

# Seminar in Forensic Psychology (PSYCO 403-A1)

## Course Syllabus

Spring 2013



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**Office hours:** Tuesdays and Thursdays from 16:30 – 17:30 (By appointment)  
Other times can be arranged.

**Prerequisites:** PSYCO 104, 105, STAT 151 (or former PSYCO 211), and at least one 300-level psychology course (239 recommended but not mandatory).

### Required readings:

There is no required textbook for this course. All required articles are available via links in the class web site.

Recommended: Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, Sixth Edition

### Classes:

Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1:30 to 4:20 pm. Room: BSP 226

### Evaluation:

Component	Weight	Due Date
Presentation	30 %	Assigned in class
Paper	30 %	June 6 @ 4:20 pm
Comprehensive Final Exam	30 %	Friday, June 14 (11:30 am to 2:30 pm) *
Attendance and Participation	10 %	Throughout

The final exam will contain short answer and/or multiple choice questions. All assigned readings and presentation materials are eligible for inclusion.

\* Note that the exam date is subject to confirmation when the finalized exam schedule is released.

The reading list contains a number of interesting and relevant topics. You will be required to select one during the first week of class. You will also be assigned a date on which you will make a presentation to the class. This should be based on the recommended reading(s) for that topic as well as other articles you encounter that are directly relevant. Alternatively **you may propose a topic of your own choosing, subject to approval by the instructors.** Papers must be written in APA format. This will be explained further during our first class.

## **Policies:**

Once your presentation date is assigned, you are responsible for ensuring that you are prepared. If, for any reason, you will not be able to present that day, **it is your responsibility to arrange for a classmate to take your place**. Failure to do so will result in a mark of zero for the presentation component.

The paper and presentation you prepare for this course must be unique. I.e., you may not submit work that has been prepared, in whole or in part, for another course.

Your paper must be in APA format and must be submitted in hardcopy. A deduction of 3 marks per day will be applied to late papers beginning at the end of class on June 6. Late papers must be brought to the Psychology General Office (BSP 217) and time/date stamped by the office staff. Mark deductions to unstamped papers will be made according to when the instructors receive them.

Your presentations will be made using PowerPoint. A copy of your presentation must be emailed to Dr. Frenzel no less than 24 hours in advance to allow time for it to be posted to the website and printed out by your classmates: The sooner the better. A 3 point deduction will be applied to presentations not sent on time.

Grading forms for papers and presentations can be found in the Announcements section of the website.

In the event of a missed final exam you may apply for a deferral through the Dean's office.

Electronic Devices: Texting, web browsing, using social networking applications, and talking on cell phones is *not allowed in class at any time*. If, like us, you are periodically "on call" and may need to deal with emergencies please set your phone to vibrate and exit the classroom as necessary. The use of electronic devices during exams is prohibited. Please exercise respect, professionalism, and good judgment in this regard. Violations may result in the loss of participation points.

## **Academic Honesty:**

The University of Alberta is committed to the highest standards of academic integrity and honesty. Students are expected to be familiar with these standards regarding academic honesty and to uphold the policies of the University in this respect. Students are particularly urged to familiarize themselves with the provisions of the *Code of Student Behaviour* (online at [www.governance.ualberta.ca](http://www.governance.ualberta.ca)) and avoid any behaviour which could potentially result in suspicions of cheating, plagiarism, misrepresentation of facts and/or participation in an offence. Academic dishonesty is a serious offence and can result in suspension or expulsion from the University.

All forms of dishonesty are unacceptable at the University. Any offense will be reported to the Senior Associate Dean of Arts who will determine the disciplinary action to be taken. Cheating, plagiarism and misrepresentation of facts are serious offenses. Anyone who engages in these practices will receive at minimum a grade of zero for the exam in question and no opportunity will be given to replace the grade or redistribute the weights. This is in addition to any sanctions imposed by the Faculty of Arts.

## **Course Content:**

This course will discuss a variety of topics (see online reading list) relevant to the professional practice of psychology in criminal and civil forensic context. Given the compressed nature of intersession classes, students should anticipate a brisk pace in this class.

Some presentations will deal with violent crime, sexual abuse, severe mental illness, personal injury, etc. While students are expected to present material in a sensitive manner, **individuals concerned that they may be offended or upset by discussions of that nature should consider other courses**. Please feel free to discuss any apprehensions of this nature with the instructors beforehand.

**Class Homepage:** <http://www.psych.ualberta.ca/~rfrenzel>

Our homepage contains links to readings, the presentation schedule, extra copies of this syllabus, and announcements. You are encouraged to check it for new information regularly. The page can be accessed from your mobile device by scanning the following QR code:



We will also utilize eClass (Moodle). The page can be accessed by logging into your personal eClass account.

All U of A students are provided with a CNS login ID at the time of registration. This should be printed on your timetable. For further assistance please contact the CNS helpdesk at (780)492-9400.

### Teaching Schedule:

Date	Topic
<b>May</b>	
7, 8	Course Introduction and APA writing style (Dr. Frenzel) The Canadian Code of Ethics for Psychologists (Dr. Neumann)
14, 16, 21, 23, 28, 30	Student presentations & class discussions
<b>June</b>	
4, 6, 11	Student presentations & class discussions
11	Final Exam (Friday June 14, 2013 11:30 – 14:30 hrs)

**Disclaimer:** Any typographical errors in this Course Outline are subject to change and will be announced in class. The date of the final examination is set by the Registrar and takes precedence over the final examination date reported in this syllabus.

**Students with Disabilities:** Students who require accommodation in this course due to a disability are advised to discuss their needs with Specialized Support & Disability Services (2-800 Students' Union Building).