

PSYC39: Psychology and the Law

Course Syllabus

Course Instructor: Dr. Stefano Di Domenico

Email: stefanoddmn@gmail.com Use this email to schedule office-hour appointments.

Office Hours: TBA. Office hours are by appointment only. More information about office hour delivery will be announced soon.

Teaching Assistants: Shauna Solomon-Krakus & Lauren Vomberg

Teaching Assistant Email: 2020psyc39@gmail.com. Use this email for content-related questions.

Textbook: *Forensic Psychology 5th Edition* by Joanna Pozzulo, Craig Bennell, and Adelle Forth

Lectures: Mondays 2 – 5 pm Online—*Bb Collaborate on Quercus*

We will use *Quercus* for sharing lecture material and making announcements.

Course Description

This course will introduce students to research methods, research studies, and theoretical perspectives in forensic psychology. Together, we will learn about various aspects of human behaviour as it relates to the law. When appropriate, special attention will be given to Canadian law.

Notice of Video Recording and Sharing (Download and Re-Use is Prohibited)

This course, including your participation, will be recorded on video and will be available to students in the course for viewing remotely and after each session.

Course videos and materials belong to your instructor, the University, and/or other sources depending on the specific facts of each situation, and are protected by copyright. Do not download, copy, or share any course or student materials or videos without the explicit permission of the instructor.

For questions about recording and use of videos in which you appear please contact Dr. Di Domenico.

Tentative Schedule

The following topics will be covered in the course. The weekly schedule is a guideline and some topics will take more or less than a lecture period to complete. Please note the weeks in which the midterm are indicated. The date for final exam will be determined by the registrar. When I have this information it will be posted to Blackboard.

Week	Date	Lecture Topic	Readings
<u>Part 1</u> <i>Basic Topics</i>			
1	Sept 14	Course Introduction	Syllabus + Ch. 1
2	Sept 21	Police Psychology	Ch. 2
3	Sept 28	The Psychology of Police Investigations	Ch. 3
4	Oct 5	Eyewitness Testimony	Ch. 5
5	Oct 12	NO LECTURE	FALL READING WEEK
<u>Part 2</u> <i>Special Topics</i>			
6	Oct 19	MIDTERM TEST 1 REQUESTED	Covers weeks 1 to 4
7	Oct 26	The Role of Mental Illness in Court	Ch. 8
8	Nov 2	Risk Assessment	Ch. 10
9	Nov 9	Psychopaths	Ch. 11
10	Nov 16	MIDTERM TEST 2 REQUESTED	Covers weeks 7 to 9
<u>Part 3</u> <i>Violent Crime</i>			
11	Nov 23	Intimate Partner Violence	Ch. 13
12	Nov 30	Sexual Offenders	Ch. 14
13	Dec 7	Homicidal Offenders	Ch. 15

Grading Scheme

Of greatest importance to me is the extent to which students can demonstrate their intellectual command of the subject matter of this course *in its entirety* at the end of the term. Consequently, it is essential that the final exam provide a comprehensive (cumulative) assessment of the course. Two midterm tests will provide students an interim assessment of their command of the course material. Both midterm tests will be one hour long and will likely be held during regularly scheduled lecture times. The first midterm test will comprise 20% of your final grade and it will cover Weeks 1 to 4. It will likely be held on October 19, 2020. The second midterm test will also comprise 20% of your final grade and it will cover Weeks 7 to 9. It will likely be held on November 16, 2020. The final exam will comprise 60% of your final grade and it will cover the course in its entirety (Weeks 1 to 13). The final exam will be three hours long. Approximately half of the questions will cover Part 3; the other half of the questions will provide equal coverage of Parts 1 and 2.

Summary

The first midterm (20% of final grade) will cover Part 1 (Weeks 1-4).

The second midterm (20% of final grade) will cover Part 2 (Weeks 7-9).

A cumulative final exam (60% of final grade) will cover all Parts (Weeks 1-13)

= 10% [Part 1] + 10% [Part 2] + 40% [Part 3] = 60%.

Term Test Policies & Procedures. The Registrar typically finalizes the term test schedule sometime during the first few weeks of class. As soon as we are provided the schedule for the term test dates, times, and locations, we will post this information on the Course Blackboard.

Final Exam Policies & Procedures. The scheduling of final exams and the granting of petitions to defer final exams are matters that fall entirely within the jurisdiction of the Registrar's Office. If you have any concerns relating to your final exam attendance, please contact the Registrar.

