

Winter 2024

**Psychology and the Law (PSYC39H3-S-LEC01)
COURSE SYLLABUS – Winter, 2024**

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: Via Zoom, by appointment
- Contact: Psyc39w24@gmail.com

Class Time and Location

- Time: Mondays from 11:10am-1:00pm
- Location: IC220

Teaching Assistants

Maya Ahia

- Office hours: Thursday 12:30-1:30 pm by Zoom
- Contact: Psyc39w24@gmail.com

Prisca Obierufu

- Office hours: Fridays 12:00-1:00 pm by Zoom
- Contact: Psyc39w24@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)
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 29, 2024, and will be 1.5 hours. It is worth **30%** of your final grade.

Winter 2024

In-class Exam #2: This in-class exam will cover material from Weeks 5-9. This includes Lectures 4-7 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 11, 2024, and will be 1.5 hours. It is worth **30%** of your final grade.

Final Exam: The final exam will cover material from Weeks 11-14. 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 12–26, 2024 (the date is TBD and will be communicated to students during the semester) and is worth **40%** of your final grade.

PLEASE NOTE: EXAMS IN WHICH THERE IS NO DOCUMENTED ID PROOF RECORDED BY THE INVIGILATORS WILL NOT BE GRADED AND WILL RECEIVE A MARK OF “0”.

Course Schedule and Readings

WEEK	DATE	TOPIC
1	January 8	Lecture 1: Course Overview and Introduction to Psychology and the Law Required Reading: Chapters 1 & 2: Clinical Forensic Psychology (Nesca, 2022)
2	January 15	Lecture 2: Forensic Mental Health Assessment Required Reading: Chapter 3: Clinical Forensic Psychology (Nesca, 2022)
3	January 22	Lecture 3: Principles of Forensic Treatment Required Reading: Chapter 4: Clinical Forensic Psychology (Nesca, 2022)
4	January 29	*In-class Exam #1* Responsible material: Lectures 1-3, Chapters 1-4 (Nesca, 2022)
5	February 5	Lecture 4: Risk Assessment (Guest Lecture: Prisca Obierifu) Required Reading: Chapter 5: Clinical Forensic Psychology (Nesca, 2022)
6	February 12	Lecture 5: Adjudicative Competency Required Reading: Chapter 6: Clinical Forensic Psychology (Nesca, 2022)
7	February 19	Reading Week
8	February 26	Lecture 6: Criminal Responsibility Assessments Required Reading: Chapter 7: Clinical Forensic Psychology (Nesca, 2022)
9	March 4	Lecture 7: Sentencing (Guest Lecture: Maya Ahia) Required Reading: Chapter 8: Clinical Forensic Psychology (Nesca, 2022)
10	March 11	*In-class Exam #2* Responsible material: Lectures 4-7, Chapters 5-8 (Nesca, 2022)
11	March 18	Lecture 8: Psychological Injury Evaluations Required Reading: Chapter 10: Clinical Forensic Psychology (Nesca, 2022)
12	March 25	Lecture 9: Civil Competencies and Civil Commitment Required Reading: Chapter 11: Clinical Forensic Psychology (Nesca, 2022)

Winter 2024

13	April 1	Lecture 10: Parenting Capacity and Child Custody Assessments Required Reading: Chapter 12: Clinical Forensic Psychology (Nesca, 2022)
14	April 8	Lecture 11: Ethical considerations of Expert Testimony (Guest Lecture: Aqsa Zahid) Required Reading: TBD
	April 12-26	*Final exam* Exam Date: TBD Responsible material: Lectures 8-11, 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

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.utsc.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.utsc@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>)

Winter 2024

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](#)).

Use of Generative AI in Course Work

Students may use artificial intelligence tools for creating an outline for an assignment or gathering information from across sources and assimilating it for understanding. However, the final submitted assignment must be original work produced by the individual student alone, and students may not use artificial intelligence tools for taking tests. Use of generative AI in this course beyond creating outlines for assignment and gathering information for studying may be considered use of an unauthorized aid, which is a form of cheating. This course policy is designed to promote your learning and intellectual development and to help you reach course learning outcomes.

