

Forensic Psychology

PSYO 355 : September to December, 2024

Contact Information:

Dr. Michael Woodworth (he, him) | ASC205 | 250-807-8731

Email: Michael.Woodworth@ubc.ca **(Canvas messenger monitored by TA's)**

Office Hours: **Arrange by email and we can zoom or meet in person or phone**

Class: 11:00AM-2:00PM Monday ASC 140

TAs (The Forensic Dream Teamin):

The AMAZING – Mercedes Yeast, M.A. (myeast@student.ubc.ca)

The AMAZING – Lily Krank, BA, Hons (lkrank@student.ubc.ca)

The AMAZING – Cassandra Roul. BSC, Hons (kroul@student.ubc.ca)

Course Description:

The goal of this course is to provide students with an understanding of the basic areas of forensic psychology. This will include an initial overview and history of the field. Further it will consider the contributions of theory and research in a variety of areas such as deception detection, interrogations and confessions, juries, police, as well as memory. Finally, with each passing year, an ever increasing special consideration of fast emerging technologies (such as deep fakes) within the context of the legal system. The potential applied value of these (and other) areas of research will also be considered. *By the end of each term of Forensic Psychology (both 355 & 356) the goal is for students to provide enough knowledge and insight into each of the key areas outlined below in the weekly schedule that they would be sworn in as an expert witness in that area to help advise the courts in a legally relevant case.*

Suggested Reading:

Pozzulo/Bennell/Forth - Forensic Psychology, 6/e, 6th edition (2022)

Required Readings:

Beginning in week 2 (September 18th), the instructor will assign two recent journal articles that are relevant to the following week topic. All articles will be available on Psych Info, a database accessed through the UBCO Library. You may also follow this link <https://resources.library.ubc.ca/page.php?id=71>, and may have to use your CWL.

Course Format:

The course is intended to be in-person and live. However, it is **incredibly important** to note that if you are feeling unwell (or have received a COVID diagnosis) to not attend class

Prerequisites:

Students must have completed PSYO 111 & 121, as well as **6 credits** of second year psychology.

Course Grading Scheme

Midterm [40%]

Before the final exam students will write one midterm exam. This will consist of multiple choice questions based on information that has been covered in the class (including the assigned readings) up until the exam. **It will be up to 1.5 hours long and will take place from 11AM on October 28.** Students who miss their midterm exam without justification and documentation will receive a grade of 0%.

Final Exam [60%]

The final exam will consist of multiple-choice questions related to areas that have been covered in the class. While the final exam this semester is theoretically cumulative, there will be a **MUCH** heavier emphasis on the material learned after the midterm exam. Your final exam date is set by the Registrar's office and will be December between December 9th – 20th.

Paper [25%] **OPTIONAL**

There will be one OPTIONAL major assigned paper. This will be an empirical research paper *no longer than 4 single spaced pages (or 8 double spaced) without references*. It must focus in a clear and concise manner on a topic covered in PSYO 355 (or you can discuss other ideas with your Professor or TAs). Papers longer than above guidelines **will not be accepted**. There is no official limit for the length of the reference section but please use a minimum of 8 sources and, although it is not required it is recommended that students complete an abstract as well (does not count toward page limit).

The main goal of this paper will be to examine the relevant literature in the field. If the student wishes they can propose a theory or hypothesis based on their literature review. In order to demonstrate a suitable and informed level of knowledge; the paper must include primary sources [i.e., original research articles]. It is also possible for this paper to be in the form of a short formal research proposal. You will need to obtain permission for your topic PRIOR to submitting a paper.

Papers must be written according to the American Psychological Association **7th edition format** and must be typed. All written material will be assessed both for content and style. While I expect all work to be your own, this does not mean that you should not have friends or family proofread your work in order to identify errors.

This paper option is only available for the first 39 topics that are received by the instructor. The student's final exam will then count for 35% of their grade. The final day the optional paper can be handed in is by Monday November 18th. However, students are free to hand them in earlier than this date. Instructions for **digital submission** will be provided by TA's at a later date.

