Course Outline

PSYC3301

Psychology and Law

School of Psychology

Faculty of Science

T2, 2020

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1. Staff

Position	Name	Email	Consultation times and locations	Contact Details
Course Convenor	Prof. Richard Kemp	richard.kemp@unsw.edu.au	By appointment Mathews 1005	Email
Lecturer	A/Prof. Kristy Martire Jennifer Grant Annalese Bolton	k.martire@unsw.edu.au kosullivan@psy.unsw.edu.au b.growns@unsw.edu.au j.l.grant@unsw.edu.au a.bolton@unsw.edu.au	By appointment By appointment By appointment By appointment By appointment	Email Email Email Email Email
Head Tutor Tutors	Tanya Wayne Jennifer Johan Bryan Neo Agnes Bali Richard Kemp	t.wayne@unsw.edu.au j.l.grant@unsw.edu.au bryan.neo@student.unsw.edu.au agnes.bali@unsw.edu.au richard.kemp@unsw.edu.au	By appointment By appointment By appointment By appointment By appointment	Email Email Email Email Email

2. Course Information

Units of credit:	6
Pre-requisite(s):	PSYC2001 and PSYC2061. Note: PSYC2061 may be taken as a co-requisite.
Teaching times:	http://timetable.unsw.edu.au/2020/PSYC3301.html
	Note: Students must attend the assigned online tutorial group at the allocated day/time. Tutorials will not be recorded

2.1 Course Summary

This course provides an introduction and broad overview to the discipline of Forensic Psychology. You will be introduced to a wide range of topics in forensic psychology, covering both criminal and civil law. Topics include jury decision making, eyewitness memory, forensic expert evidence, criminal profiling, children and the courts, victims and offenders, policing, and the treatment and rehabilitation of offenders. The course will draw on cognitive, social and clinical psychological research. The goal is to demonstrate how psychological research can help us to understand and reform all aspects of the legal process. In addition to providing an introduction to Forensic Psychology, the course may offer a

useful foundation for students interested in further study of forensic psychology at the Masters, Doctoral or PhD level.

Some of the topics covered in this course are also introduced in the level 1 course, PSYC1027 Forensic Psychology: Crime, Courts and Corrections. These common topics are covered in greater depth in PSYC3301, and additional topics are introduced. PSYC1027 is not a prerequisite for this course.

2.2 Course Aims

This course aims to provide an introduction and broad overview to the discipline of psychology and law. You will be introduced to a wide range of psychological issues related to aspects of both civil and criminal law. The topics covered will draw on psychological research from various branches of the discipline including cognitive, social, developmental and clinical psychology. The second aim is to encourage an evidence-based approach to the study of topics involving the application of psychological knowledge to legal issues, and to demonstrate how psychological research can help us to understand and reform all aspects of the legal process

2.3 Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)

At the successful completion of this course the student should be able to:

1. Apply cognitive, social and clinical psychological theories to a range of legal issues.

2. Critically evaluate and apply psychological research findings to legal or policy problems.

3. Show an advanced understanding of the nature and limitations of applied psychological research.

4. Create reports for legal professionals which summarise relevant psychological research and provide relevant recommendations to legal problems based on that research.

5. Investigate how psychology can be applied within a correctional environment to assess offenders, develop treatments to reduce offending, and assess intervention efficacy.

2.4 Relationship between course and program learning outcomes and assessments

| CLO | Program Learning Outcomes | | | | | | Assessment |
---	1. Knowledge	2. Research Methods	3. Critical Thinking Skills	4. Values and Ethics	5. Communication, Interpersonal and Teamwork	6. Application	
1.	Lectures, labs, readings, online modules, quizzes					Lectures, labs, readings, online modules, quizzes	Mid-term exam, Report, Media presentation, Final exam
2.		Lectures, labs, readings, online modules, quizzes	Lectures, labs, readings, online modules, quizzes				Mid-term exam, Report, Media presentation, Final exam
3.	Lectures, labs, readings, online modules, quizzes	Lectures, labs, readings, online modules, quizzes	Lectures, labs, readings, online modules, quizzes				Mid-term exam, Report, Media presentation, Final exam
4.				Lectures, labs, readings, online modules, quizzes	Lectures, labs, readings, online modules, quizzes		Report, Media presentation
5.	Lectures, labs, readings, online modules, quizzes					Lectures, labs, readings, online modules, quizzes	Mid-term exam, Report, Media presentation, Final exam

3. Strategies and Approaches to Learning

3.1 Learning and Teaching Activities

In 2020 all lectures, tutorials and exams for this course will be online only.