ACCESSABILITY SERVICES

The principal function of AccessAbility Services is to ensure that the policies, practices, procedures, and programs at UTSC are inclusive to ensure the equal access to students with disabilities. The office thus provides accommodations to students with a documented learning, physical, sensory, or mental health disability or medical condition. Additional information can be found at

<http://www.utsc.utoronto.ca/~ability/>

PLEASE REMEMBER TO SUBMIT YOUR ACCESSABILITY ACCOMODATION REQUESTS MyAIMS.

If you do not, I will not know to provide you with the appropriate accommodation.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

University Policy

The responsibilities of all parties to the integrity of the teaching and learning relationship are defined in the University's Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters (August 1995)

<http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/behaveac.htm>. Here is the preamble of the Code:

The concern of the Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters is with the responsibilities of all parties to the integrity of the teaching and learning relationship. Honesty and fairness must inform this relationship, whose basis remains one of mutual respect for the aims of education and for those ethical principles which must characterize the pursuit and transmission of knowledge in the University.

The current Academic Integrity Officer is Janis Jones, room AA433, <mailto:janis@utsc.utoronto.ca>

What distinguishes the University from other centres of research is the central place which the relationship between teaching and learning holds. It is by virtue of this relationship that the University fulfills an essential part of its traditional mandate from society, and, indeed, from history: to be an expression of, and by so doing to encourage, a habit of mind which is discriminating at the same time as

it remains curious, which is at once equitable and audacious, valuing openness, honesty and courtesy before any private interests.

This mandate is more than a mere pious hope. It represents a condition necessary for free enquiry, which is the University's life blood. Its fulfillment depends upon the well-being of that relationship whose parties define one another's roles as teacher and student, based upon differences in expertise, knowledge and experience, though bonded by respect, by a common passion for truth and by mutual responsibility to those principles and ideals that continue to characterize the University.

This Code is concerned, then, with the responsibilities of faculty members and students, not as they belong to administrative or professional or social groups, but as they co-operate in all phases of the teaching and learning relationship.

Such co-operation is threatened when teacher or student forsakes respect for the other--and for others involved in learning--in favour of self-interest, when truth becomes a hostage of expediency. On behalf of teacher and student and in fulfillment of its own principles and ideals, the University has a responsibility to ensure that academic achievement is not obscured or undermined by cheating or misrepresentation, that the evaluative process meets the highest standards of fairness and honesty, and that malevolent or even mischievous disruption is not allowed to threaten the educational process. These are areas in which teacher and student necessarily share a common interest as well as common responsibilities.

Time Zone Conflicts

If you are physically in a different time zone and a quiz or midterm is scheduled outside of 7:00am to midnight in your local time, you may use the following form to request special arrangements. Note that the form is only for term work. [Final exam conflicts](#) are handled by the Registrar's Office.

The form must be submitted **at least ten (10) business days before the activity**.

Form: <https://uoft.me/PSY-TimeZone>

Submit via email to: Keely Hicks, Departmental Assistant, keely.hicks@utoronto.ca

Missed Term Work due to Medical Illness or Other Emergency

All students citing a documented reason for missed term work must submit their request for accommodations **within three (3) business days** of the deadline for the missed work.

Submit via email to: Keely Hicks, Departmental Assistant, keely.hicks@utoronto.ca

Students must submit **BOTH** of the following:

- (1.) A completed **Request for Missed Term Work Accommodations form** (<http://uoft.me/PSY-MTW>), and
- (2.) **Appropriate documentation** to verify your illness or emergency, as described below.

Appropriate documentation:

For missed **ASSIGNMENTS** or **TERM TESTS** due to **FLU-LIKE SYMPTOMS** or **SELF-ISOLATION REQUIREMENTS**:

- Email the Request for Missed Term Work Accommodations form (uoft.me/PSY-MTW) to Keely (keely.hicks@utoronto.ca), and
- **Declare** your absence on **ACORN** (Profile & Settings > Absence Declaration)

For missed **ASSIGNMENTS** due to **OTHER ILLNESS**:

- Email the Request for Missed Term Work Accommodations form (uoft.me/PSY-MTW) to Keely (keely.hicks@utoronto.ca), along with the Self-Declaration of Student Illness Form (uoft.me/PSY-self-declare-form).

