



Forensic Psychology (3-0-0) 45 hours PY3950 (A3 & TC)

**Mondays & Wednesdays 1000 – 1120 E306A
Winter 2009**

Transfers to all Alberta Universities as a 3 credit Psychology course.

Instructor: Dr. Connie Korpan Ph.D.
Office: C420
Office Hours: Mondays 1130 – 12:30 & Thursdays 1:00 – 2:00
Phone: 539-2032
Email: ckorpan@gprc.ab.ca
Textbook: Wrightsman, L. S., & Porter, S. (2006).
Delivery: Lecture & Videoconference
Prerequisites: PY1040 and PY1050

Course Objectives

This is an overview of research, practice, and policy issues in Forensic Psychology. Ethical issues in forensic practice, police selection processes, theories of criminal behaviour, criminal profiling, jury selection, validity of eyewitness reports, abuse against women and children, child custody, and insanity/competency will be discussed. The course will address both criminal and civil forensic topics. Students will acquire an understanding of the application of psychological research and practice to the criminal and civil legal systems.

Student Evaluation

1. 4 Quizzes—total of 20%; Midterm Exam—25%; Final Exam—25%
2. Research and Writing Skills Assignment—20%
3. Class Participation/Attendance
4. Chapter Assignments—10%

Assignments and Grading

1. **Quizzes/Exams.** There will be four quizzes; each will be in a multiple choice format. Each quiz is worth 5%, for a total of 20%. Please refer to pages 4 for more information on missed quizzes. The midterm and final exams will include multiple-choice and short answer questions. The multiple choice questions are taken “primarily” from the test-bank and the short answer questions will be taken primarily from the lecture material. The final exam will not be cumulative; it will cover material from after the midterm to the end of term.

The date of the final exam will be announced by the Student Services office, but note that it will be between April 16 and April 27, 2009.

Weights: Quizzes Total = 20% Midterm exam = 25%; Final exam = 25%.

2. **Research and Writing Skills Assignment** This assignment entails completed several components that culminates in a paper. You will choose a question that is relevant to Forensic Psychology, do library research to find answers to that question, and write a paper. Please note that I reserve the right to use any means available, including electronic searches, to check for plagiarism.

All components are due at the **beginning of class on the stipulated due-dates. Anything submitted after the beginning of class will be considered late. Any component handed in later than the stipulated due dates will be docked up to 25% per day (at my discretion).**

Weight of paper and related components: 20%

3. **Attendance.** Student input during lectures is enthusiastically welcomed and strongly encouraged. There are a variety of ways that you can contribute to the lectures, such as asking relevant questions, making insightful comments during the lectures, contributing to discussion during group work. Attendance is taken during each class. Attendance and participation is taken into account when a student's final grade fall near the boundary between 2 letter grades (e.g., 89%--between a B+ and A-). Students with good attendance and participation and whose grade is near the boundary could have their grade bumped up, depending on the degree of attendance and participation. Students who have poor attendance and participation and whose grade is at a boundary will not be bumped up (nor will they be bumped down). Please refer to page 3 on information regarding excessive unexcused absences.
4. **Chapter Assignments.** There will be 15 multiple choice chapter assignments, each comprised of 5 multiple choice questions taken the test bank. Your marks across all the assignments will be averaged. The average mark of all the assignments is worth 10% of your overall grade.

Grading

<i>Alpha Grade</i>	<i>4-Pt Equivalent</i>	<i>% Guidelines</i>	<i>Designation</i>
*A+	4.0	97 - 100	Excellent
A	4.0	94-96	
A-	3.7	90-93	<i>First Class Standing</i>
B+	3.3	85-89	
B	3.0	80-84	<i>Good</i>
B-	2.7	75-79	
C+	2.3	70-74	Satisfactory
C	2.0	65-69	
C-	1.7	60 - 64	
**D+	1.3	55 - 59	<i>Poor</i>
**D	1.0	50 - 54	<i>Minimal Pass at GPRC</i>
F	0.0	0 - 49	Fail -no credit received

* An "A+" is considered a 4.0 when calculated into the GPA, but a 4.3 for scholarship applications.

** At GPRC, a "D" is considered a minimal pass and will *normally* meet the requirements for the next level of study . **However, other post-secondary institutions may not grant credit for D or D+ (i.e., grades below C- may not be given credit). Furthermore, some institutions accept D for transfer credit, but may not allow students to use the course as a prerequisite for other courses. Therefore, if you receive a D or D+ in any of your courses, it is strongly advised that you check the requirements of your transfer institution to see if they will consider a D or D+ sufficient for credit or as a prerequisite for other courses.**

Exam Schedule/Tentative Lecture Schedule

January 28	Quiz 1: Chapters 1, 2, 3, & “Offenders” Lecture Material
February 9	Quiz 2: Chapters 4, 5, 6, 7
February 11	Midterm: Chapters 1 to 7
March 18	Quiz 3: Chapters 8, 9, 10 11
April 13	Quiz 4: Chapters 12, 13, 14, 15
	****Final: Chapters 8 to 15