The design of the structure, content and assessment of this course has been informed by the policy document "Guidelines on learning that inform teaching at UNSW" (see https://teaching.unsw.edu.au/guidelines). In particular, lectures and lab classes are designed to encourage active, challenging and enjoyable learning which builds on learning that has occurred in other psychology courses and is relevant to the range of students' likely future careers. The teaching employs a variety of different methods and encourages students to take responsibility for their own learning and to work cooperatively. Use is made of web based materials and assessments have been designed to reflect the learning outcomes and structure of the course.

Each week two, lectures will be used to provide students with an introduction to a broad range of topics within the field of psychology and law. Within these topic areas the lectures will cover current theory, research methods, findings and the application of these findings to the legal process. Some of these topics will be supplemented with additional online modules and resources

The tutorials are designed to allow opportunities for in-depth and active learning. The sessions will be used to demonstrate and explore some of the issues covered in the lectures and opportunities will be provided to explore the methods used in forensic research, to take part in practical demonstrations, to debate issues and case studies and to participate in roleplays. Tutorials will not be recorded.

To develop students' critical thinking, they will be asked to monitor media reports for relevant psycho-legal issues and to present to their lab class one such issue along with the empirical research relevant to this topic.

The lectures will draw on topics covered in the textbook and additional readings. You should read the relevant chapter or reading before the lecture so that you start with an understanding of the broad issues. This understanding will provide a conceptual framework and allow you to draw greatest benefit from the lecture. Before each Laboratory class read over your lecture notes (if applicable) and re-read the textbook chapters so that you can seek clarification where you require it. Look out for debate in the news media concerning legal and policy issues. Think about how psychological knowledge and research could inform this debate. In some cases the lecturer will identify specific reading but on other occasions you will be expected to use the library, research databases and other sources including the Internet to locate relevant material. The ability to locate relevant materials is a valuable skill that will be practiced and developed during this course.

Formative topic revision quizzes are available for students that provide an opportunity to evaluate understanding of course material on a weekly basis. Timely completion of the weekly quizzes will assist students in gaining a proper understanding of each topic so that this knowledge can be built on in future content.

3.2 Expectations of Students

It is expected that students are aware of UNSW Assessment policy and understand how to apply for special consideration if they are unable to complete an assignment/exam due to illness and/or misadventure.

It is expected that students have read through the School of Psychology Student Guide.

Tutorial/laboratory class participation is compulsory to ensure students are consistently working towards achieving the foundational graduate competencies required by the APAC Accreditation Standards. These Accreditation Standards are incorporated in Program and Course Learning Outcomes. Students must attend the assigned class and participation is monitored. Explanations for an occasional absence from a class should be discussed with the lecturer/tutor, and where applicable, accompanied by a medical certificate.

All news updates and announcements will be made on the 'Announcements' forum on the Moodle page and/or by email. It is the student's responsibility to check Moodle and their UNSW email accounts regularly to keep up to date.

The final exam for this course will occur during the UNSW examinations period. Students should not arrange travel during the UNSW exam period until the date of the final exam has been released. Students who arrange travel prior to the release of the final exam date will not be granted consideration in the event they are scheduled to be out of country when the final exam is to occur.

Students registered with Disability Support Services must contact the course co-ordinator immediately if they intend to request any special arrangements for later in the course, or if any special arrangements need to be made regarding access to the course material. Letters of support must be emailed to the course coordinator as soon as they are made available.

4. Course Schedule and Structure

Each week this course typically consists of 2 hours of lecture material, 2 hours of tutorials, and 1 hours of online modules. Students are expected to take an additional 5-7 hours each week of self-determined study to complete assessments, readings, and exam preparation. Initials after each lecture topic indicate the lecturer.

