

Psychology web page:

<http://www.utsc.utoronto.ca/~lifesci/courses/index.html>

PsyC53H PSYCHOLOGY AND THE LAW

Fall, 2002

Thursday 9-11, Room H 214

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1-2
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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 17 during class. The second test will be given during exam period, Dec. 9-19. Each test is worth 50 points.

TOPICS

September 12: **The psychology of eyewitness testimony: Distortions during encoding**

September 19: **The psychology of eyewitness testimony: Distortions during storage**

Text: Chaps. 1 & 2

September 26: **The psychology of eyewitness testimony: Distortions during retrieval**

Text: Chaps. 3 & 7

October 3: **The relation between witness confidence and accuracy**

Text: Chaps. 5 & 17

October 10: **Guest lecture by Professors Margo Wilson & Martin Daley from McMaster University: "Risky business: risk-taking, inequity, and homicide"**

Text: Chapt. 16

October 17: **FIRST TERM TEST** (Nov.3 last day to withdraw from class)

Text: Chapters 1, 2, 3, 5, 7, 16, 17

October 24: **Lie Detection**

Video: A case study of lie detection accuracy

Text: Chapt. 8

October 31: **Hypnotic Memory Enhancement: Does it work?**

The film "Hypnosis on Trial" will be shown

Text: Chapt. 10

November 7: **Guest lecture by Professor Michael Corbett: "Expert Witness Testimony in Forensic Science: Behavioural Aspects"**

Text: Chapt. 13

November 14: **The Jury**

Text: Chapt. 14 & 15

November 21: **No lecture. An extremely interesting video demonstrating the role of suggestibility in children's testimony of sexual abuse will be shown.**

November 28: **The prediction of dangerousness**

Text: Chapt. 11 & 12

Exam Period: **SECOND TERM TEST**

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