

WESTERN UNIVERSITY
LONDON CANADA

Department of Psychology
Winter 2026

Psychology Psych 2032B Section 001

Psychology of Crime & Corrections

1 Calendar Description

This course introduces students to a broad range of issues in forensic psychology. Topics include detecting deception, eyewitness testimony, investigative interviewing, roles and responsibilities, offender profiling, correctional psychology, risk assessment, victims of crime, and fitness to stand trial. A focus will be on critical thinking, skepticism, argument, and confronting assumptions.

Antirequisites: [Psychology 2031A/B](#), [Psychology 3313A/B](#).

Prerequisites: None

3 lecture hours;

Course Weight: 0.5

Unless otherwise stated, students are responsible for ensuring that they have successfully completed all prerequisites prior to enrolling. Where prerequisites have not been met, the instructor may require the student to withdraw from the course. In accordance with Western policy, this decision is not subject to appeal.

In the event of a discrepancy between this outline and Senate or University policies, the latter shall prevail. The instructor reserves the right to modify elements of this course outline for pedagogical or operational reasons. Any such changes will be communicated to students in a timely manner.

2 Course Information

Instructor: Dr. John Campbell
Office & Phone: SSC
Office Hours: By Appointment
Email: jcampb7@uwo.ca

Teaching Assistant: TBA
Office: TBA
Office Hours: TBA

Email: TBA

Time and Location of Classes: Asynchronous

3 Course Materials

Pozzulo, Bennell & Forth (2018). Forensic Psychology, Sixth Edition. Nelson: Pearson Prentice Hall. (Required).

4 Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes

This course introduces students to a broad range of issues in the area of forensic psychology. The objective of the course is to guide students in becoming better consumers of information about crime, trials, punishment versus rehabilitation, incarceration, etc. A particular focus of this course will be on the discrepancy between common lay-person beliefs about crime and what is supported in empirical literature. Given this, a particular emphasis will be placed on critical thinking, scepticism, argument, and confronting assumptions. Topics include detecting deception, eyewitness testimony, investigative interviewing, role and responsibilities, offender profiling, correctional psychology, risk assessment, victims of crime, not criminally responsible and fitness to stand trial.

The following table outlines the course learning outcomes and how they are assessed.

Learning Outcome	Learning Activity	Assessment
<i>Depth and Breadth of Knowledge.</i> Identify key concepts, principals, and overarching themes relevant to forensic psychology.	Lectures, additional online resources, and required readings	Mid-term and final tests involving MC questions
<i>Knowledge of Methodologies.</i> Identify key concepts, principals, and overarching themes relevant to forensic psychology.	Lectures, additional online resources, and required readings	Mid-term and final tests involving MC questions
<i>Application of Knowledge.</i> Apply concepts and theories in forensic psychology to develop critical thinking to become better consumers of information as it relates to psychology and crime.	Lectures, additional online resources, and required readings	Mid-term and final tests involving MC questions
<i>Communication Skills.</i> Identify and convey concepts and theories in forensic psychology to develop critical thinking to become better consumers of information as it relates to psychology and	Lectures, additional online resources, and required readings	Mid-term and final tests involving MC questions

crime.		
<i>Awareness of Limits of Knowledge.</i> Identify and think critically about weaknesses in forensic psychology both clinically and in research.	Lectures, additional online resources, and required readings	Mid-term and final tests involving MC questions
<i>Autonomy and Professional Capacity.</i> Recognize areas of research and identify needed next steps in developing a greater understanding of the issues surrounding forensic psychology.	Lectures, additional online resources, and required readings	Mid-term and final tests involving MC questions

5 Evaluation

Grades in this course will be based on three in-person exams. The exams will consist of multiple-choice question. Students are responsible for material assigned in the textbook, as well as material covered in lectures.

The First Exam (Feb. 10), worth 30% of the final grade, will cover material from Jan 6 through Feb 3. The Second Exam (March 17), worth 30% of the final grade, will cover material from Feb 18 through Mar 10. The Final Exam (April Exam Schedule), worth 40% of the final grade, will cover material from Mar 24 through Apr 7

The evaluation and testing formats for this course were created to assess the learning objectives as listed in section 4 and are necessary for meeting these learning objectives. All evaluations listed in this course outline are required components of the course and together account for 100% of the final grade. Weightings and assessment formats may be adjusted where required to support course learning objectives, with appropriate notice to students.

Policy on Missing Coursework

Students who miss the midterm exams, will be able to write the makeup exam during the designated time. The format of the makeup exam may differ from the midterm exams.

The final exam will be the designated assessment for this course. This means that considerations for the final exam will require documentation.

Students who encounter extenuating circumstances affecting their academic responsibilities may submit a request for academic consideration in accordance with Western University's Academic Consideration policies. Requests must be submitted through the [Student Absence Portal](#) and may require supporting documentation.

Course grades within the Psychology Department are expected to be distributed around the following averages:

70%	1000-level to 2099-level courses
72%	2100-2999-level courses
75%	3000-level courses
80%	4000-level courses

In the event that course grades are significantly higher or lower than these averages, instructors may be required to make adjustments to course grades. Such adjustment might include the normalization of one or more course components and/or the re-weighting of various course components.

Policy on Grade Rounding

Course grades are rounded to the nearest whole number. No additional assignments will be offered to enhance a final grade. Requests to change a grade because it is needed for a future program will not be considered.

6 Assessment/Evaluation Schedule

	<u>Date</u>	<u>% of final grade</u>	<u>Material covered</u>
<i>Exam 1</i>	<i>Feb 10</i>	<i>30%</i>	<i>Jan 6 through Feb 3</i>
<i>Exam 2</i>	<i>Mar 17</i>	<i>30%</i>	<i>Feb 17 through Mar 10</i>
<i>Exam 3</i>	<i>Apr Exams</i>	<i>40%</i>	<i>Mar 24 through Apr 7</i>

7 Class Schedule

Date	Lecture	Topic	Reading
Jan. 5	1	<i>Introduction – Welcome to Psychology of Crime & Corrections</i> <i>An Introduction to Forensic Psychology</i>	Course syllabus
Jan. 12	2	<i>An Introduction to Forensic Psychology</i>	Chapter 1
Jan. 19	3	<i>Criminal Profiling</i>	Chapter 3

Jan. 26	4	<i>Deception, Interrogations</i>	Chapter 4
Feb 2	5	<i>Eyewitness Testimony</i>	Chapter 5
Feb. 9	6	<i>Midterm Exam #1</i>	Chapters 1,3,4,5
Feb. 16	7	READING WEEK	
Feb. 23	8	<i>Criminal Responsibility</i>	<i>Ch 8</i>
Mar. 2	9	<i>Sentencing and Parole</i>	<i>Ch 9</i>
Mar. 9	10	<i>Homicidal Offenders</i>	<i>Ch 15</i>
Mar. 16	11	<i>Midterm Exam #2</i>	Chapter 8, 9, 15
Mar. 23	12	<i>Psychopathy & Psychopathic Offenders</i>	<i>Ch 11</i>
Mar. 30	13	<i>Sex Offenders</i>	<i>Ch 14</i>
Apr. 6	14	<i>Domestic Violence</i>	<i>Ch 13</i>

8 Academic Integrity

Scholastic offences are treated seriously at Western University. Students are expected to understand and comply with the University's standards of academic integrity. Scholastic offences may result in penalties up to and including expulsion from the University. Please read [Western's Scholastic Offences](#) policy for definitions and examples of Scholastic offences.

Multiple Choice Exams

Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams will be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating.

9 Academic Accommodations and Accessible Education

Western University is committed to providing an accessible learning environment. Students with disabilities or medical conditions requiring accommodation are encouraged to contact Accessible Education as early as possible. Accommodations will be implemented in accordance with University policy. Please review [Western's policy on academic accommodations](#) for student with disabilities. Accessible Education provides supports and services to students with disabilities at Western. If you think you may qualify for ongoing accommodation that will be recognized in all your courses, visit [Accessible Education](#) for more information. Email: aew@uwo.ca Phone: 519 661-2147

10 Absence & Academic Consideration

Please review Western's policy on [Academic Considerations](#):

11 Other Information

Helpful Websites

- Western's academic policies are available at the [Office of the Registrar](#).
- Departmental policies are available at the [Psychology Department website](#).
- Learning supports available at [Learning Development & Success](#).

Well-being

Western University provides a range of supports to promote student well-being. Students are encouraged to seek assistance when needed. Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to [Health and Wellness at Western](#) for a complete list of options about how to obtain help. Please contact the course instructor if you require material in an alternate format or if you require any other arrangements to make this course more accessible to you.

Grade Appeals

If you wish to appeal a grade, please read the [policy documentation](#) on requests for relief. Please first contact the course instructor. If your issue is not resolved, you may make your appeal in writing to the Undergraduate Chair in Psychology (psyugrd@uwo.ca).

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