SONA: YES. You can receive credits up to 2% toward your grade. Please refer to Canvas for detailed information.

Schedule of Topics & Readings

Monday Sept 09	Short Introduction & Housekeeping
Monday Sept 16	Introduction, overview, and History of the field
Monday Sept 23	Canadian legal system and Roles of psychologists (Start deception?)
Monday Sept 30	**HOLIDAY**
Monday Oct 07	Deception and deceptive behavior overview
Monday Oct 14	**HOLIDAY**
Monday Oct 21	Deception continued and technology plus Interrogations and confessions
Monday Oct 28	**MIDTERM**
Monday Nov 04	Interrogations and confessions
Monday Nov 11	**READING WEEK**
Monday Nov 18	Memory and Crime
Monday Nov 25	Memory and Crime finish & Juries
Monday Dec 02	Police psychology and Emerging technology & crime

GRADING SCHEME

A+ (90-100), A (85-89), A- (80-84), B+ (76-79), B (72-75), B- (68-71), C+ (64-67), C (60-63), C- (55-59), D (50-54), F (0-49).

CLASS POLICIES AND RESOURCES

Conflicts, Late or Missed Evaluations: The following is an overview of UBCO's campus-wide policy of academic concessions. Students are asked to familiarize themselves with **full policy**, available here: <http://www.calendar.ubc.ca/okanagan/?tree=3,48,0,0>.

In sum, students may request academic concession in circumstances that may adversely affect their attendance or performance in a course or program. Generally, such circumstances fall into one of two categories: **conflicting responsibilities** and **unforeseen events**. Students with **conflicting responsibilities** have a duty to arrange their course schedules so as to avoid as much as possible any conflicts with course requirements. Students with such responsibilities are also required to discuss with their course instructor(s) at the start of each term, or as soon as a conflicting responsibility arises, any accommodation that may be requested. Students who, because of **unforeseen events** or, are absent during the term and are unable to complete tests or other graded work, should discuss with their instructors how they can make up for missed work. Instructors are not required to make allowance for any missed test or incomplete work that is not satisfactorily accounted for. Students who, because of unforeseen events, experience a prolonged absence during a term or who miss a final or term-end examination, must report to their dean or director to request academic concession as close as possible to the time when attendance is adversely affected. Full policy details are available at the provided link.

Academic Integrity and Plagiarism: The academic enterprise is founded on honesty, civility, and integrity. As members of this enterprise, all students are expected to *know, understand, and follow* the codes of conduct regarding academic integrity. At the most basic level, this means submitting only original work done by you and acknowledging all sources of information or ideas and attributing them to others as required. This also means you should not cheat, copy, or mislead others about what is your work. **Plagiarism** is the presentation of another person's work or ideas without proper or complete acknowledgement. Plagiarism can be intentional or unintentional, and includes self-plagiarism where a student submits work that is the same or substantially the same as work prepared or performed for credit in another course. Both are serious forms of academic misconduct subject to disciplinary action. In the context of this course, plagiarism and self-plagiarism are most likely to occur in the term paper assignment (your TA's will provide resources to avoid plagiarism prior to). Violations of academic integrity (i.e., misconduct) are subject to a harsh sanctions, including an assigned mark of 0% in the evaluation, and more serious consequences if the matter is referred to the President's Advisory Committee on Student Discipline. Careful records are kept in order to monitor and prevent recurrences. Formal guidelines from University of British Columbia – Okanagan academic misconduct and disciplinary measures can be found on the UBC-O Academic Calendar website: <http://okanagan.students.ubc.ca/calendar/index.cfm>.

