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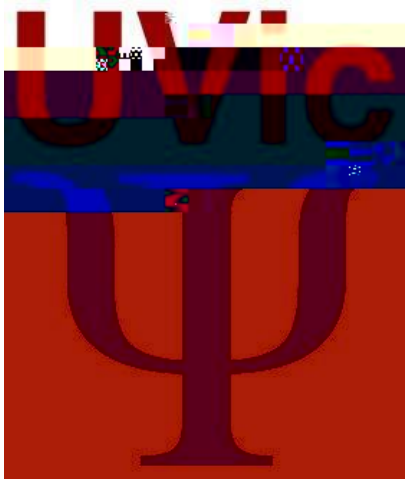
Department of Psychology



Psychology and Law

Spring (Jan-Apr) 2022

**Please note: Although an unlikely event, I reserve the right to modify this course outline. Any changes will be announced to you in advance (both in class and posted on Brightspace).*

©Dr. Jessica Rourke

Learning Outcomes

My goals are that by the end of this course you will be able to:

- Explain the ways in which psychology intersects with law at all points of our criminal justice system
- Critically examine our criminal justice system, with a specific focus on biases that exist within this system
- Identify alternatives to our current, mainstream approach to justice-seeking
- Identify ways in which knowledge from psychology may help to improve our criminal justice system

Course Readings

There is no textbook for this course. Instead, you will be reading selected articles, all of which are available online through the library or a website for which I have provided the URL. You will see the set of readings assigned to be completed *prior to class* each week in the tentative course schedule on p. 6 ±8.

Course Website

On Brightspace I will post:

- the course syllabus
- information about assignments
- information necessary for in-class activities
- relevant announcements (e.g., grades)

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Brightspace is where you will submit your assignments. There will also be some informal discussion forums so you can connect with your classmates (e.g., to form a study group).

****If anything on our website (including documents) presents any accessibility issues, please let me know and I can send you the information in plain format.**

Grades

If you are disappointed with a grade, it is your responsibility to arrange to meet with me to review the marking <u>at the time the material is graded, not at the end of the term</u> when the final grade is awarded.

I will not review a grade/assignment if you contact me <u>later than 5 days</u> after the grade was first posted.

In determining your final letter grade in the course, anything .5 and above will be rounded up to the next percentage score; anything .4 and below will be rounded down to the previous percentage score. For example, 74.4% will be rounded to 74%, whereas 74.5% will be rounded to 75%. Letter grades and corresponding percentages are as follows:

A+	90 ±100	B+	77 ±79	C+	65 ±69	F	0 ±49
A	85 – 89	B	73 ±76	C	60 ±64	N	Incomplete
A-	80 – 84	B -	70 ±72	D	50 ±59		

Please note that an A+, A, or A- is earned by work which is technically superior, shows mastery of the subject matter, and in the case of an A+ offers original insight and goes beyond course expectations. See p. 15 for more information on what constitutes letter grades at UVic.

Extensions

Should you need an extension, please feel free to speak to me about it ***BEFORE*** the due date. ***Extensions will not be granted on, or following, the due date.***

FEB 07, 10	**False confessions**	Stratton, G. (2015). Transforming the Central Park jogger into the Central Park Five: Shifting narratives of innocence and changing media discourse in the attack on the Central Park jogger, 1989 ± 2014. *Crime, Media, Culture, 11*(3), 281-297. http://dx.doi.org.ezproxy.library.uvic.ca/10.1177/1741659015592794
FEB 14, 17	**Class presentation prep** **Test 1**	Wrap-up and in-class time to prepare for upcoming presentations; no readings The test will be on FEB 17 and will cover material from JAN 10 onward
		Feb 21 ±25: Reading Break, no classes, no readings
		Feb 28: Last day to officially withdraw from course without penalty of failure
FEB 28, MAR 03	**Presentation (deception)** **Presentation (eyewitness testimony)**	Watch (4 minutes): https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nyDMoGjKvNk Watch (4 minutes): https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ChgPk2OiZCw
MAR 07, 10	**Indigenous Peoples in** & D Q D GJS ¶ V	Clarke, J. (2017). *Your Gladue Rights.* British Columbia: Legal Services Society. Access it at: https://pubsdb.lss.bc.ca/pdfs/pubs/Your-Gladue-Rights-eng.pdf
MAR 14, 17	**Presentation (psychological disorders in the courtroom);** **Presentation (jury selection, decision-making & sentencing)**	Watch (11 minutes; information o Q F R O O D E R U D W L Y H F R X U W V « P L J K W E https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3WxvUFzrMDc Watch (3 minutes): https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rJgGvY8Yeyg
MAR 21, 24	**Trauma-informed practice;** **No class (March 24)**	Trauma-Informed Practice Guide ±read pgs. 2, 3-7, 9, 10, 12-15; 19-26. Access it at: http://bccewh.bc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2012/05/2013_TIP-Guide.pdf No class on March 24 is to make up for the time you will be required to spend attending a court session for your court report

Assignment Details

Mandatory Course Components

- Writing both tests

Important UVic Course Policy Information

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Prerequisites: