



EFFECTIVE: SEPTEMBER, 2008 CURRICULUM GUIDELINES

A. Division: **EDUCATION** Effective Date: **SEPTEMBER 2008**
 Instructional

B. Department / **PSYCHOLOGY / FACULTY OF** Revision New Course
 Program Area: **HUMANITIES & SOCIAL SCIENCES**

If Revision, Section(s) Revised:
 Date of Previous Revision:
 Date of Current Revision or Development: **January 2008**

C: **PSYC 3314** D: **PSYCHOLOGY & LAW** E: **3**

Subject & Course No	Descriptive Title	Semester Credits
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<p>F: Calendar Description: This general survey course provides an introduction to the study of psychology as it relates to the law. It will lead to a better understanding of criminal and civil issues that involve psychological perspectives; including a focus on psychological experts in court, child custody, law enforcement, victimology, violent offenders, risk assessments, and treatment of forensic clinical populations.</p>							
<p>G: Allocation of Contact Hours to Type of Instruction / Learning Settings</p> <p>Primary Methods of Instructional Delivery and/or Learning Settings:</p> <p>Lecture</p> <p>Number of Contact Hours: (per week / semester for each descriptor) 4 hours per week/semester</p> <p>Lecture: 4 hrs./per week /semester</p> <p>Number of Weeks per Semester: 15</p>	<p>H: Course Prerequisites: PSYC 1200</p> <p>I: Course Corequisites: NONE</p> <p>J: Course for which this Course is a Prerequisite: NONE</p> <p>K: Maximum Class Size: 35</p>						
<p>L: PLEASE INDICATE:</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 40px; border: 1px solid black; text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Non-Credit</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border: 1px solid black; text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>College Credit Non-Transfer</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border: 1px solid black; text-align: center;"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td>College Credit Transfer:</td> </tr> </table> <p style="text-align: center;">SEE BC TRANSFER GUIDE FOR TRANSFER DETAILS (www.bctransferguide.ca)</p>		<input type="checkbox"/>	Non-Credit	<input type="checkbox"/>	College Credit Non-Transfer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	College Credit Transfer:
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M: Course Objectives / Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of the course the learner will be able to:

1. Describe the relationship between psychology and the law;
2. Describe the various roles of forensic psychologists;
3. Understand the limitations of eyewitness testimony from the perspective of psychological research;
4. Understand the role of the psychologist in trial consultation;
5. Identify psychological factors in jury behaviour and decision making;
6. Explain assessment of mental state at time of offence from the perspective of a psychologist;
7. Explain what it means to be competent to stand trial and how psychologists assess fitness;
8. Understand the role of the psychologist in legal disputes (e.g. divorce, psychological injury);
9. Discuss the psychological factors in child custody evaluations;
10. Describe psychological assessment methods for selecting and evaluating law enforcement officers;
11. Outline the mental health needs of police and military personnel and how they may be assessed and supported;
12. Identify the methods of assessing deception and the faking of psychological symptoms;
13. Outline the role of the psychologist providing services in prisons and jails;
14. Describe the methods of treatment of mentally disordered offenders and limitations of various treatments;
15. Identify the special needs for psychological assessment and treatment of juveniles and Aboriginals in the criminal justice system;
16. Describe methods and limitations of psychological treatment of violent offenders, and psychological assessments of risk; and
17. Identify the psychological needs of and treatments for victims of crime.

N: Course Content:

Psychology and Law Overview

Mental Health Law

Roles of Forensic Psychologists

Criminal Court

Eyewitness Testimony and Memory Issues

Trial Consulting and Jury Behaviour

Mental State at Time of Offence

Fitness/Competency to Stand Trial

Family/Civil Court

Child Custody

Mediation

Psychological/Personal Injury

Law Enforcement

Fitness for Duty

Psychological Selection and Evaluation

Assessing Deception and Malingering

Corrections

The Forensic Psychologist as a Clinician

Offender Rehabilitation

Special Populations in the Legal System

Mentally Disordered Offenders

Children & Juveniles

Aboriginals

Violence and Criminal Behaviour
 Psychological Treatment of Violent Offenders
 Risk Assessments

Victims of Crime
 Psychological Assessment and Treatment

O: Methods of Instruction

Instruction will include lecture, group-discussion, video/audio presentations, and classroom exercises.

P: Textbooks and Materials to be Purchased by Students

Textbooks will be updated periodically. Typical examples of texts are:

Cronin, C. (2006) *Forensic psychology*. United States: Kendall/Hunt Publishing Company.

Pozzulo, J., Bennell, C., & Forth, A. (2008). *Forensic psychology*. Toronto: Pearson/Prentice Hall.

Wrightsmann, L.S., & Porter, S. (2006). *Forensic psychology* (First Canadian ed.). Toronto: Thomas Nelson.

Q: Means of Assessment

The course should use a number of assessments to evaluate course objectives in accordance with Douglas College Policy. Assessments should include exams and/or quizzes (multiple choice and short answer/essay), and a term paper with a presentation. The presentation may be a group debate format. The instructor will provide a written course outline with specific evaluation criteria at the beginning of the semester.

An example of a possible evaluation scheme is:

Two midterm exams (20% each)	40%
Final exam	20%
Paper	20%
Group Presentation	10%
Two pop quizzes (5% each)	10%

R: Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition: specify whether course is open for PLAR

No.

Course Designer(s): Dr. Kristin Wagner

Education Council / Curriculum Committee Representative

Dean / Director

Registrar