

Forensic Psychology

PSYO 356 : January to April, 2025 (Winter, Term 2)

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: 2PM -4:40PM. COM 201

TAs (The Forensic Dream Teamin):

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

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

Course Description:

This course introduces a number of new topics at the intersection of Psychology and Law that were not previously considered in 355. 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

Required Readings:

Beginning in week 2 (Jan 13), the instructor will typically assign approximately two recent journal articles or internet articles/resources that are relevant to the current or 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 on Monday Feb 10th, 2025.** Students who miss their midterm exam without justification and documentation will receive a grade of 0%.

Final Exam [60%] EXAM PERIOD April 11th TO April 16th

The final exam will consist of multiple-choice questions related to areas that have been covered in the class. The final exam will also be **1.5 hours long** and have a **much** heavier emphasis on the material learned after the midterm exam. Your final exam date is set by the Registrar's office.

Paper [30%] **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*. This option is perhaps most suitable for students who are intending to do their honors in fourth year or planning on staying in Psychology, or a related field. However, for any student in the course prepared to put in the work it is available.

It must focus in a clear and concise manner on a topic covered in PSYO 356 (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.

The student's final exam will then count for 30% of their grade. The final day the optional paper can be handed in is by th. 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 see further below for more detailed information.

Schedule of Topics & Readings

Mon Jan 06	Introduction / Very Short Class
Mon Jan 13	Psychopathy
Mon Jan 20	Psychopathy
Mon Jan 27	Psychopathy (Neurology focus) & Dark Triad
Mon Feb 03	NCRMD
Mon Feb 10	**MIDTERM**
Mon Feb 17	READING WEEK : RUN FREE
Mon Feb 24	NCRMD
Mon Mar 03	NCRMD + Short homicide section
Mon March 10	Sex offenders
Mon March 17	Sex offenders (MAYBE GUEST LECTURE)
Mon March 24	Sex offenders + domestic violence
Mon Mar 31	GUEST LECTURES TBA/D
Mon April 07	Profiling and policing

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

SONA RESEARCH ACTIVITY

Students earn Sona credit points for their eligible courses from participating in research activity. This can be either through direct participation in research through the Sona online research system (Option 1), by completing summaries of primary research articles (Option 2), or by a combination of the two types of activities. First year courses (i.e., PSYO 111 and PSYO 121) include 4% as part of the final course grade for participating in Sona research activity, while second year and higher courses allow for a 2% bonus to be added to the final course grade for participating.

Research Participation In Online Research System (Option 1)

As a participant in one of the numerous research studies posted at <http://ubco.sona-systems.com/>, you will obtain 0.5% credit for each 0.5 hour of participation. Hence, studies requiring a 1-hour time commitment provides a credit of 1%, 1.5 hours provides a credit of 1.5%, and 2 hours provides a credit of 2.0%, etc.

Important Requirements

You may participate in more than one study in order to earn credits. It is important to sign up for studies early in the semester in order to increase the odds that a timeslot is available. If you wait until later in the semester, timeslots may no longer be available.

Students must participate in at least one study from List A (that is either in-person, uses Zoom interactions, experience sampling, daily diary etc.) of any credit value for each in-person course they are seeking credit for. Studies will be identified as coming from List A or List B on Sona to assist students in ensuring they can fulfill this requirement. This requirement is limited to in-person courses only as there may be students who are taking courses fully remotely from a different location/time zone, for whom in-person or online synchronous studies would not be feasible, thus making it difficult to meet these requirements. Students registered in online courses can complete their credits from participation in studies from either entirely List A, entirely List B, or a combination of the two.

For 2nd, 3rd, 4th year:

This course will offer a maximum of 2 credits. You will only receive 2 credits if you complete at least 2 credits worth of studies with at least one study completed from List A and at least one study completed from List B. If you earn 2 credits only from a single list, you will incur a 0.5 credit penalty and only receive a maximum of 1.5 credits. This penalty is in effect regardless of how many credits have been earned; it deducts from the maximum amount that can be earned for the course.

Logging On To The System

Sona is only open for those students who are registered in a psychology course offering Sona credit points. Please only use the request account option if you have never used the Sona system before. If you have used the Sona system before, please use the most recent login information you remember to log in.

Missed Appointments & Penalties

Missed appointments (i.e., failure to cancel the appointment at least 3 hours prior to the session) will be tracked. The consequence will be that you will not receive credit for participation in the study and you will be assigned an unexcused no-show. The unexcused no-show designation will cause you to lose the credit value of the study from the total possible credit points you can earn for your course. For example, if you are in PSYO 111 (or 121), you can earn up to 4.0 credits. If you miss an hour-long session that you signed up for (i.e., 1.0 credit) and don't cancel it in advance, the maximum credits that you can now earn for your course is 3.0, regardless of how many studies you complete.

If, after consenting to participate and starting a session (or survey), you decide to withdraw your consent, to avoid receiving an unexcused no-show on Sona, you must do one of the following:

- if it is an online study, you must cancel your Sona sign-up and/or contact Shirley (psyc.ubco.research@ubc.ca) if you are unable to cancel your sign-up;
- if it is an in-person study, you must let the researcher know directly. Their email can be found on the main description page for the study (little envelope icon). Depending upon the study, they will either cancel your session or assign you an excused no-show (meaning that you will not be penalized).

Your ability to withdraw your data will depend upon the study. Instructions for withdrawing your data (including limitations) will be described in the study's consent form.

Please email psyc.ubco.research@ubc.ca with any questions or concerns that you may have regarding the Sona system. Your professor or instructor does NOT have access to this information.

Research Summary Assignment (Option 2)

As an alternative to participating in research studies, you may obtain Sona credit points by completing library-writing projects to a satisfactory level. Each library-writing project is worth a total of two credits.

Important Requirements

1. This project consists of reading and summarizing (in written form) a recent, peer-reviewed, primary research article.

- A "recent" article has been published within the past 12 months.
- A "peer reviewed" article is one that has been reviewed by other scholars before it is accepted – for example, it **cannot** be a news item, an article from a popular magazine, a notice, or a letter to the editor.

- A “primary” research article describes an experiment or study where data are collected by the authors. In other words, the article you choose to review **cannot** be a book review, literature review, or summary article.

2. You must choose an article published by one of the following agencies:

- The American Psychological Society - *Psychological Science*, *Current Directions in Psychological Science*, *Psychological Science in the Public Interest*, or *Perspectives on Psychological Science*.
- The American Psychological Association - www.apa.org/journals/by_title.html has a full listing.
- The Canadian Psychological Association - *Canadian Psychology*, *Canadian Journal of Behavioural Science*, or *Canadian Journal of Experimental Psychology*.
- The Psychonomic Society - *Behavior Research Methods, Cognitive, Affective, & Behavioral Neuroscience*, *Learning & Behavior*, *Memory & Cognition*, *Perception & Psychophysics*, or *Psychonomic Bulletin & Review*.

3. Other Assignment Guidelines

The summary should be about 300-500 words in length. The source must be cited and referenced in accordance with the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association*. The review will be graded on a pass – fail basis (2% or 0%). At least **14 days before the end of classes** each term, submit the following to the course instructor:

- the article summary
- a copy of the article
- a cover page that specifies your name, student number, email address, and word count of the summary.
- the course title and number

Submitting the assignment 14 days in advance is necessary to ensure that you have an opportunity to make corrections, if required. If you do not check your email frequently, provide a phone number on the cover page.

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

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