



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

**Mondays & Wednesdays 1000 - 1120B206
Winter 2005**

Instructor: Dr. Connie Korpan
Office: C420
Office Hours: Tuesdays 1030-1230, Thursdays 1130-1230
Phone: 539-2032
Email: ckorpan@gprc.ab.ca

Textbook: Wrightsmann, L.S., Greene, E., Nietzel, M.T., & Fortune, W.H. (2002) Psychology and the Legal System, Fifth Edition., Wadsworth Thomson Learning

Delivery: Lecture

Prerequisites: PY1040/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

4 Quizzes—5% each
Midterm Exam—20%
Final Exam—25%
Class Participation—10%
Paper—25%

Assignments and Grading

1. **Exams.** There will be four quizzes. Each quiz will be in a multiple choice format and will be worth 5%. The midterm and final exams will include multiple-choice and short answer questions. The final exam will not be cumulative. The dates of the quizzes and midterm are specified on the next page of this course outline. The date of the final exam will be announced by the Student Services office.

Weights of exams: quizzes = 5% each (total = 20%); Midterm exam = 20%; 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 and will do research to find answers to that question.

Weight of paper and related components: 25%

Any component handed in later than the stipulated due dates will be docked up to 25% per day (at my discretion).

3. **Class Participation.** 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, and completing optional class participation assignments. Attendance also counts towards participation.

Weight of Class participation: 10%

Grading

| <i>Alpha Grade</i> | <i>4-Pt Equivalent</i> | <i>% Guidelines</i> | <i>Designation</i> |
|--------------------|------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------|
| A+ | 4.0 | 94 - 100 | Excellent |
| A | 4.0 | 88 - 93 | |
| A- | 3.7 | 82 - 87 | First Class Standing |
| B+ | 3.3 | 76 - 81 | |
| B | 3.0 | 73 - 75 | Good |
| B- | 2.7 | 70 - 72 | |
| C+ | 2.3 | 67 - 69 | Satisfactory |
| C | 2.0 | 64 - 66 | |
| C- | 1.7 | 60 - 63 | |
| D+ | 1.3 | 55 - 59 | Minimal Pass |
| D | 1.0 | 50 - 54 | |
| F | 0.0 | 0 - 49 | Fail |

Student Responsibilities

Independent learning is a valuable skill that instructors at Grande Prairie Regional College wish to foster in their students.

Lecture Attendance/Absences

Students are held accountable for all lecture materials and readings. It is your responsibility to keep up with class work. Therefore, you are expected to attend all lectures. Attendance will be taken regularly.

If you are absent from a class, all missed material is to be obtained by approaching a fellow student, not 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.**

Please note that according to GPRC policy, instructors reserve the right to **bar a student from writing the final exam** when the student has accumulated **more than 10% (2-3 classes) unexcused absences.** Absences will be excused on the basis of verified illness, dentistry, accident, or emergency. Holidays, employment, and other such activities, are not considered to be excusable reasons to miss classes. Please note that part of your class participation mark is based on your attendance. Again, attendance will be taken regularly.

Other Responsibilities

You are also expected to prepare for each lecture by reading the assigned chapters and handouts. 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. **Quizzes that are missed for any reason will not be rescheduled.** 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. Just to remind you, **final exams begin April 16 and end by April 28.** These dates have been available to current and prospective GPRC 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, p 35-36)

Paper Extensions

Extensions of deadlines for components of the paper assignment will be considered *only* in the case of significant extenuating circumstances. If such circumstances arise, students requesting an extension will be required to show evidence that a significant amount of work on the component has been completed in advance of the day *before* the work is due. For example, if a student requests an extension on the day before the paper is due, a very nearly complete draft of the paper must be shown to the instructor at the time of the request. Students in circumstances of extreme duress should notify the instructor as soon as possible if they anticipate difficulty in submitting their paper on time. **Please note that having other assignments due on March 28 is not a reason for extending the deadline of the paper because students have 2.5 months to plan for this and other assignments.**

Penalties for late submissions of any component of the paper (without prior permission from the instructor) are at the discretion of the instructor and may accrue at as much as **25% for each day late.**

Tentative Lecture Schedule

| | |
|-------------|---|
| January 26 | Quiz 1: Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4 (Note: I will not be lecturing on Chapter 1 or 3) |
| February 14 | Quiz 2: Chapters 5, 6, 7, 8 |
| February 16 | Midterm: Chapters 1 to 8 |
| March 23 | Quiz 3: Chapters 9, 11, 12, 13 |
| April 13 | Quiz 4: Chapters 14, 15, 16, 17 |
| | ****Final: Chapters 9, 11, 12, 13 14, 15, 16, 17 |

***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. Note that the dates for the final examination period fall between April 16 and 28, inclusive, so do not plan your vacation during this period

Writing Assignment Deadlines

| | |
|-------------|-------------------------|
| January 24 | Research Question Sheet |
| February 16 | Reference Page |
| March 28 | Paper |

****All components are due at the beginning of class on the above dates. Anything submitted after the beginning of class will be considered late.

Other Important Dates

| | |
|---------------|--|
| Jan 7 | Last day to add winter courses |
| Jan 14 | Last day to drop courses without paying tuition for the dropped courses |
| Jan 21 | Last day to write deferred final exams or repeat final exams for fall courses |
| Jan 28 | Last day to pay winter semester fees to avoid late payment penalty |
| Feb 21-25 | Winter Break—no classes |
| Mar 17 | Last day to withdraw or change from credit to audit |
| March 25 | Good Friday—no classes |
| April 14 | Last day of classes |
| April 16 | Final exams begin in most programs |
| April 28 | 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.

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.