

KING'S UNIVERSITY COLLEGE
at *The University of Western Ontario*
LONDON CANADA

Department of Psychology

Psychology & Law
Psychology 131a ☞ Section 570

Fall 2004

1.0 CALENDAR DESCRIPTION

An overview of theory and research in the field of psychology and law. Basic and applied research in cognitive, developmental, clinical, and social psychology is related to legal issues, such as eyewitness memory, face identification, polygraph testing, child witnesses, and jury decision-making.
3 lecture hours. Half-course.

2.0 COURSE INFORMATION

Professor Laura Melnyk

Office: Labatt Hall 205

Tel: 433-3491 x4545

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Office hours: Tuesdays, 2 to 5 pm, and you are welcome to make an appointment

Time and Location of Lectures: Thursdays, 10 am to 1 pm, Labatt Hall 100

Course website: <http://instruct.uwo.ca/psychology/131a-570>

3.0 TEXTBOOK (Required)

Melnyk (2005), *Introduction to Psychology & Law*. Thomson/Nelson.

This is a custom-published text, with chapters from three leading textbooks published by Thomson/Nelson:

Wrightsmann (2001), *Forensic Psychology*.

Wrightsmann, Greene, Nietzel, & Fortune (2002), *Psychology and the Legal System*, 5th ed.

Bartol & Bartol (2004), *Psychology and the Law*.

4.0 COURSE OBJECTIVES

The purposes of Psychology 131a are:

1. To provide students with knowledge of the basic vocabulary, research findings, and generally accepted concepts in the field of psychology and law;
2. To heighten students' awareness of the problems and advances in the study of issues in psychological research in legal contexts;
3. To introduce students to the applications of psychological research in shaping public policy.

5.0 EVALUATION

Evaluation is based on three (3) exams. Each exam covers one-third of the course material, so each exam is worth one-third (33.3%) of the final grade. The exams will consist of multiple-choice questions selected from lecture and text material. The exams are non-cumulative. Dates and details for the exams are presented below in Section 6.0.

6.0 TEST AND EXAMINATION SCHEDULE

Exam 1 will be held in-class on **Thursday October 7 2004** and will cover the lectures from September 9 to September 30 2004 inclusive and Chapters 1 (“The challenge of forensic psychology”), Chapter 2 (“Roles and responsibilities of forensic psychologists”), pages 108-118 in Chapter 5 (“Hypnosis and lie detection”), and Chapter 4 (“Criminal profiling”).

Exam 2 will be held in-class on **Thursday November 11 2004** and will cover the lectures October 14 to November 4 inclusive and Chapter 7 (“Police interrogations and confessions”) and Chapter 7 (“Crime investigations: Witnesses”).

Exam 3 will be during the **December 2004 exam period** at a date, time, and location set by the Registrar’s office. Exam 3 will cover the lectures from November 18 to December 2 2004 inclusive and Chapters 10 (“Insanity and competency”), Chapter 7 (“The psychology of the jury: Jury decision making”), and Chapter 10 (“Correctional psychology”).

7.0 LECTURE SCHEDULE

Date	Lecture	Topic	Reading
Sept 9	1	Welcome & introduction Psychology and the Legal System Comparing psychology and law	Forensic Psychology Chapter 1 <i>The challenge of forensic psychology</i>
Sept 16	2	Overview of the Canadian legal system History of psychology and law Psychologists' roles in the legal system	Forensic Psychology Chapter 2 <i>Roles and responsibilities of forensic psychologists</i>
Sept 23	3	Investigations: Suspects Lie detection Theories of crime	Forensic Psychology Chapter 5 -- pages 108-118 only <i>Hypnosis and lie detection in criminal investigations</i>
Sept 30	4	Profiling	Forensic Psychology Chapter 4 <i>Criminal profiling</i>
Oct 7		Test 1 (33.3%)	
Oct 14	5	Interrogations and confessions	Forensic Psychology Chapter 7 <i>Police interrogations and confessions</i>
Oct 21	6	Investigations: Witnesses Line-ups Interviewing witnesses	Psychology and the Legal System Chapter 7 <i>Crime investigation: Witnesses</i>
Oct 28	7	Children as witnesses	Psychology and the Legal System Chapter 7 <i>Crime investigation: Witnesses</i>
Nov 4	8	False memories	Psychology and the Legal System Chapter 7 <i>Crime investigation: Witnesses</i>
Nov 11		Test 2 (33.3%)	
Nov 18	9	Trial Forensic assessment: Insanity and competency	Forensic Psychology Chapter 10 <i>Insanity and competency</i>
Nov 25	10	Juries	Psychology and the Law Chapter 7 <i>The psychology of the jury: Jury decision making</i>
Dec 2	11	Punishment & sentencing	Psychology and the Law Chapter 10 <i>Correctional psychology</i>
Dec exam period		Test 3 (33.3%)	