

Faculty of Science  
School of Psychology

Psyc3301  
Psychology and Law

Semester 1, 2015



Lecture 1	Richard Kemp / Kristy Martire / guest lecturers	Thursday	2.00-3.00	Central Lecture Block 6
Lecture 2	Richard Kemp / Kristy Martire / guest lecturers	Friday	9.00-10.00	Central Lecture Block 8

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..

By the end of this course you will be able to:

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| 1. Apply psychological theory to a range of legal issues, including:                              | 1.1. Cognitive theories of memory, perception, and decision making in a legal context<br>1.2. Social psychological theory, including as related to group process and social development<br>1.3. Clinical psychology theory, as related to the assessment and treatment of psychological disorders |
| 2. Critically apply psychological research findings to applied problems. You will be able to :    | 2.1. identify psychological research relevant to a real world legal or policy problem<br>2.2. evaluate the research and weigh its relevance to the question in hand<br>2.3. summarise the research findings<br>2.4. Make appropriate recommendations based on the research reviewed               |
| 3. Show an advanced understanding of the nature and limitations of applied psychological research | 3.1. Identify some of the common limitations of applied psychological research<br>3.2. Identify ways in which the impact of these limitations can be reduced<br>3.3. Evaluate research in light of these limitations  |
| 4. Create reports for groups q199.01mQq72.5f  |   |

	4.3. make appropriate and relevant recommendations based on that research
5. Investigate how psychology can be applied within a correctional environment to:	5.1. Assess offenders with regard to risk and treatment need 5.2. Develop treatments designed to reduce offending behaviour 5.3. Assess the effectiveness of these psychological interventions

*	0 = No focus 1 = Minimal 2 = Minor 3 = Major	

This will be developed through participation in lectures and lab classes, and assessed through exams, demonstrating an

The two, one-hour lectures each week 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. The laboratory classes 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 role-plays. 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 attending the lecture so that you come 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.



The course will be assessed through a combination of two examinations and three course work components. Each component is designed to assess one or more of the expected learning outcomes. Together these assessment components will assess breadth of knowledge and understanding of the topics covered and analytic and evaluative skills.

Formative assessment – practice MCQ questions available on Moodle	0%	1	1, 2	Weeks 1-5	N/A	Automatic / Tutor	Immediate / Lab classes	Moodle
Mid-Term exam (10% MCQ, 10% extended answers)	20%	1,2,3	1, 2,3,6	16 <sup>th</sup> / 17 <sup>th</sup> April	N/A	Kemp / Tutor	Before week 10	Personal feedback on Moodle. General advice in Week 10 Lab class
Final Exam (15% MCQ, 15% extended answers)	30%	1,2,3,5	1, 2,3,6	As per exam timetable	N/A	N/A		







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Plagiarism is presenting someone else's thoughts or work as your own. It can take many forms, from not having appropriate academic referencing to deliberate cheating.

UNSW groups plagiarism into the following categories:

using the same or very similar words to the original text or idea without acknowledging the source or using quotation marks. This also applies to images, art and design projects, as well as presentations where someone presents another's ideas or words without credit.

changing a few words and phrases while mostly retaining the original structure and information without acknowledgement. This also applies in presentations where someone paraphrases another's ideas or words without credit. It also applies to piecing together quotes and paraphrases into a new whole, without referencing and a student's own analysis to bring the material together.

working with others but passing off the work as a person's individual work. Collusion also includes providing your work to another student before the due date, or for the purpose of them



Assignment submissions and returns;  
Assessments;  
Special consideration in the event of illness or misadventure;  
Student Code of Conduct;  
Student complaints and grievances;  
Student Equity and Disability Unit; and  
Occupational Health & Safety.

Students should familiarise themselves with the information contained in this .