



Course Syllabus Summer 2022

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: Kirth Sathiyakumar

Teaching Assistant Email: 2022psyc39@gmail.com.

Use this email for content-related questions.

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

Lectures: Available online through 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.

PSYC39 Learning Objectives

By the end of this course, students should be able to:

- Ask questions about the role of psychology in the law that remove assumptions and consider empirical evidence when evaluating a range of possible answers
- Describe the history of forensic psychology and explain the roles of a forensic psychologist
- Explain how the fields of psychology and law differ with respect to epistemology, the nature of law, and methodology; describe how these differences pervade the topics covered in this course
- Describe police selection procedures and the role of psychometric assessment standards
- Explain the importance of test reliability and validity in applied settings
- Explain why police discretion is necessary and the areas in which it is used
- Describe the Reid model of interrogation and alternative models of police investigation
- Describe the various types of false confessions and explain, through example, how false confessions have been studied in the psychological laboratory
- Describe different types of criminal profiling methods and explain the theory and research guiding the different profiling approaches
- Describe and explain the relationships between eyewitness testimony and different types of memory; explain the applied significance of these relationships
- Describe and explain the presumptions in Canada's legal system with particular regard to issues surrounding fitness to stand trial and the use of fitness instruments
- Explain how and why risk assessments are conducted, describe the different approaches to risk assessment, describe important risk factors
- Describe and explain the nature of psychopathy—its definition, assessment, research, and challenge it presents for law enforcement
- Describe the different types of intimate partner violence, research on battered women, and typologies and treatments for male batterers
- Describe the classification of sexual offenders and the assessment and treatment of sexual offenders
- Describe the types of homicide and theories and research on homicidal aggression

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 single lecture period to complete. Lectures will partially overlap with the assigned readings and will emphasize the central themes, week-to-week, through topic review and incremental elaboration.

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. Please also note that the lecture dates listed below are recommended for you to stay on track of the material.

Lectures are recorded and available for you to watch at any time you wish.

Week	Lecture Date	Lecture Topic	Readings
Part 1 <i>Basic Topics</i>			
1	Week of May 9 th	Course Introduction	Syllabus + Ch. 1
2	Week of May 16 th	Police Psychology	Ch. 2
3	Week of May 23 rd	The Psychology of Police Investigations	Ch. 3
4	Week of May 30 th	Eyewitness Testimony	Ch. 5
5	Week of June 6 th	MIDTERM TEST 1 REQUESTED	Covers weeks 1 to 4
Part 2 <i>Special Topics</i>			
6	Week of June 13 th	The Role of Mental Illness in Court	Ch. 8
7	Week of June 20 th	READING WEEK!	Take a break!
8	Week of June 27 th	Risk Assessment	Ch. 10
9	Week of July 4 th	Psychopaths	Ch. 11
10	Week of July 11 th	MIDTERM TEST 2 REQUESTED	Covers weeks 6 to 9
Part 3 <i>Violent Crime</i>			
11	Week of July 18 th	Intimate Partner Violence	Ch. 13
12	Week of July 25 th	Sexual Offenders	Ch. 14
13	Week of August 1 st	Homicidal Offenders	Ch. 15
14	Week of August 8 th	FINAL EXAM PREPARATION SESSION	

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. The first midterm test will comprise 30% of your final grade and it will cover Weeks 1 to 4. It will likely be held sometime in the week of June 6, 2022. The second midterm test will also comprise 30% of your final grade and it will cover Weeks 6 to 9. It will likely be held sometime in the week of July 11, 2022.

The final exam will comprise 40% 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. Most of the final exam questions will cover Part 3; the remaining questions will provide roughly equal coverage of Parts 1 and 2.

The final exam questions covering Parts 1 and 2 of the course will be reminiscent of, in some cases identical to, many questions on Midterms 1 and 2. The final exam is clearly weighted more heavily toward Part 3 but provides students with an opportunity to improve their scores on Parts 1 and 2 of the course.

Summary

Final Grade = 35 percentage points for Part 1 + 35 percentage points for Part 2 + 30 percentage points for Part 3. The course content builds on itself. Consequently, I have decided to weigh both Part 1 and Part 2 of the course greater than Part 3 (elements in Part 3 are applications of Parts 1 and 2).

Below you can see a slightly more detailed breakdown of the grade calculations:

The first midterm (30% of final grade) will cover Part 1 (Weeks 1-4).

The second midterm (30% of final grade) will cover Part 2 (Weeks 6-9).

A cumulative final exam (40% of final grade) will cover all Parts (Weeks 1-13)

$$= 5\% [\text{Part 1}] + 5\% [\text{Part 2}] + 30\% [\text{Part 3}] = 40\%.$$

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

Students with diverse learning styles and needs are welcome in this course. In particular, if you have a disability/health consideration that may require accommodations, please feel free to approach me and/or the [AccessAbility Services Office](#) as soon as possible. AccessAbility Services staff (located in Rm AA142, Arts and Administration Building) are available by appointment to assess specific needs, provide referrals and arrange appropriate accommodations. Please contact 416-287-7560 or email ability.utoronto.ca for more information. The sooner you let us know your needs the quicker we can assist you in achieving your learning goals in this course.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

The University treats cases of cheating and plagiarism very seriously. The University of Toronto's Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters (<http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/behaveac.htm>) outlines the behaviours that constitute academic dishonesty and the processes for addressing academic offences. Potential offences in papers and assignments include using someone else's ideas or words without appropriate acknowledgement, submitting your own work in more than one course without the permission of the instructor, making up sources or facts, obtaining or providing unauthorized assistance on any assignment. On tests and exams cheating includes using or possessing unauthorized aids, looking at someone else's answers during an exam or test, misrepresenting your identity, or falsifying or altering any documentation required by the University, including (but not limited to) doctor's notes.

