

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

**PSYD15 – Current Topics in Social Psychology  
Spring/Summer, 2006  
Tuesdays 1-3 p.m.**

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

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**Course Description:**

The area of study for this course will be Psychology and Law, or Forensic Psychology. We will explore what can be described as an applied area of Social Psychology, and discuss the ways in which theoretical research is rightly or wrongly applied to some very important real-world issues. We will also discuss the many methodological difficulties associated with such applied research. Students will be required to choose a topic related to the course content and conduct a thorough review of the relevant research associated with it; this material will be presented by the student as part of an in-class seminar, as well as a term-paper. The goal of each class is to have a lively and engaging in-class discussion that relates to the topic of the week, therefore students will need to be prepared by having read the assigned materials for that week and coming to class with questions and comments.

**Required Class Materials:**

Rather than an assigned text, readings will come from scholarly articles that discuss both the Social Psychological research and its legal applications. All articles are available from the U of T library.

**Course Requirements:**

Your grade will be based on a mid-term exam (35%), an in-class presentation + hand-out (10% + 5%), a final term paper (35%), and class participation (15%). Students must complete all components of the course in order to receive a passing grade. Please familiarize yourself with departmental policies regarding missed tests in the UTSC calendar.

## Tentative Course Schedule D15 – Summer, 2006

<u>Date:</u>	<u>Lecture Topic</u>
May 9 <sup>th</sup>	Introduction to Forensic Psychology/Psychology and the Law. The role of Social Psychology in a Legal setting. Discussion of major term paper requirements.
May 16 <sup>th</sup>	Topic: The psychological expert within the justice system. Conflicts and concerns.
May 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Topic: Methodology; how to apply psychology to law.
May 30 <sup>th</sup>	Topic: A successful application of psychology to the law? Eyewitness issues.
June 6 <sup>th</sup>	Topic: The Overall impact of Psychology on the Law.
June 13 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Mid-Term Exam – 35%</b>
June 20 <sup>th</sup>	Presentations: Psychology in the courtroom; experts and ethics
June 27 <sup>th</sup>	Exam results posted – no lecture.
July 4 <sup>th</sup>	UTSC Reading Week
July 11 <sup>th</sup>	Presentations: Police procedures – the role of psychology
July 18 <sup>th</sup>	Presentations: Bias and Prejudice in the courtroom
July 25 <sup>th</sup>	Presentations: Beliefs and pressure in the courtroom
August 1 <sup>st</sup>	Presentations: Emerging applications of psychology to the law

To do well in this course, you need to come to class (!) prepared to think about and discuss the topics we cover. As this is an advanced seminar class, I expect lots of active participation by all students. 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.