

**UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO AT SCARBOROUGH
DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY**

**PSYC53 - Psychology and the Law
Fall, 2005
Mondays, 1-3 p.m.**

<https://intranet.utsc.utoronto.ca/>

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Course description:

Psychology's primarily empirical perspective sometimes complements the justice system's rule-based nature, and sometimes the two disciplines are at odds. This course focuses on the application of psychological theory, methods, and data to various procedures and issues in the justice system, including eyewitness evidence, the detection of deception, jury decision-making, and the treatment of children and other special groups in the system. Past court decisions and classic conflicts between society's desire for control and individuals' rights and freedoms have provided the impetus for much of the research in the psychology-law area and form the backdrop of the course.

Required Text:

Schuller, R. & Ogloff, J. eds. (2001) An Introduction to Law and Psychology: Canadian Perspectives. Toronto: University of Toronto Press.

Course Requirements:

There will be a mid-term and a final exam, both worth 50% (covering material from both the lectures and the text). The exams are not cumulative.

Exams will consist primarily of multiple-choice with some short-essay questions. Not everything in the text will be reviewed in class - and there will be material we discuss in the lecture that does not appear in the text. You are responsible for all this material. Generally, missed exams will be assigned a grade of zero, unless prior notification is given and/or there are legitimate medical or compassionate circumstances involved. Please notify me or the teaching assistant for the course within 24 hours if you are unable to write an exam. I have 24hr voice-mail where you can leave a message.

Course Schedule C53 - Fall, 2005

Date:	Lecture Topic	Readings
Sept. 12 th	Introduction to Psychology and the Law	Chapter 1 & 2
Sept. 19 th	Police Investigations	Chapter 3
Sept. 26 th	Memory & Eyewitness evidence	Chapter 4
Oct. 3 rd	Memory & Eyewitness evidence	Chapter 4
Oct. 10 th	Thanksgiving - no class	(eat lots)
Oct. 17 th	Competency	Chapter 10
Oct. 24th	Mid-Term Exam - 50%	Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4 & 10
Oct. 31 st	Jury Selection	Chapter 5
Nov. 7 th	Jury decision-making	Chapter 6
Nov. 14 th	Jury decision-making	Chapter 6
Nov. 21 st	Violence and Risk Assessment	Chapter 11
Nov. 28 th	Sentencing	Chapter 7
Dec. 5 th	Review class	
T.B.A.	Final Exam - 50%	Chapters 5, 6, 11 & 7

To do well in this course, you need to come to class (!) prepared to think about and discuss the topics we cover. Any concerns regarding your grades on the assignment or a particular exam should be presented to me - in writing - as soon as possible after the evaluation. If you find you are having difficulties, please come and talk about it with me early, rather than after the course when it is too late to do anything about it - I will do my best to assist with suggestions for time management, alternate ways of studying the material, and so on.