

Winter 2023

## **COURSE SYLLABUS** **Psychology and the Law (PSYC39)**

### **Instructor**

R. Michael Bagby, Ph.D., C. Psych., Full Professor, Departments of Psychology and Psychiatry, and Graduate Department of Psychological Clinical Science, University of Toronto

- Office hours: By appointment
- Contact: [Psyc39w23@gmail.com](mailto:Psyc39w23@gmail.com)

### **Class Time and Location**

- Time: Mondays from 11:10am-1:00pm
- Location: SW 128

### **Teaching Assistants**

Aqsa Zahid

- Office hours: Mondays before Reading Week, 2pm-3pm in SY 122
- Contact: [Psyc39w23@gmail.com](mailto:Psyc39w23@gmail.com)

Maya Ahia

- Office hours: Wednesday after Reading Week, 2:30pm-3:30pm in SY 122
- Contact: [Psyc39w23@gmail.com](mailto:Psyc39w23@gmail.com)

Prisca Obierifu

- Office hours: Online and by appointment (only if you cannot make the in-person office hours)
- Contact: [Psyc39w23@gmail.com](mailto:Psyc39w23@gmail.com)

### **Course Textbook (Required)**

Nesca, M. (2022). *Clinical Forensic Psychology: An Introduction*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press.

### **Important Note**

Course announcements will generally be made through Quercus. Please monitor the course website regularly for important announcements and updates. Class emails will also be sent through Quercus. Please make sure your listed email address is correct.

### **Course Description**

This course is designed to provide you with an understanding of Psychology and the Law from a clinical psychology perspective. Three broad themes will be covered: (1) general principles of the relation between the disciplines of law and psychology, and forensic assessment and treatment; (2) criminal court applications; and (3) civil court applications.

### **Learning Objectives**

1. Understand the epistemological differences between the fields of law and psychology
2. Appreciate how clinical psychology is applied in the legal system
3. Learn how clinical psychologist assist in judicial and juristic decision-making
4. Learn about forensic psychological assessments (civil and criminal)

## Winter 2023

5. Understand the interface of the legal and ethical practices in law and psychology

### Course Evaluation and Grading

**In-class Exam #1:** This in-class exam will cover material from Weeks 1-3. This includes Lectures 1-3 and Chapters 1-4 (Nesca, 2022). The exam will include 25 multiple choice questions and 2 short answer questions. The exam will take place in class on January 30, 2023 and is worth **30%** of your final grade.

**In-class Exam #2:** This in-class exam will cover material from Weeks 5-8. This includes Lectures 5-8 and Chapters 5-8 (Nesca, 2022). The exam will include 25 multiple choice questions and 2 short answer questions. The exam will take place in class on March 13, 2023 and is worth **30%** of your final grade.

**Final Exam:** The final exam will cover material from Weeks 10-13. This includes Lectures 10-13 and Chapters 10-12 (Nesca, 2022). The exam will include 25 multiple choice questions and 2 short answer questions. The final exam will take place during the final exam period, between April 13–27, 2023 (the date is TBD and will be communicated to students during the semester). and is worth **40%** of your final grade.

### Course Schedule and Readings

WEEK	DATE	TOPIC
1	January 9	Lecture 1: Course Overview and Introduction to Psychology and the Law <b>Required Reading:</b> Chapters 1 & 2: Clinical Forensic Psychology (Nesca, 2022)
2	January 16	Lecture 2: Forensic Mental Health Assessment <b>Required Reading:</b> Chapter 3: Clinical Forensic Psychology (Nesca, 2022)
3	January 23	Lecture 3: Principles of Forensic Treatment <b>Required Reading:</b> Chapter 4: Clinical Forensic Psychology (Nesca, 2022)
4	January 30	<b>*In-class Exam #1*</b> <b>Responsible material:</b> Lectures 1-3, Chapters 1-4 (Nesca, 2022)
5	February 6	Lecture 5: Risk Assessment (Guest Lecture) <b>Required Reading:</b> Chapter 5: Clinical Forensic Psychology (Nesca, 2022)
6	February 13	Lecture 6: Adjudicative Competency <b>Required Reading:</b> Chapter 6: Clinical Forensic Psychology (Nesca, 2022)

