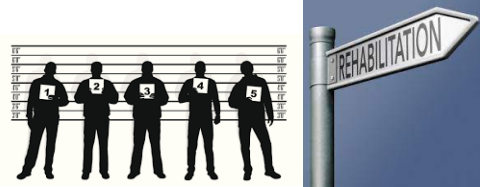




PSYO 3444: Criminal Behaviour
SUMMARY of the course outline (see p. 2 for details)

| | | | |
|--|--|----------------------|----------|
| | Professor: Dr. Julie Blais (she/her) | | |
| | julie.blais@dal.ca | Tuesdays: 1 – 2:30pm | LSC 3336 |

| TOPIC | REQUIRED TEXT |
|-------|---------------|
|-------|---------------|



Understanding criminal behaviour and rehabilitation.

NO TEXTBOOK!!!!

Every week, you'll be responsible for reading articles and completing a reading quiz. Links to the readings are provided on Brightspace.

| SKILL BUILDING OUTCOMES | MODALITY |
|-------------------------|----------|
|-------------------------|----------|

Critical thinking



Reading



Writing



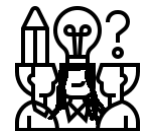
Lectures



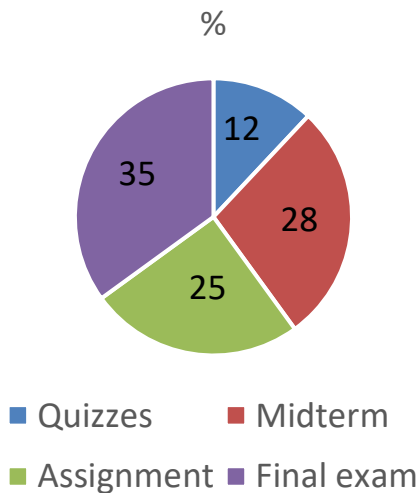
Readings/Videos/
Podcasts



Reflect/Discuss/Apply



| ASSESSMENTS | IMPORTANT DATES |
|-------------|-----------------|
|-------------|-----------------|



| | |
|------------|---|
| Lectures | In-person; BEGIN Monday, Jan. 6 |
| Quizzes | Every MONDAY (before class) (8:35am; Starts January 13) |
| Midterm | February 12 (in class) |
| Assignment | March 19 (11:59pm) |
| Final exam | TBD (official exam period) |
| SONA bonus | Anytime during semester |



Faculty of Science Course Syllabus
Department of Psychology and Neuroscience
PSYO 3444, Criminal Behaviour
Winter 2025

Dalhousie University is located in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq. We are all Treaty people.

We acknowledge the histories, contributions, and legacies of the African Nova Scotian people and communities who have been here for over 400 years.

Instructor: Dr. Julie Blais (she/her)

Office hours/location: Tuesdays from 1 – 2:30pm (LSC 3336) – MASKS REQUIRED!

Email: julie.blais@dal.ca

*Feel free to email me or to come to my office hours to ask any questions you may have or simply to chat about psychology or your progress in the course. This time is for you so I hope that you will use it. I look forward to getting to know you better.

Lectures (BEGIN Monday, Jan. 6): Mondays/Wednesdays – 8:35am to 9:55am

Lecture location: LSC (Psychology), P4260

Laboratories/Tutorials: Not applicable (this is a lecture course only)

Course delivery: In-person

Teaching Assistant (TA): KJ Goruk

Email: kjgoruk@dal.ca

Contacting the TA: The TA will be grading short answer questions on the exams and the assignment. You are welcome to contact them for more feedback on anything they have graded. ANY OTHER course related questions should be posted to the Q&A board on Brightspace or directed to me.

COURSE PREREQUISITES

PSYO 2000 or NESC 2000 (or equivalent). Students must have completed at least 30 credit hours toward their degree.

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND LEARNING OBJECTIVES

The goal of this course is to provide a critical review of the psychology of criminal conduct. This course aims to answer key questions such as: Why do people commit crime? What factors place individuals at risk for criminal offending? Does treatment work? We will focus our discussions

around 3 central components: 1) theory – what is our theoretical understanding? 2) research – what does the current research tell us? and 3) practical utility – can we put theory and research into practice? These questions will be answered through lectures, in-class discussions, through the use of videos, and polling software.