Week	Lecture topic/s	Tutorial/lab topics	Online modules	Self-determined activities
Week 1	Introduction to the Course (RK) What is Forensic Psychology (RK)		A Psychologists' Guide to the Australian Legal System Media Presentations Explained and Assignment to Groups	Read relevant chapter of text. Review lecture notes. Review assessment requirements
Week 2	Profiling (RK) False Confession (RK)		Real Case Examples of false Confession	Read relevant chapter of text. Review lecture notes.
Week 3	Detection of Deception (RK) Juries and Jury Decision-Making (RK)	Detection of Deception	Recent Advances in the Detection of Deception When Juries Go Bad	Read relevant chapter of text. Review lecture notes.
Week 4	The Psychology of Terrorists and Terrorism (RK) Forensic Evidence (KM)	Profiling	The Crisis in Forensic Science	Read relevant chapter of text. Review lecture notes.
Week 5	Mental Illness and Crime (RK) **Mid-Term Exam**	Jury Deliberation	N/A	Read relevant chapter of text. Review lecture notes.

Week 6	FLEX WEEK	N/A		Read relevant chapter of text. Review lecture notes.
Week 7	Child Protection (AB) Eyewitness Memory 1 (RK)	Witness Interviewing	NSW Child Protection Policies	Read relevant chapter of text. Review lecture notes.
Week 8	Eyewitness Memory 2 (RK) Witness interviewing (RK)	Identification Procedures	False Memories in Research and in Case Law Fake news! Misinformation in the "Post-Truth" Era	Read relevant chapter of text. Review lecture notes.
Week 9	Identification Evidence 1 (RK) Effective Prison and the Treatment of Offenders (KM)	Research Ethics Exam Feedback	Innocent! Some Real Cases of Erroneous Conviction Eyewitness Interviewing	Read relevant chapter of text. Review lecture notes.
Week 10	The Nature of Offenders (including sex offenders) (JG) Risk Assessment and Psychological Assessment for the Courts (RK)	Assessment and Treatment of Offenders	Public Attitudes to Offenders Concluding Thoughts Careers in Forensic Psychology Research or Clinical	Read relevant chapter of text. Review lecture notes.
Study period	N/A	N/A	N/A	Exam preparation
Exam period	N/A	N/A	N/A	Exam preparation

5. Assessment

5.1 Assessment Tasks

All assessments in this course have been designed and implemented in accordance with UNSW Assessment Policy.

Assessment task	Length	Weight	Mark	Due date
Assessment 1: Mid-Term Exam	1 hour	20%	/100	2/7/2020
Assessment 2: Psych-Legal Report	1800 words	30%	/100	20/7/2020
Assessment 3: Media Presentation	15 mins	20%	/100	As Assigned
Assessment 4: Final Exam	2 hours	30%	/100	Exam Period

Examinations: There will be two examinations – a mid-term exam and a final exam. Both exams will be conducted online. The final exam will not be cumulative – that is **the topics covered before the mid-term exam will only be examined in the mid-term exam**, and **the final exam will only assess topics covered after the midterm exam**. Assessed material includes the contents of the lectures, the related textbook chapters or any other assigned readings, and the material from related lab classes. The Mid-Term exam will be 1 hour in duration and the Final Exam will be 2 hours in duration. The mid-term exam will take place during week 5.

Both the Mid-Term and Final Exams consist of short-answer questions and extended answer questions. The short-answer questions assess students' understanding of the topics covered. The extended answer question will assess students' ability to critically evaluate scientific evidence and to construct coherent, logical arguments using that evidence. Although past students have told us that they prefer to have a mid-term exam, there is a tendency to under-perform in the mid-term exam relative to the final exam. We strongly advise you to treat the mid-term exam as you would a final exam and allow sufficient time to study for the exam.

Assessment 2: Psycho-Legal Report. Each student must submit an original report of **no more than** 1800 words in length prepared in accordance with the APA Publication Manual (6th or 7th edition). The report should summarise and evaluate psychological research relevant to the specified issue or problem set in a form that would be useful to a particular target audience of researchers, policy makers or practitioners working within this field. A choice of three topic areas and target audiences will be provided. The report must not exceed 1800 words (including all text other than the reference section and any appendices). Reports over this length may be penalised. Students must include an accurate word count at the end of the main body of their report. The assessment criteria for this assessment will be provided along with the topics. Students must read the assessment criteria and accompanying guidance before preparing the report as a particular format of report may be required. Reports must be submitted on Turnitin on the Moodle site by the due date indicated above.