***The exact date, time, and location of the final exam is set by the registrar’s office and will be announced in class as soon as this information is available. Again, the dates for **the final examination period fall between April 14 and 24, inclusive**, so do not plan your vacation during this period

Writing Assignment Deadlines

January 28	Research Question Sheet
March 4	Reference Page
March 30	Paper

***Again, all components are due at the **BEGINNING OF CLASS on the above dates. Anything submitted after the beginning of class will be considered late.**

Student Responsibilities

Lecture Attendance/Absences

Students are held accountable for all lecture and textbook material. It is your responsibility to keep up with class work. Therefore, you are expected to attend all lectures. Attendance will be taken every class. If you miss a class, your grade will be docked unless you provide an acceptable reason for missing the class (via email only). **Email the explanation to me, writing “PY3950—missed class” in the subject box.**

If you are absent from a class, all missed material is to be obtained by approaching a fellow student, not by getting the notes from the instructor. It would be very unfair for students who miss lectures to be advantaged by getting the instructor’s notes. Typically, the quality of note-taking by students is quite variable. Therefore, if you miss a lecture and need to rely on another student as a source for the missed lecture material, it is advised that you **pick your sources very carefully.**

The notes for each chapter are available on “Blackboard”. These are not the full notes; you need to attend the lectures to fill in the missing information.

Please note that according to GPRC policy, instructors reserve the right to **bar a student from writing the final exam** when the student is excessively absent from class (See the calendar.)

Other Responsibilities

You are also expected to prepare for each lecture by reading the assigned chapters and handouts. Not surprisingly, students who prepare for lectures learn and perform much better than students who do not prepare.

Although the instructor feels that all the material in the text book is important and interesting, **limited class time prevents discussion of all the material covered in the text.** You are responsible for learning textbook material (assigned chapters only) that is not discussed in class. Please feel free to approach me outside of class if you wish to get clarification on this material.

Missed Exams

Dates for the quizzes and midterm are included on this course outline. If a student misses a quiz due to **verified** illness, dentistry, accident, emergency, or GPRC obligations (e.g., you are away due to the requirements of another course) the **weight of the quiz will be transferred to the final exam**. If a student misses a quiz for reasons that do not include verified illness, dentistry, accident, or emergency, then a "0" (zero) will be assigned to that quiz. Holidays, employment, etc. are not considered to be excusable reasons to miss any exam in this course. Missing any quiz without explanation from the student will result in a "0" on that quiz.

According to GPRC policy, deferring a missed **Midterm Exam** is at the discretion of the instructor. In my courses, students who miss a midterm because of illness, dentistry, accident, or emergency (verified) may write the midterm at a later date (set by the me). When students miss the midterm for reasons that do not include verified illness, dentistry, accident, or emergency, a "0" is assigned to that the midterm. Missing the midterm without explanation from the student will result in a "0" on the midterm.

Absences from a registrar-scheduled **Final Exam** fall under GPRC Examination Policy. It is the responsibility of the student to be informed about these policies prior to the final examination period. A description of the policy is available in the GPRC Calendar and in the Student Handbook. Yet again, **final exams begin April 16 and end by April 27**. These dates have been available to students for several months. Therefore, activities such as holidays or employment during this period are **not** considered excusable reasons for missing the final. Students who chose to miss the final exam for employment, holiday, or similar reasons will receive a "0" on the final. Also note that **the final exam will not be scheduled early** for students who plan their holidays or other activities during the final exam period.

If the final exam is missed due to illness, you will be required to submit an application to the Registrar's office for permission to write a deferred exam and must do so within 48 hours of the scheduled exam time. You may defer the final exam for up to 20 days of the end of the examination period. (Please see the College Calendar)

Other Important Dates

Jan 8	Last day to add winter courses
Jan 19	Last day to drop courses without paying tuition for the dropped courses
Jan 19	Last day to write deferred final exams or repeat final exams for fall courses
Jan 30	Last day to pay winter semester fees to avoid late payment penalty
Feb 17-20	Winter Break—no classes
Mar 16	Last day to withdraw or change from credit to audit or audit to credit
April 14	Last day of classes
April 16	Final exams begin in most programs
April 27	Final exams end in most programs

For Your Information...

Friendship Centre: Remember that the Friendship Centre at Grande Prairie Regional College provides a space for all students to meet, do homework, retrieve or leave messages, obtain community resources material, or just relax. The on-campus Friendship Centre is available for sharing circles, gatherings, study groups, and tutoring sessions. Everyone is welcome.

Learning Support Centre: This centre is a valuable resource, providing:

- Sessions and seminars on how to write papers, document research, give oral presentations, build a resume, be an effective reader and listener
- Peer Tutor Program
- Writing Tips - Handouts
- Career and Workplace information
- Helpful Websites
- Creating Success Workshops
- Student Success Workshops

Campus Security: You should be aware that GPRC is no safer than the rest of Grande Prairie. Attacks on campus, as well as theft and vandalism have been occurring with increasing frequency. For your safety, Campus Security will provide a 24-hour Safe Walk service anywhere on campus. Call 539-2700 or use the red phones on campus.