavior (Contributions from the Nature versus Nurture perspectives)</u></p> <p>Assigned readings necessary for this day (Chapter 2 and Chapter 3). Note: Assignment from Wednesday (May 14<sup>th</sup>) can be handed in at start of class</p>
<b>Week 2</b>	<p>May 21<sup>st</sup>: <u>The Risk Assessment for Violence; Introduction of risk measures and Psychopathy (Part I).</u></p> <p>Assigned readings necessary for this day (Chapter 8 and Chapter 11). Note: Assignment form Friday (May 17th) can be handed in at start of class</p>	<p>May 22<sup>nd</sup>: <u>The Risk Assessment for Violence; Introduction of risk measures and Psychopathy (Part II).</u></p> <p>Assigned readings necessary for this day (Chapter 8 and Chapter 11). Note: Assignment from Tuesday (May 21st) can be handed in at start of class.</p>	<p>May 24<sup>th</sup>: <u>The Risk Assessment for Sexual Offending.</u></p> <p>Assigned readings necessary for this day (Chapter 12). Note: Assignment from Wednesday (May 22<sup>nd</sup>) can be handed in at start of class</p>
<b>Week 3</b>	<p>May 28<sup>th</sup>: <u>Correctional Treatment (Part I).</u></p> <p>Assigned readings necessary for this day (Chapter 4). Note: Assignment from Friday (May 24<sup>th</sup>) can be handed in at start of class</p>	<p>May 29<sup>th</sup>: <u>Correctional Treatment (Part II).</u></p> <p>Assigned readings necessary for this day (Chapter 4). Note: Assignment from Tuesday (May 28th) can be handed in at start of class</p>	<p>May 31<sup>st</sup>: MIDTERM EXAM</p> <p>Note: Assignment from Wednesday (May 29<sup>th</sup>) can be handed in at start of class.</p>

