

FACULTY OF SCIENCE  
SCHOOL OF PSYCHOLOGY  
**PSYC3301**  
**PSYCHOLOGY & LAW**  
SEMESTER 1, 2016

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1. Information about the Course			
<b>FACULTY</b>	Science		
<b>SCHOOL OR DEPARTMENT</b>	Psychology		
<b>COURSE CODE</b>	PSYC3301		
<b>COURSE NAME</b>	Psychology & Law		
<b>SEMESTER</b>	Semester 1	<b>YEAR</b>	2016
<b>UNITS OF CREDIT</b>	6	<b>LEVEL OF COURSE</b>	3
<b>ASSUMED KNOWLEDGE, PREREQUISITES OR CO-REQUISITES</b>	Prerequisites: PSYC2001, PSYC2061. Note PSYC2061 may be taken as a corequisite		

**SUMMARY OF THE COURSE**

An introduction and broad overview to the discipline of psychology and law. 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, 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 inform all aspects of the legal process.

The course has two main components:

Lecture component 2 one-hour lectures per week

Laboratory Class component 9 labs each of 1.5 to 2 hours duration spread across weeks 3 to 13. Attendance at Laboratory class 3.84 3ance a.11 3124.2ETQ 6 Tf1 0 0 1 229.25 414.41 Tm0 g(on)4



#### 4. Aims of the Course

**6. Graduate Attributes**

<p><b>School of Psychology Graduate Attributes*</b></p>	<p><b>Level of Focus</b> 0 = No focus 1 = Minimal 2 = Minor 3 = Major</p>	<p><b>Activities/Assessment</b></p>
<p><b>1. Core knowledge and understanding</b></p>	<p>3</p>	<p>This will be developed through participation in lectures and lab classes, and assessed through exams, demonstrating an advanced understanding of the major concepts, theoretical perspectives, empirical findings,</p>

## 8. Teaching Strategies

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-ritical 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.57 reW\* nBT1 0 0 1



## 10. Assessment

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.

Assessment Task	Weight	Learning Outcomes Assessed	Graduate Attributes Assessed	Date of		Feedback		
				Release	Submission	Who	When	How
Formative assessment practice MCQ questions available on Moodle	0%	1,2,3	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	11 <sup>th</sup> / 14 <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	N/A	N/A
Psych-Legal report	30%	1,2,3,4	2,3,4,5,6	By week 3	Mon 9 May via Turnitin on Moodle	Marker	Week 13	Detailed written feedback on report returned via Turnitin on Moodle
Media Presentation	15%	1,2,3,4,	2,3,4,5,6	Week 1	As assigned by Tutor	Tutor & classmates	Week 13	Written feedback given by tutor
Class Participation and Provision of Feedback to peers	5%	3, 4	2, 3, 4,5	Lab classes	N/A	Tutor & classmates	Week 13	From tutor

### Formative Assessments– feedback on performance

Both the mid-term and final exams consist of multiple-choice questions and extended answer questions. The multiple-choice questions will assess your understanding of the topics covered. The extended answer questions will assess your ability to construct 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.

**Psycho-legal Report (30%)**

Each student must submit an original report of **no more than** 2,000 words in length prepared in accordance with the APA publication manual (5th edition). The report should summarise and evaluate psychological research relevant to the specified issue or problem 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 2,000 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.

**11. Expected Resources for Students**

**TEXTBOOKS**

**Course Text**

**Howitt, D (2015) Introduction to Forensic and Criminal Psychology (5th Edition). Harlow: Pearson Education on**



may be investigated under the Student Misconduct Procedures.

Repeated plagiarism (even in first year), plagiarism after first year, or serious instances, may also be investigated under the Student Misconduct Procedures. The penalties under the procedures can include a reduction in marks, failing a course or for the most serious matters (like plagiarism in a honours thesis) even suspension from the university. The Student Misconduct Procedures are available here

<https://www.gs.unsw.edu.au/policy/documents/studentmisconductprocedures.pdf>

### **Examples of plagiarism**

#### **Using the internet appropriately**

A first year student handed in an assignment where she had copied from a website. Her lecturer understand you have to reference websites in the same way you reference books and journal articles. The lecturer explained how to reference and sent her to a workshop at the Learning Centre to help her improve her skills.

#### **Working together on a math assignment**

A group of Mathematics students worked together on an assignment when they had been told this was not allowed. All questions where the students had worked together were given zero, and this lead to some student failing the assessment.

#### **14. Administrative Matters**

The *School of Psychology Student Guide*, available on <http://www.psy.unsw.edu.au/current>