In addition to learning about criminal behaviour, my goal is to help you further develop skills that will aid you in completing your degree. These skills include reading and understanding empirical research, writing in academia, and critical thinking. Overall, I hope that this course will help you become a critical consumer of information.

I expect that this course will:

- Provide you with a theoretical, empirical, and practical understanding of several topics related to criminal behaviour
- Develop both your writing and critical thinking skills
- Provide a learning environment that encourages active and collaborative learning

This outline is an essential tool for your success in this course. I hope that you will read the information carefully and ask any questions that you may have.

REQUIRED TEXT

There is no required text for this class. Every week, students are responsible for reading assigned readings and completing a reading quiz (readings and quizzes posted on Brightspace).

COMMUNICATION

IMPORTANT: Communication within business hours (Monday to Friday, 8:30am – 4:30pm)

The instructor and TA will do their best to answer all questions within 24 business hours (Monday to Friday, 8:30am-4:30pm). Questions and emails will not necessarily be answered outside of regular working hours or on weekends. Please keep this in mind as course deadlines approach. If you do not receive a response from the instructor or TA within 24 business hours, students should assume the email was not sent and make necessary arrangements to contact the instructor/TA as soon as possible.

Instructor announcements and weekly updates

I will post weekly announcements updating the class about where we are in the course and upcoming due dates. This announcement will be posted to Brightspace under “Announcements”.

COURSE WEBPAGE (Brightspace)

The course webpage will be hosted on Brightspace. Please enable email alerts and check the page regularly as course materials (e.g., lecture slides, readings, activities, assignment) will be added regularly. Any written assignments will be submitted via the Brightspace portal.

COURSE POLICIES

Written work: Any written work is to be completed independently and must be unique. Any plagiarism will be treated as an academic offence (see https://www.dal.ca/dept/university_secretariat/academic-integrity/plagiarism-cheating.html)

Use of ChatGPT and other websites/AI: While AI tools such as ChatGPT are now part of our world, it is important that you learn how to think independently and critically BEFORE you learn how to use AI. For this reason, you are NOT PERMITTED to use AI in this course. I want to evaluate your ability to think on your own.

Using AI: Anyone who uses AI will be given a grade of “0” on that component of the course.

Attendance: This is an in-person, synchronous class. Regular attendance in this class is expected and necessary for success. If you miss a class, it is your responsibility to catch up on any missed material (e.g., find a classmate to share notes, do the readings and quiz, look over slides, etc.).

Modules: This course is set up in modules on Brightspace. Each module corresponds with one week of the semester. The modules will contain information needed for the week (i.e., link to required readings, reading quizzes, lecture slides, additional activities, etc.). Module 1 is the *orientation* module and contains the course outline, full reading list, a resource for careers in psychology/law, mental health resources at Dalhousie, and a discussion board where you can post any questions about the course (I’ll answer any questions posted promptly!). Module 1 also contains all of the instructions for the assignment.

Intellectual property of course materials

Student or professor materials created for this course (including presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the author(s). They are intended for personal use and may not be reproduced or redistributed without prior written consent of the author(s).

COURSE EVALUATION (SUMMARY):

| Assignment | Percentage | DUE date |
|---|------------|---|
| 1. Weekly reading quizzes 7 out of 9 count towards the final grade | 12% | Every MONDAY Before class (1:05pm) *Starts January 13 |
| 2. Mid-term (MC, short-answer) | 28% | Feb. 12 (in class) |
| 3. Assignment (Case evaluation) | 25% | Mar. 21 (11:59pm) |
| 4. Final exam (MC, short answer) | 35% | During final exam period |
| 5. SONA bonus | +2% | Anytime |

**Below you will find a brief description of the course evaluations. Please note that detailed instructions and a grading rubric for the assignment will be posted on Brightspace.

1. Reading quizzes (12%) – Due Mondays BEFORE class (8:35am); STARTS Jan. 13

Each week you will be completing open book reading quizzes on Brightspace. You are required to complete readings and quizzes BEFORE Monday's class each week (i.e., BEFORE 1:05pm).

This will ensure that you come to class prepared for the week's content. The reading list is available on Brightspace (Module 1) and links to the readings and quizzes can be found in each module on Brightspace. Each quiz will be released one week in advance. Given this flexibility, students are expected to complete the quizzes by the weekly deadlines. Quizzes will consist of 10 multiple-choice/ multi-select questions. **Once you click on the quiz, you will have 2 hours to complete it.** This length of time already accounts for any extra-time accommodations given that the 10 questions should only take 15-20 minutes to complete, if you've completed the readings.

