



**PSYCHOLOGY 2150**  
**Introduction to Forensic Psychology**  
**Fall 2013**

**Professor:** Sarah MacDonald  
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**Office Hours:** Tuesday: 9:00-11:00am  
**Lectures:** Wednesday, SN 2109, 7:00 - 9:30pm

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**Required Text:** Pozzulo, J., Bennell, C., & Forth, A. (2012). *Forensic Psychology* [third edition]. Toronto, ON: Pearson Canada.

**Overview of Course:** The purpose of this course is to introduce students to forensic psychology. Forensic psychology refers broadly to the research and application of psychological knowledge to the justice system. The course covers such topics as police selection, discretion, and stress; police interrogations; false confessions; criminal profiling; detecting deception; eyewitness identification, and jury selection. Other topics include fitness to stand trial; psychological testimony; predictions of violent behaviour; violent offenders; the insanity defence; sentencing; and ethical issues in psychology and the law. The content of this course provides an excellent background for students majoring in or pursuing careers in social work, counselling, clinical psychology, political science, law enforcement, and criminology.

**Course Requirements:** You are responsible for all material discussed in the lectures and the material in the assigned sections of the textbook. It is important to come to class, as some of the lecture material may not be in the textbook. Please make use of office hours and class time to ask questions about the readings.

**Evaluation:** Course grades will be determined on the basis of your performance on two mid-term exams and a final exam. The mid-term exams are worth 25% each (50% of your final grade). The final exam is worth 50% of your final grade. The final exam is NOT cumulative.

**Dates for coursework:**

Midterm Exam 1 – September 25<sup>th</sup> (25% of Final Grade)  
Midterm Exam 2 – October 30<sup>th</sup> (25% of Final Grade)  
Final Exam – *to be scheduled* (50% of Final Grade –not *cumulative*)

**Missed Exam:** A missed mid-term exam will be assigned a grade of 0. Exams must be written on the scheduled date. Under exceptional circumstances, if you are seriously ill

and are unable to write an exam, you must notify me within 24 hours after the scheduled exam and you must produce a doctor's certificate confirming your major illness. Similarly, if you are unable to write the exam due to a serious circumstance, you must email me within 24 hours after the exam and produce documentation confirming your serious circumstance. Failure to notify me within 24 hours or to provide documentation will result in a grade of 0 on that exam. There will be **no** make up tests.

**Inclement Weather:** The decision to cancel class due to inclement weather rests with each individual professor. To determine whether classes are cancelled, access the web at [www.mun.ca](http://www.mun.ca) and click on *cancellations*. Alternatively, you can listen to the radio.

**If the mid-term is scheduled on a day when class is cancelled due to inclement weather, be prepared to write the test during your next scheduled class period.** When in doubt, email, call or drop by my office to check for further details.

### **Tentative Lecture and Exam Schedule**

<b>Dates</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Reading: Text Pages</b>
Sept. 4 <sup>th</sup>	Introduction & History of Forensic Psychology	Chapter 1
Sept 11 <sup>th</sup>	Police Selection, Discretion, & Stress / Police Interrogations	Chapter 2/3
Sept 18 <sup>th</sup>	Police Interrogations & False Confessions	Chapter 3
Sept. 25 <sup>th</sup>	<b>MID TERM EXAM (25%)</b>	
Oct 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Criminal, Geographic, & Racial Profiling	Chapter 3
Oct 9 <sup>th</sup>	Detecting Deception: Polygraph, Verbal & Non-Verbal Cues	Chapter 4
Oct 16 <sup>th</sup>	<b>NO CLASS (follow a Monday schedule)</b>	
Oct 23 <sup>d</sup>	Eyewitness Testimony: Recall & Recognition	Chapter 5
Oct 30 <sup>th</sup>	<b>MID TERM EXAM (25%)</b>	
Nov 6 <sup>th</sup>	Juries: Selection & Decision-Making	Chapter 7
Nov 13 <sup>th</sup>	Fitness to Stand Trial & Mental State at Time of Offence	Chapter 8
Nov 20 <sup>th</sup>	Risk Assessment & Psychopathy	Chapters 10 & 11
Nov 27 <sup>th</sup>	Sexual and Homicidal Offenders	Chapter 14
Dec 4 <sup>th</sup>	Review	