Department of Psychology Missed Term Work Policy, SUMMER 2022

For missed term work (assignments and term tests) due to illness, emergency, or other mitigating circumstances, please follow the procedures outlined below.

Note:

- The following reasons are not considered sufficient for missed term work: travel for leisure, weddings, personal commitments, work commitments, human error.
- [Missed Final Exams](#) are handled by the Registrar's Office and should be declared on eService.
- Instructors cannot accept term work any later than five business days after the last day of class. Beyond this date, accommodations are only possible via the Registrar's Office [petition process](#).

The email address to submit missed term work accommodation requests in **PSYC39** is:
2022psyc39@gmail.com

ILLNESS OR EMERGENCY accommodations:

For missed work due to ILLNESS OR EMERGENCY, complete the following process:

1. Complete the [Request for Missed Term Work Accommodations Form](#).
2. Declare your absence on [ACORN](#) (Profile & Settings > Absence Declaration)
3. Email **both** of the following items to the course email **WITHIN 2 BUSINESS DAYS** of the missed work:
 - a. the [Request for Missed Term Work Accommodations Form](#)
 - *AND***
 - b. a screenshot of your Self-Declared Absence on ACORN

Note:

- *If you are unable to submit your request within 2 business days, you must still email your instructor within the 2 business day window to explain the nature of the delay. Exceptions to the 2 business day deadline will only be made under exceptional circumstances.*
- *If your absence is declared on ACORN, we do not require any additional supporting documentation (e.g. medical notes) to support your missed term work accommodation request.*

ACADEMIC CONFLICT accommodations:

For missed term work due to an ACADEMIC CONFLICT (e.g. two midterms at the same time):

1. Complete the [Request for Missed Term Work Accommodations Form](#).
2. Take screenshots of your course Quercus pages that demonstrate the conflict.
3. Email the form and screenshots to the course email **at least two weeks (10 business days) before the date of the activity**, or as soon as possible if it was not possible to identify the conflict earlier. Requests sent after the activity deadline may not be accommodated.

Note:

- *Multiple assignments due on the same day are not considered conflicts. Students are expected to manage their time effectively to meet assignment deadlines.*

- *Back-to-back tests/quizzes are not considered conflicts. Only overlapping activities are conflicts.*
- *Students are responsible for keeping their course timetables conflict-free. Students who register in two courses with overlapping lecture/tutorial/lab schedules will not be accommodated.*

RELIGIOUS CONFLICT accommodations:

For missed term work due to a RELIGIOUS CONFLICT:

1. Complete the [Request for Missed Term Work Accommodations Form](#).
2. Email the form to the course email **at least two weeks (10 business days) before the date of the activity**, or as soon as possible if it was not possible to identify the conflict earlier. Requests sent after the activity deadline may not be accommodated.

ACCESSABILITY SERVICES accommodations:

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

- **Contact your AccessAbility consultant** and have them email the course email detailing accommodations required.

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

- If your desired accommodation is **within the scope** of your Accommodation Letter (e.g. your letter includes “extensions of up to 7 days” and you need 3 days):
 1. Complete the [Request for Missed Term Work Accommodations Form](#).
 2. Email the form ***AND*** your **Accommodation Letter** to the course email specifying how many days extension you are requesting.
- If your desired accommodation is **outside the scope** of your Accommodation Letter (e.g. your letter includes “extensions of up to 7 days” but you need more time than that):
 1. **Contact your AccessAbility consultant** and have them email the course email detailing the accommodations required.

Accommodation Procedure:

After submitting your documentation, you will receive a response from your instructor or TA. This form does not guarantee that you will be accommodated. 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. **You are responsible for checking your official U of T email and Quercus course announcements daily**, as accommodations may be time-critical.

For missed assignments, **do not wait for the instructor’s response to resume work on your assignment**. Extensions may be as short as one business day, depending on the nature of the illness/emergency. Complete your assignment as soon as you’re able, and email it to your instructor.

For an **anticipated absence** (e.g. a scheduled surgery or an illness with a prolonged recovery period), if you would like to request accommodations in advance, submit a [Verification of Illness Form](#) completed by your doctor AND the [Request for Missed Term Work Accommodations Form](#) to the course email. Absences can be declared up to 14 days into the future on ACORN.

Missed Accommodations

If an accommodation is granted but a continued illness/emergency prevents you from meeting its requirements, you must repeat the missed term work procedure to request additional accommodations. **Please make it clear in your subject line that you are requesting a second accommodation.** E.g. If you are given an extension but are still sick and need more time, or if you miss a make-up term test, you must submit *another* [Request for Missed Term Work Accommodations Form](#) and declare your extended absence on ACORN. *Note: In the case of a missed make-up test, an opportunity to write a second make-up test may not necessarily be provided.