

Psychology web page: <http://www.scar.utoronto.ca/acad/life-sciences/psych-handbook/>

PsyC53H PSYCHOLOGY AND THE LAW

Fall, 2000

Thursday 9-11, Room H 214

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Office hours: T 10-12; R 1-2

Text: Wrightsman, Nietzel and Fortune (1998). **Psychology and the Legal System**, Fourth edition, Brooks/Cole Publishing Company, Calif.

This course will provide an opportunity to explore the way in which psychological processes such as perception, memory, attention and decision making influence various aspects of the legal process.

There will be two terms tests, each based on (1) assigned chapters in the textbook and (2) material covered in class. The tests will consist of a mix of short answer and multiple choice questions. The first test will be given on October 21 during class. The second test will be given during exam period, Dec.11-20. Each test is worth 50 points.

TOPICS

September 14: **The psychology of eyewitness testimony: Distortions during encoding**

September 21: **The psychology of eyewitness testimony: Distortions during storage**
Text: Chapt. 1 & 7

September 28: **The psychology of eyewitness testimony: Distortions during retrieval**
Text: Chapt. 2 & 3

October 5: **Recovered Memory**
Video: The role of suggestibility in child abuse testimony
Text: Chapt. 5

October 12: **The relation between witness confidence and accuracy**
Text: Chapt. 16

October 19: **FIRST TERM TEST** (Nov.5 last day to withdraw from class)
Text: Chapters 1, 2, 3, 5, 7, 16

October 26: **Hypnotic Memory Enhancement**

Reading: Smith, M.C. (1983) Hypnotic memory enhancement of witnesses: Does it work? *Psychological Bulletin*, **94**, 387-407 (Copy provided)

Film: Hypnosis on Trial

November 2: **Lie Detection**

Video: A case study of lie detection accuracy

Text: Chapt. 8

November 9: **The prediction of dangerousness**

Text: Chapt. 11

November 16: **Guest lecture by Dr. David Day: Delinquency**

November 23: **False confessions**

Text: : Chapt. 13 & 18

November 30: **The jury**

Text: Chapt. 14 & 15

Exam Period: **SECOND TERM TEST**

Text: Chapt. 8,11,13, 14, 15, 18.

Assigned readings