'Submitting work under your name that has been produced with the assistance of LLMs or generative **AI** is considered **plagiarism** unless you disclose that you used these tools. This is because you would be taking credit for the work done by the LLM, and also because LLMs operate fundamentally as plagiarism engines, by reproducing (or rewording) existing pieces of writing. Students in **this** course are prohibited from using LLMs (generative AI tools or chatbots) for any stage of their assignments, including generating

ideas or rough drafts. All work is to be written independently. You cannot ask LLM, or chatbot to do the work of any part of the writing process for you-this includes producing rough draft or outline of your assignment.' (Courtesy of Dr. Mike Zajko)

Student Service Resources

UBC Okanagan Disability Resource Centre: The Disability Resource Centre ensures educational equity for students with disabilities and chronic medical conditions. If you are disabled, have an injury or illness and require academic accommodations to meet the course objectives, please contact the Disability Resource Centre located in the University Centre building. Office: UNC 215 Phone: 250.807.8053 Email: drc.questions@ubc.ca Web: www.students.ok.ubc.ca/drc

UBC Okanagan Equity and Inclusion Office: Through leadership, vision, and collaborative action, the Equity & Inclusion Office (EIO) develops action strategies in support of efforts to embed equity and inclusion in the daily operations across the campus. The EIO provides education and training from cultivating respectful, inclusive spaces and communities to understanding unconscious/implicit bias and its operation within in campus environments. UBC Policy 3 prohibits discrimination and harassment on the basis of BC's Human Rights Code. If you require assistance related to an issue of equity, educational programs, discrimination or harassment please contact the EIO. Office: UNC 325H Phone: 250.807.9291 Email: equity.ubco@ubc.ca Web: www.equity.ok.ubc.ca

Student Learning Hub: The Student Learning Hub is your go-to resource for free math, science, writing, and language learning support. The Hub welcomes undergraduate students from all disciplines and year levels to access a range of supports that include tutoring in math, sciences, languages, and writing, as well as help with study skills and learning strategies. Office: LIB 237 Phone: 250-807-8491 Email: learning.hub@ubc.ca Web: www.students.ok.ubc.ca/academic-success/learning-hub/contact/

The Global Engagement Office: The Global Engagement Office provides advising and resources to assist International students in navigating immigration, health insurance, and settlement matters, as well as opportunities for intercultural learning, and resources for Go Global experiences available to all UBC Okanagan students, and more. Come and see us – we are here to help! Office: UNC 227 Email: geo.ubco@ubc.ca Web: www.students.ok.ubc.ca/global-engagement-office

Indigenous Programs & Services: Indigenous Programs & Services provides community and culturally appropriate services and support to First Nation, Metis, and Inuit Studies. Office: UNC 210 & 212 Web: www.students.ok.ubc.ca/indigenous-students/contact

Health & Wellness: At UBC Okanagan health services to students are provided by Health and Wellness. Nurses, physicians and counsellors provide health care and counselling related to physical health, emotional/mental health and sexual/reproductive health concerns. As well, health promotion, education and research activities are provided to the campus community. If you require assistance with your health, please contact Health and Wellness for more information or to book an appointment. Office: UNC 337 Phone: 250.807.9270 Email: healthwellness.okanagan@ubc.ca Web: www.students.ok.ubc.ca/health-wellness

Office of the Ombudsperson for Students: The Office of the Ombudsperson for Students is an independent, confidential and impartial resource to ensure students are treated fairly. The Ombuds Office helps students navigate campus-related fairness concerns. They work with UBC community members individually and at the systemic level to ensure students are treated fairly and can learn, work and live in a fair, equitable and respectful environment. Ombuds helps students gain clarity on UBC policies and procedures, explore options, identify next steps, recommend resources, plan strategies and receive objective feedback to promote constructive problem solving. If you require assistance, please feel free to reach out for more information or to arrange an appointment. Office: UNC 217 Phone: 250-807-9818 Email: ombuds.office.ok@ubc.ca Web: www.ombudsoffice.ubc.ca

SAFEWALK Don't want to walk alone at night? Not too sure how to get somewhere on campus? Call Safewalk at 250-807-8076. For more information, see: www.security.ok.ubc.ca

I respectfully acknowledge that the land on which I work is the unceded territory of the Syilx (Okanagan) Peoples

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