## Winter 2023

	February 20	Reading Week
7	February 27	Lecture 7: Criminal Responsibility Assessments <b>Required Reading:</b> Chapter 7: Clinical Forensic Psychology (Nesca, 2022)
8	March 6	Lecture 8: Sentencing <b>Required Reading:</b> Chapter 8: Clinical Forensic Psychology (Nesca, 2022)
9	March 13	<b>*In-class Exam #2 on Weeks 5-8*</b> <b>Responsible material:</b> Lectures 5-8, Chapters 5-8 (Nesca, 2022)
10	March 20	Lecture 10: Psychological Injury Evaluations <b>Required Reading:</b> Chapter 10: Clinical Forensic Psychology (Nesca, 2022)
11	March 27	Lecture 11: Civil Competencies and Civil Commitment <b>Required Reading:</b> Chapter 11: Clinical Forensic Psychology (Nesca, 2022)
12	April 3	Lecture 12: Parenting Capacity and Child Custody Assessments <b>Required Reading:</b> Chapter 12: Clinical Forensic Psychology (Nesca, 2022)
13	April 10	Lecture 13: Ethical considerations of Expert Testimony (Guest Lecture: Aqsa Zahid) <b>Required Reading:</b> TBD
	April 13-27	<b>*Final exam*</b> <b>Exam Date:</b> TBD <b>Responsible material:</b> Lectures 10-13, Chapters 10-12 (Nesca, 2022)

### Course Policies

#### Video and Auditory Recording

For reasons of privacy as well as protection of copyright, unauthorized video or audio recording in classrooms is prohibited. This is outlined in the Provost's guidelines on Appropriate Use of Information and Communication Technology. Note, however, that these guidelines include the provision that students may obtain consent to record lectures and, "in the case of private use by students with disabilities, the instructor's consent must not be unreasonably withheld."

#### Grading

## Winter 2023

Any complaint about grading on any course evaluation must be made in writing to Dr. Bagby within one week of receiving the graded material and should detail the point of contention.

### Disability-Related Accommodations

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 (<http://www.utoronto.ca/ability/>) 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 (tel/TTY) or email [ability.utoronto@utoronto.ca](mailto:ability.utoronto@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.

### University's Plagiarism Detection Tool

Normally, students will be required to submit their course essays to the University's plagiarism detection tool for a review of textual similarity and detection of possible plagiarism. In doing so, students will allow their essays to be included as source documents in the tool's reference database, where they will be used solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism. The terms that apply to the University's use of this tool are described on the Centre for Teaching Support & Innovation website (<https://uoft.me/pdt-faq>).

### 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.
- All suspected cases of academic dishonesty will be investigated following procedures outlined in the *Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters*. If you have questions or concerns about what constitutes appropriate academic behaviour or appropriate research and citation methods, please reach out to me. Note that you are expected to seek out additional information on academic integrity from me or from other institutional resources (for example, the [University of Toronto website on Academic Integrity](#)).

## Winter 2023

### Religious Accommodations

The University has a commitment concerning accommodation for religious observances. I will make every reasonable effort to avoid scheduling tests, examinations, or other compulsory activities on religious holy days not captured by statutory holidays. According to University Policy, if you anticipate being absent from class or missing a major course activity (like a test, or in-class assignment) due to a religious observance, please let me know as early in the course as possible, and with sufficient notice (at least two to three weeks), so that we can work together to make alternate arrangements.

### Equity, Diversity, Inclusion

The University of Toronto is committed to equity, human rights and respect for diversity. All members of the learning environment in this course should strive to create an atmosphere of mutual respect where all members of our community can express themselves, engage with each other, and respect one another's differences. U of T does not condone discrimination or harassment against any persons or communities.

### Masks in the Classroom

While the mask mandate has been paused as of 1 July 2022, the use of medical masks continues to be strongly encouraged at U of T Scarborough in indoor settings where physical distancing is not possible. We ask everyone to respect each other's decisions, comfort levels, and health needs. Masks are available at all building entrances at U of T Scarborough and in all classrooms.

### Department of Psychology Missed Term Work Policy

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:  
**[rmichael.bagby@utoronto.ca](mailto:rmichael.bagby@utoronto.ca)**

### 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](#).

## Winter 2023

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:
  - . the [Request for Missed Term Work Accommodations Form](#)  
**\*AND\***
  - a. 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.

### **Grade Scales and Meaning of Grades**

NUMERICAL MARKS	LETTER GRADE	GRADE POINT VALUE
90 - 100%	A+	4.0
85 - 89%	A	4.0
80 - 84%	A-	3.7
77 - 79%	B+	3.3

**Winter 2023**

73 - 76%	B	3.0
70 - 72%	B-	2.7
67 - 69%	C+	2.3
63 - 66%	C	2.0
60 - 62%	C-	1.7
57 - 59%	D+	1.3
53 - 56%	D	1.0
50 - 52%	D-	0.7
0 - 49%	F	0.0