

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO AT SCARBOROUGH - PSY D15
Current Topics in Social Psychology: Psychology and the Law

Instructor: Dr. Alexis Kennedy
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Office Hours: By email arrangement
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Class Time: Monday 7-9 p.m.
Room: AC334

Note: It is your responsibility to ensure that you meet the prerequisite requirements for this course as listed in the Scarborough course calendar. Your registration may be cancelled if you are lacking the appropriate prerequisites.

The final mark in this course will be based on:

- 1) **One 18-20 page paper (55%) [MAJOR PAPER].** This paper will be on the topic chosen by you in class from the list of possible topics provided. The paper is due on November 22nd by 7 p.m. Assignments handed in late will lose 5% per day (including weekend days) unless accompanied by a medical note. Papers over 20 pages long are acceptable but papers under 18 pages are not. Referencing should meet APA style formatting (5th edition).
- 2) **One 15-minute in-class paper presentation (15%)** You will be responsible for presenting information on the topic that you chose for your paper. Your talk should describe the research conducted in the journal articles listed alongside the topic that you chose.
- 3) **One 2-page handout for the class summarizing your in-class presentation (5%).** This handout should not be more than two pages and should include the journal articles that you are relying on.
- 4) **One 60-minute in-class exam (25%).** This exam will include multiple choice, short answer and definition questions based both upon the class readings and lecture materials. The mid-term will be October 25th. Please also see the information on departmental policies regarding missed tests in the UTSC calendar.

-OR-

- 4) **One 12-15 page paper (25%) [MINOR PAPER].** A writing assignment may be chosen instead of taking the exam. This paper assignment would be in addition to the major paper assignment described above. For those students who would prefer to write this 12-15 page assignment, it will be due on October 25th by 7 p.m. Topics for this paper must be approved by the instructor. Assignments handed in late will lose 5% per day (including weekend days) unless accompanied by a medical note.

COURSE OUTLINE:

Date	Week	Lecture
September 13	1	Introduction to Forensic Psychology, the Legal System and social psychology <i>MAJOR PAPER ASSIGNMENTS CHOSEN</i>
Readings		
September 20	2	Stereotypes & Prejudice: Eyewitness Testimony
Readings		
September 27	3	Mental health law: Fitness & insanity
Readings		
October 4	4	Social psychology and family law: Divorce, domestic violence and abuse
Readings		
October 11		Thanksgiving day: NO CLASS
October 18	5	Social psychology information on jury selection
Readings		
October 25	6	MID-TERM EXAM -OR- MINOR PAPER DUE
November 1	7	Presentations: Psychological Assessments
November 8	8	Presentations: Psychologists and the law
November 15	9	Presentations: Social psychology concepts in decision making
November 22	10	MAJOR PAPER DUE Presentations: Memory and eyewitness testimony
November 29	11	Presentations: The psychology of victims and service providers
December 2	12	Presentations: The psychology of offenders

*There is NO final exam during the December exam period for this course