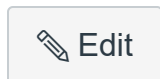


# Course Syllabus



# PSYC39H3 F – Psychology and the Law

## Fall 2024 Syllabus

### Course Meetings

#### PSYC39H3 F

Section	Day & Time	Delivery Mode & Location
LEC01	Thursday, 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM	In Person: HL B101

Refer to ACORN for the most up-to-date information about the location of the course meetings.

### Course Contacts

**Instructor:** Dr. Stefano Di Domenico

**Email:** [s.didomenico@utoronto.ca](mailto:s.didomenico@utoronto.ca) (<mailto:s.didomenico@utoronto.ca>)

**Office Hours and Location:** Online: Friday from 4 pm to 6 pm. By appointment only.

**Teaching Assistant:** Leif Anderson and Sherry Huang

**Email:** [fall2024psyc39@gmail.com](mailto:fall2024psyc39@gmail.com) (<mailto:fall2024psyc39@gmail.com>)

### Course Overview

This course focuses on the application of psychology to the law, particularly criminal law including cognitive, neuropsychological and personality applications to fitness to stand trial, criminal responsibility, risk for violent and sexual recidivism and civil forensic psychology.

This course will examine many aspects of human behavior as it relates to the legal system. Special attention will be given to Canadian law when appropriate. It will introduce students to research methods, important findings, theoretical perspectives, and applied problems in forensic psychology.

Students will be expected to recall previously learned facts, terms, and basic concepts from B-Level psychology courses. As a C-Level course, students will be held to a higher standard of learning. Specifically, they will be challenged to apply newly acquired knowledge when analyzing and evaluating problems in forensic psychology.

This course also aims to illuminate how applied science differs from basic science. Additionally, it will help students develop a more detailed understanding of different career paths in psychology.

## Course Learning Outcomes

The learning outcomes in this course can be organized into two broad categories: developmental outcomes and content-related outcomes.

### Developmental Outcomes

By the end of this course, students will develop and practice their skills in:

- Asking questions about the role of psychology in the law that remove assumptions and consider empirical evidence when evaluating a range of possible answers.
- Respectfully and clearly communicating their thoughts on the psychology of the law to others using logic and evidence-based arguments.
- Critically evaluating scientific and non-scientific information to become better consumers of information presented in various outlets (e.g., news media).
- Implementing effective strategies for course work.
- Identifying, evaluating, pursuing, and capitalizing on learning experiences outside of the classroom (e.g., research positions, work placements).

### Content-Related Outcomes

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

- Appreciate the differences between basic and applied research in psychology.
- Appreciate the importance of psychometric test development (e.g., reliability, validity), understand a range of research designs that are appropriate for different research questions, and articulate why statistical competency is necessary for interpreting research results.
- 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 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 examples, 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.
- Describe and explain the presumptions in Canada's legal system, particularly regarding 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, and describe important risk factors.
- Describe and explain the nature of psychopathy—its definition, assessment, research, and the challenge psychopathy represents 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 different types of homicide and research findings on homicidal aggression.

**Prerequisites:** PSYB32H3 and [PSYB07H3 or STAB22H3 or STAB23H3] and PSYB70H3

**Corequisites:** None

**Exclusions:** PSY328H, PSY344H

**Credit Value:** 0.5

## Course Materials

### Course Textbook

*Forensic Psychology 6th Edition* by Joanna Pozzulo, Craig Bennell, and Adelle Forth

## Marking Scheme

Assessment	Percent	Details	Due Date
Midterm Test #1	30%	The first midterm test will account for 30% of your final grade and will cover material from Weeks 1 to 4. It will include both multiple-choice questions and essay questions. Midterm #1 will be held in-person during regularly scheduled class time.	2024-10-03

Assessment	Percent Details	Due Date
<b>Midterm Test #2</b>	30% The first midterm test will account for 30% of your final grade and will cover material from Weeks 6 to 8. It will include both multiple-choice questions and essay questions. Midterm #2 will be held in person during regularly scheduled class time.	2024-11-07
<b>Writing Assignments</b>	5% Students will be required to submit five brief writing assignments, each between 250-500 words. Each submission will contribute 1% toward your final grade. <b>You are free to submit these assignments at any time before December 3rd; however, all five must be submitted by that date. Late submissions will not be accepted.</b> These writing assignments are an opportunity for you to explore topics in the course that you find particularly interesting. You are encouraged to use them to specify and formalize questions about the course material. You may also relate a course topic to a news story or other subjects you've encountered in previous courses. Additionally, these assignments can be used to develop a written plan for preparing for your final exams (e.g., a study schedule), graduate/professional school applications, or your final year of university studies. The assignments will be graded based on completion and constructive engagement. Reflection assignments are to be submitted on Quercus.	2024-12-03
<b>Final Exam</b>	35% The final exam will account for 35% of your final grade and will cover material from Weeks 11 to 13. It will consist of multiple-choice questions and essay questions.	Final Exam Period

## Policy for Missing Term Tests

For missed term tests due to illness, emergency, or other mitigating circumstances, please follow the procedure outlined below.