Assessment 3: Media Presentation. Students will work in groups of about 3 (as assigned) to prepare and deliver a 15 minute presentation during one of the lab classes (with 5 additional minutes afterwards for discussion). **During the first two weeks of the course you will be assigned to a group and told which week you will present**. All members of the group will be required to contribute to the presentation. Your mark will be made up of two components – a group component

which will be the same for all group members (75% of your mark) and an individual component (25%) based on your individual performance during the presentation.

The presentation will be based on a current Australian psycho-legal issue reported in the Australian media during the preceding two weeks. Students will present their report during one of the lab classes (as assigned by the tutor) and will lead a short discussion of the topic and its implications for psychological research and practice and the development of policy. Students are required to prepare three questions to help stimulate discussion. **A copy of the presentation must sent to the tutor immediately before the presentation.** Students should append a copy of the media article to their presentation.

This assignment will encourage students to think widely about psycho-legal issues and help form a better understanding of the ways in which psychological knowledge and research can be applied to legal and policy questions. The presentations will be marked against a set of clearly defined criteria that will be provided on the Moodle site. The presentation will contribute 20% of the final mark for the course. The assessment criteria used to assess the presentations, some tips for making good presentations and the rules about failure to present due to illness, will be made available via the Moodle site.

1. Your presentation must take a maximum of 15 minutes (excluding questions). Students may be penalised for presentations which significantly deviate from 15 minutes duration.

2. This is a group assignment. Students will be assigned to groups of two or three members and must deliver a group assignment and presentation.

In addition, each student will provide feedback on the other groups' presentations. Written feedback should be brief, and informative. Further guidance on providing feedback will be given in the lab classes. This written feedback will then be anonymised and provided to students in the tutorial after they have presented.

Students must give their presentation on the date assigned by their tutor. Failure to do so will result in a fail for this assignment and a mark of zero. **No alternative date will be offered.** If you do not present on the assigned date the other members of your group will proceed with the presentation and you will receive a mark of zero. If no one presents all members of the group will receive a mark of zero. The only exception to this relates to periods of illness of 3 days or more covered by medical certificates. **Please note if you are unable to present on the day assigned due to documented medical reasons (and your group proceeds with the presentation), you will be required to complete another presentation <u>on a different topic</u> on a date assigned by your tutor.** See the documentation on the Moodle site for further details regarding illness and the Media Presentation.

UNSW Grading System: https://student.unsw.edu.au/grades

UNSW Assessment Policy: https://student.unsw.edu.au/assessment

5.2 Assessment Criteria and Standards

Further details and marking criteria for each assessment will be provided to students closer to the assessment release date (see 4.1: UNSW Assessment Design Procedure).

5.3 Submission of Assessment Tasks

Written assessments: In accordance with UNSW Assessment Policy written pieces of assessment must be submitted online via Turnitin. No paper or emailed copies will be accepted. All written assessments, including exam answers will be analysed by Turnitin to check for plagiarism.

Late penalties: deduction of marks for late submissions will be in accordance with School policy (see: Psychology Student Guide).

Special Consideration: Students who are unable to complete an assessment task by the assigned due date can apply for special consideration. Students should also note that UNSW has a Fit to Sit/Submit rule for all assessments. If a student wishes to submit an application for special consideration for an exam or assessment, the application must be submitted prior to the start of the exam or before an assessment is submitted. If a student sits the exam/submits an assignment, they are declaring themselves well enough to do so and are unable to subsequently apply for special consideration. If a student becomes ill on the day of the exam, they must provide evidence dated within 24 hours of the exam, with their application.

Special consideration applications must be submitted to the online portal along with Third Party supporting documentation. Students who have experienced significant illness or misadventure during the assessment period may be eligible. Only circumstances deemed to be outside of the student's control are eligible for special consideration. Except in unusual circumstances, the duration of circumstances impacting academic work must be more than 3 consecutive days, or a total of 5 days within the teaching period. If the special consideration application is approved, students may be given an extended due date, or an alternative assessment/supplementary examination may be set. For more information see https://student.unsw.edu.au/special-consideration.

Alternative assessments: will be subject to approval and implemented in accordance with UNSW Assessment Implementation Procedure.

Supplementary examinations: will be made available for students with approved special consideration application and implemented in accordance with UNSW Assessment Policy.

5.4. Feedback on Assessment

Feedback on all pieces of assessment in this course will be provided in accordance with UNSW Assessment Policy.