Centre for Teaching and Learning

The Centre for Teaching and Learning (CTL) is available to support you in your writing, math and stats, and English language needs. It offers online and in-person tutoring and consultations and has a variety of helpful resources. For more information, please visit CTL's Student Resource Centre at AC313 or check out <https://uoft.me/AcademicLearningSupport>.

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.

Winter 2024

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 PSYD32 is:
rmichael.bagby@utoronto.ca

Procedure:

1. Complete the [Request for Missed Term Work Accommodations Form](#) ("MTW Form").
2. Email **BOTH** your MTW Form and Supporting Documentation to [<psyc39w24@gmail.com>](mailto:psyc39w24@gmail.com) according to the instructions specified below.

Supporting Documentation Requirements and Deadlines:

Reason for Missed Work	Documentation required for a first absence in the term	Documentation required for subsequent absences in the term	Deadline for submitting MTW form and supporting documentation
Illness or Injury	ACORN Absence Declaration	UofT Verification of Illness Form	<u>WITHIN 2 BUSINESS DAYS</u> of the missed work
Bereavement	ACORN Absence Declaration	A death certificate or funeral announcement	<u>WITHIN 2 BUSINESS DAYS</u> of the missed work
University-sponsored athletic or artistic obligation at the varsity/provincial/national level	ACORN Absence Declaration	A note from a university staff member (advisor, coach, residence staff, etc.) who can substantiate the obligation, sent directly to the course email	<u>10 BUSINESS DAYS IN ADVANCE</u> of the missed deadline
Disability-related reasons for students registered	For missed TERM TESTS ,		<u>PREFERABLY IN ADVANCE OF THE</u>

<p>with AccessAbility Services</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Contact your AccessAbility consultant and have them write to the course email detailing the accommodations needed. <p>For missed ASSIGNMENTS,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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), send your Accommodation Letter to the course email and specify 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), contact your AccessAbility consultant and have them write to the course email detailing the accommodations needed. 	<p><u>MISSED WORK, OR AS SOON AS POSSIBLE</u></p>
<p>Academic Conflict (e.g. two midterms at the same time)</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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. <p><i>Note:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Multiple assignments due on the same day are <u>not</u> considered conflicts. Students are expected to manage their time effectively to meet assignment deadlines.</i> • <i>Back-to-back tests/quizzes are <u>not</u> considered conflicts. Only overlapping activities are conflicts.</i> • <i>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.</i> 	<p><u>10 BUSINESS DAYS IN ADVANCE</u> of the missed work</p>

Winter 2024

Religious Conflict	<ol style="list-style-type: none">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.	
--------------------	--	--

Notes:

- The following reasons are not considered sufficient for missed term work: social activities, recreational travel, technological issues, avoidance of assessments or deadlines, work commitments
- [Missed Final Exams](#) are handled by the Registrar's Office and should be declared on eService.
- For ACORN absence declarations, the date you declare the absence is required to fall within the seven-day declaration period (i.e.) the absence cannot be submitted proactively or retroactively.
- 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](#).
- If you are unable to submit your request within the specified number of business days, you must still email your instructor within that window to explain the nature of the delay. Exceptions to the deadlines are made only under exceptional circumstances.
- Multiple assignments due on the same day are not considered academic conflicts. Students are expected to manage their time effectively to meet assignment deadlines.
- Back-to-back tests/quizzes are not considered academic 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.

Next Steps:

After submitting your documentation, you will receive a response from your instructor or TA. The course instructor reserves the right to decide what accommodations 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.

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.

Examples: If you were granted an extension for a paper but are still unable to meet the new deadline, or if you miss a make-up term test, you must submit *another* MTW form and supply documentation according to the "subsequent absences" column in the chart above. *Note: In the case of a missed make-up test, an opportunity to write a second make-up test may not necessarily be provided.

Winter 2024

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
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