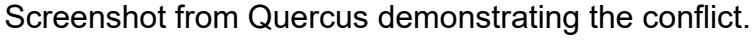
### Procedure:

1. Complete the [Request for Missed Term Work Accommodations Form](#) ([https://hive.utsc.utoronto.ca/public/psych/mtw/PSY\\_Missed\\_Term\\_Work\\_Form.pdf](https://hive.utsc.utoronto.ca/public/psych/mtw/PSY_Missed_Term_Work_Form.pdf)) ("MTW Form").
2. Email **BOTH** your MTW Form and Supporting Documentation to [fall2024psyc39@gmail.com](mailto:fall2024psyc39@gmail.com) (<mailto:fall2024psyc39@gmail.com>) according to the instructions specified below.

**Supporting Documentation Requirements and Deadlines:**

Reason for Missed Term Test	Documentation required for a first absence in the term	Documentation required for subsequent absences
Illness or Injury	<p><a href="#">ACORN</a>                      (<a href="https://www.acorn.utoronto.ca/">https://www.acorn.utoronto.ca/</a>)                      Absence Declaration</p>	<p><a href="#">UofT Verification of Illness Form</a>                      (<a href="https://www.utoronto.ca/registrar/sites/utsccollege/files/2019/01/UTSCmedicalcertificate.pdf">https://www.utoronto.ca/registrar/sites/utsccollege/files/2019/01/UTSCmedicalcertificate.pdf</a>)</p>
Bereavement	<p><a href="#">ACORN</a>                      (<a href="https://www.acorn.utoronto.ca/">https://www.acorn.utoronto.ca/</a>)                      Absence Declaration</p>	<p>A death certificate or funeral announcement</p>
University-sponsored athletic or artistic obligation at the varsity/provincial/national level	<p><a href="#">ACORN</a>                      (<a href="https://www.acorn.utoronto.ca/">https://www.acorn.utoronto.ca/</a>)                      Absence Declaration</p>	<p>A note from a university staff member (advisor, who can substantiate the obligation, sent direct</p>
Disability-related reasons for students registered with AccessAbility Services	<p><b>Contact your AccessAbility consultant</b> and have them write to the course coordinator accommodations needed.</p>	

## Academic Conflict

(e.g. two midterms at the same time) 

Religious Conflict          None required

## 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** (<http://www.utoronto.ca/registrar/missing-examination>) 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](https://www.utoronto.ca/registrar/term-work) (<https://www.utoronto.ca/registrar/term-work>).
- 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.

If an accommodation is granted but a continued illness/emergency prevents you from meeting its requirements, you must repeat the missed term test procedure to request additional accommodations. **Please make it clear in your subject line that you are requesting a second accommodation.**

**NOTE: In the case of a missed make-up test, an opportunity to write a second make-up test may not necessarily be provided.**

## Course Schedule

<b>Week</b>	<b>Description</b>
<b>Week 1</b> September 5	<b>Course Introduction</b> Syllabus + Chapter 0 + Chapter 1
<b>Week 2</b> September 12	<b>Police Psychology</b> Chapter 1 + Chapter 2
<b>Week 3</b> September 19	<b>Police Investigations</b> Chapter 3
<b>Week 4</b> September 26	<b>Eyewitness Testimony</b> Chapter 5
<b>Week 5</b> October 3	<b>MIDTERM TEST #1</b> Covers weeks 1 to 4
<b>Week 6</b> October 10	<b>The Role of Mental Illness in Court</b> Chapter 8
<b>Week 7</b> October 17	<b>Risk Assessment</b> Chapter 10
<b>Week 8</b> October 24	<b>Psychopaths</b> Chapter 11
<b>Week 9</b> October 31	<b>READING WEEK</b> Happy Halloween!

<b>Week 10</b>	<b>MIDTERM TEST #2</b>
November 7	Covers weeks 6 to 8
<b>Week 11</b>	<b>Intimate Partner Violence</b>
November 14	Chapter 13
<b>Week 12</b>	<b>Sexual Offenders</b>
November 21	Chapter 14
<b>Week 13</b>	<b>Homicidal Offenders</b>
November 28	Chapter 15

## Policies & Statements

### Video Recording and Sharing (Download and Re-use 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 the recording and use of videos in which you appear, please contact your instructor.

### 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 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 416-287-7560 or email [ability.utsc@utoronto.ca](mailto:ability.utsc@utoronto.ca) (<mailto:ability.utsc@utoronto.ca>). The sooner you let us know your needs the quicker we can assist you in achieving your learning goals in this course.

### Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence Tools

Students may use artificial intelligence tools, including generative AI, in this course as learning aids or to help produce assignments. However, students are ultimately accountable for the work they submit.



Students may not use artificial intelligence tools for taking tests, writing research papers, creating computer code, or completing major course assignments. However, these tools may be useful when gathering information from across sources and assimilating it for understanding. The knowing use of generative artificial intelligence tools, including ChatGPT and other AI writing and coding assistants, for the completion of, or to support the completion of, an examination, term test, assignment, or any other form of academic assessment, may be considered an academic offense in this course.