Assessment	When	Who	Where	How
Mid-term exam	10 days from due date	Kemp/Tutor	Online/on campus	Moodle/verbal
Psych-legal report	10 days from due date	Marker	Online	Moodle
Media presentation	10 days from due date	Tutor/Peers	Online	Email
Final exam	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

6. Academic Integrity, Referencing and Plagiarism

The APA (6th edition) referencing style is to be adopted in this course. Students should consult the publication manual itself (rather than third party interpretations of it) in order to properly adhere to APA style conventions. Students do not need to purchase a copy of the manual, it is available in the library or online. This resource is used by assessment markers and should be the only resource used by students to ensure they adopt this style appropriately:

APA 6th edition.

Referencing is a way of acknowledging the sources of information that you use to research your assignments. You need to provide a reference whenever you draw on someone else's words, ideas or research. Not referencing other people's work can constitute plagiarism.

Further information about referencing styles can be located at https://student.unsw.edu.au/referencing

Academic integrity is fundamental to success at university. Academic integrity can be defined as a commitment to six fundamental values in academic pursuits**:** honesty, trust, fairness, respect, responsibility and courage.[1] At UNSW, this means that your work must be your own, and others' ideas should be appropriately acknowledged. If you don't follow these rules, plagiarism may be detected in your work.

Further information about academic integrity and **plagiarism** can be located at:

- The *Current Students* site https://student.unsw.edu.au/plagiarism**,** and

- The *ELISE* training site http://subjectguides.library.unsw.edu.au/elise/presenting

The *Conduct and Integrity Unit* provides further resources to assist you to understand your conduct obligations as a student: https://student.unsw.edu.au/conduct.

7. Readings and Resources

Textbook	**Howitt, D (2018) Introduction to Forensic and Criminal Psychology** **(6th Edition). Harlow: Pearson Education** We have selected this as the textbook for this course and will be making reference to this text throughout the course. Students are strongly recommended to obtain a copy as early as possible. Copies are available from the UNSW Bookshop (cost $82) or online. Please note that we are using the 6th edition of the text. You may be able to obtain second-hand copies of earlier editions which will provide reasonable coverage of most topics. **Other texts to consider** **Nolan, M., and Goodman-Delahunty, J. (2015). Legal psychology in Australia. Thompson Reuters** This is a relatively new text, and unusually one which particularly focuses on forensic psychology in Australia. Its coverage of topics in this course is quite good.
Course information	Available on Moodle
Required readings	School of Psychology Student Guide.
Other media	Radio: The radio program, "The Law Report", broadcast on ABC Radio National each Tuesday at 5.30pm (repeated Wed 5.30am and Thurs 11:00am) often covers relevant legal issues. Past programmes are available for download from the ABC Radio National website (www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/lawreport/). In addition the Radio National programs "Background Briefing" and "All in the Mind" are sometimes relevant. Newspapers: The Media Presentation assessment requires you to locate relevant stories in current media. "The Sydney Morning Herald" (either in print or online) is particularly recommended for this, as is "The Australian".

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[1] International Center for Academic Integrity, 'The Fundamental Values of Academic Integrity', T. Fishman (ed), Clemson University, 2013.

Recommended internet sites	UNSW Library
	UNSW Learning Centre
	ELISE
	Turnitin
	Student Code of Conduct
	Policy concerning academic honesty
	Email policy
	UNSW Anti-racism policy statement
	UNSW Equity and Diversity policy statement
	UNSW Equal opportunity in education policy statement

8. Administrative Matters

The School of Psychology Student Guide contains School policies and procedures relevant for all students enrolled in undergraduate or Masters psychology courses, such as:

- Attendance requirements
- Assignment submissions and returns
- Assessments
- Special consideration
- Student code of conduct
- Student complaints and grievances
- Disability Support Services
- Health and safety

It is expected that students familiarise themselves with the information contained in this guide.

9. Additional Support for Students

- The Current Students Gateway: https://student.unsw.edu.au/
- Academic Skills and Support: https://student.unsw.edu.au/academic-skills
- Student Wellbeing, Health and Safety: https://student.unsw.edu.au/wellbeing
- Disability Support Services: https://student.unsw.edu.au/disability-services
- UNSW IT Service Centre: https://www.it.unsw.edu.au/students/index.html