For missed **TERM TESTS** due to **OTHER ILLNESS**:

- Email the Request for Missed Term Work Accommodations form (uoft.me/PSY-MTW) to Keely (keely.hicks@utoronto.ca), along with a scan/photo of the **original** copy of the official UTSC Verification of Illness Form (uoft.me/UTSC-Verification-Of-Illness-Form) or an **original** copy of the record of visitation to a hospital ER.
- Forms are to be completed in full, clearly indicating the start date, anticipated end date, and severity of illness. The physician's registration # and business stamp are required.
- *Note: If an end date of "ongoing" is specified, the medical note will be assumed to cover a period of **two weeks**. If no end date / an "unknown" end date is specified, the note will be assumed to cover a period of **three business days** (starting from illness start date.)*

For missed **TERM TESTS** due to **ACCESSABILITY REASONS**:

- Meet with your **AccessAbility consultant** and have them email Keely (keely.hicks@utoronto.ca) detailing accommodations required.

For missed **ASSIGNMENTS** due to **ACCESSABILITY REASONS**:

- If your desired accommodation is **within the scope** of your Accommodation Letter (ex. your letter includes “extensions of up to 7 days” and you need 1-7 more days), email the Request for Missed Term Work Accommodations form (uoft.me/PSY-MTW) to Keely (keely.hicks@utoronto.ca), and attach a **copy of your letter**. Specify how many days extension you are requesting in your email.
- If your desired accommodation is **outside the scope** of your Accommodation Letter (ex. your letter includes “extensions of up to 7 days” but you need more time than that) you will need to meet with your **AccessAbility consultant** and have them email Keely (keely.hicks@utoronto.ca) detailing the accommodations required.

For missed **ASSIGNMENTS** or **TERM TESTS** in **OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES**:

Email the Request for Missed Term Work Accommodations form (<http://uoft.me/PSY-MTW>) form to Keely (keely.hicks@utoronto.ca), along with:

- For the **death of a family member/friend**, provide a copy of the death certificate.
- For U of T varsity-level or professional **athletic commitments**, an email from your coach or varsity administrator should be sent directly to Keely (keely.hicks@utoronto.ca) **well in advance** of the missed work, detailing the dates and nature of the commitment.
- For **religious accommodations**, please email Keely (keely.hicks@utoronto.ca) **well in advance** of the missed work.
- For circumstances **outside of these guidelines**, please email Keely (keely.hicks@utoronto.ca) **on or before the date of the test / assignment deadline** to describe your circumstances and determine appropriate documentation.

Documents covering the following situations are NOT acceptable: medical prescriptions, personal travel, weddings, personal/work commitments.

As stated above, your documents must be submitted **within three (3) business days** of the deadline for the missed work.

After submitting your documentation:

Within approximately one to five business days, you will receive a response from your instructor detailing the accommodations to be made (if any).

You are responsible for checking your official U of T email and Quercus course announcements daily, as accommodations may be time-critical.

You should continue to work on your assignments to the best of your ability, as extension accommodations may be as short as one business day, depending on the nature of the illness/emergency.

If an accommodation has been granted but you are unable to meet the conditions of the accommodation (ex. you need a longer extension, or you missed a make-up test), you will need to repeat the missed term work procedure and submit additional forms to request further accommodation. Note that in the case of a missed make-up test, an opportunity to write a second make-up test may not be provided.

Completion of this form does NOT guarantee that accommodations will be made. The course instructor reserves the right to decide what accommodations (if any) will be made. Failure to adhere to any aspect of this policy may result in a denial of your request for accommodation.

Missed Accommodations

If an accommodation is granted but a continued illness/emergency prevents you from meeting the requirements of your accommodation, you must repeat the missed term work procedure to request additional accommodations.

(E.g.) If you miss a make-up midterm, you would need to submit another Request for Missed Term Work Accommodations form. If your original medical note / documentation included the date of the make-up midterm, then only the Request form is required. If the date of the make-up midterm fell outside of the dates indicated on your original medical note/other documentation, then a new medical note/other appropriate documentation must also be submitted.

Importance of Three Business Day window:

If you are unable to submit your documents within the three business day window, **you must email Keely** (keely.hicks@utoronto.ca) **within the three business day window** to explain the nature of the delay, and when you will be able to provide your documents. Exceptions to the documentation deadline will only be made under exceptional circumstances.

NOTE: Assignments due at end of term

Instructors cannot accept term work any later than five business days after the last day of class. Beyond this date, you would need to file a petition with the Registrar's Office (<https://www.utoronto.ca/registrar/term-work>).

NOTE: Final Exams

This policy applies only to missed assignments and term tests. Missed final exams are handled by the Registrar's Office (<http://www.utoronto.ca/registrar/missing-examination>).