

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

**PsyC53H PSYCHOLOGY AND THE LAW**

**Fall, 2001**

Thursday 9-11, Room H 214

Professor Marilyn Smith  
Room S531, phone 287-7409

Office hours: T 10-12; R 1-2  
E-mail: [smith@utsc.utoronto.ca](mailto:smith@utsc.utoronto.ca)

**Text:** Wrightsman, Greene, Nietzel and Fortune (2002). **Psychology and the Legal System**, Fifth edition, Wadsworth 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 18 during class. The second test will be given during exam period, Dec.10-21. Each test is worth 50 points.

**TOPICS**

September 13: **The psychology of eyewitness testimony: Distortions during encoding**

September 20: **The psychology of eyewitness testimony: Distortions during storage**  
**Text:** Chapt. 1 & 2

September 27: **No lecture. An extremely interesting video demonstrating the role of suggestibility in children's testimony of sexual abuse will be shown.**  
**Text:** Chapt. 3 & 7

October 4: **The psychology of eyewitness testimony: Distortions during retrieval**  
**Text:** Chapt. 5 & 17

October 11: **The relation between witness confidence and accuracy**  
**Text:** Chapt. 16

October 18: **FIRST TERM TEST** (Nov.4 last day to withdraw from class)  
**Text:** Chapters 1, 2, 3, 5, 7, 16, 17

October 25: **Lie Detection**

**Video:** A case study of lie detection accuracy

**Text:** Chapt. 8

November 1: **Guest lecture by Cindy Wasser from the Association for the Defense of the Wrongly Convicted**

November 8: **Hypnotic Memory Enhancement: Does it work?**

**Text:** Chapt. 10

November 15: **No lecture. The film "Hypnosis on Trial" will be shown.**

**Text:** Chapt. 13

November 22: **The Jury**

**Text:** Chapt. 14 & 15

November 29: **The prediction of dangerousness**

**Text:** Chapt. 11 & 12

Exam Period: **SECOND TERM TEST**

**Text:** Chapt. 8, 10, 11,12, 13, 14, 15.