Missing a quiz deadline: You are allowed to miss up to 2 quizzes. Your final quiz grade out of 12, will be based on your top 7 of 9 reading quizzes. Therefore, requests for extensions WILL NOT BE GRANTED (the accommodation is already built in).

2. Midterm (28%) – February 12 IN PERSON (8:35am).

The midterm will be written in class, IN PERSON and will consist of 30 multiple choice/ multi-select questions and 2 short answer questions. You will have 1.5 hours to complete the midterm. The midterm will cover all lecture material and readings from Modules 1 to 5.

Petitions to defer the midterm test: If you are unable to write the midterm because of illness, bereavement, or religious observance, you must inform me by email within 24 hours of missing the exam and complete a Student Declaration of Absence form. ***Failure to contact me within 24 hours results in an automatic grade of 0 on the midterm.***

3. Assignment (25%) – DUE: Date March 19 (BEFORE 11:59pm)

There will be an assignment that is due on March 19 by 11:59pm. The assignment will be submitted online on Brightspace. The purpose of the online written assignment is to apply the course material to a real case. The assignment will consist of a case study with questions regarding risk assessment, criminogenic needs, and rehabilitation. The assignment details will be posted on Brightspace and announced in class within the first few weeks.

Late assignments: EVERYONE automatically gets a 5-day extension on the assignment. BUT, make sure that you only use this extension if you ABSOLUTELY NEED IT. Once the 5-day extension is over, late penalties will be applied (10% per day, including weekends). There is no need to email me asking for an extension; you get the 5 days automatically. **NOTE:** The 5-day extension includes the 72-hour extensions offered through accommodations (you cannot stack the extensions – everyone gets 5 days).

Assignment – DUE March 19 (by 11:59); LAST DAY TO SUBMIT WITHOUT PENALTY March 24 (by 11:59pm)

4. Final exam (35%) – to be scheduled during the final exam period

The final exam will be held in-person during the official final exam period. It will consist of 35 multiple-choice questions and 3 short answer questions. You will have 2 hours to complete the final exam. The final covers all lecture material and readings from modules 7 to 12.

Missing the final exam: If you miss the final exam because of illness or other circumstances beyond your control, you must contact the instructor immediately. Please note that an alternate exam date will only be granted in extraordinary circumstances.

5. SONA Bonus (+2%) – Anytime during the semester

You can earn up to 2% bonus on your final grade in this course by participating in research through the SONA system. More information can be found here:

https://www.dal.ca/faculty/science/psychology_neuroscience/research/credit-point-information.html

NOTE ON FINAL GRADES: I use standard rounding rules for calculating final grades. Grades of 0.5 and above get rounded UP to the nearest whole number; grades of 0.4 and below get rounded down. Example: 77.5 = 78% and 77.4 = 77%. Given the flexibility already built into the course AND the option to earn an extra 2% on your final grades, **I will not adjust final grades.**

Copyright statement

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Conversion of numerical grades to Final Letter Grades follows the Dalhousie Common Grade Scale

| | | | | |
|-------------|------------|------------|---|---------|
| A+ (90-100) | B+ (77-79) | C+ (65-69) | D | (50-54) |
| A (85-89) | B (73-76) | C (60-64) | F | (<50) |
| A- (80-84) | B- (70-72) | C- (55-59) | | |

Tentative lecture schedule with assigned readings and due dates

The outline of topics is our plan, but we may diverge from this plan as the term progresses, if necessary. We won't simply "cover content" to keep to this plan if we are not learning together

***A wide range of forensic issues will be discussed in this course. Some of them may be upsetting to you. Should you have any concerns about a specific topic please contact the instructor.** If you do become upset or distressed by the course content, please contact the Student Health and Wellness Centre (https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/health-and-wellness.html) OR tel. 902-494-2171.

| M | DATE | WEEKLY TOPIC |
|---|--------------------|---|
| 1 | Jan. 6 Jan. 8 | Introduction to the course Canadian legal system and sentencing |
| 2 | Jan. 13 Jan. 15 | Theories of crime: History and biology Theories of crime: Learning/ environment |
| 3 | Jan. 20 Jan. 22 | Theories of crime: General personality and cognitive social learning Documentary: Kip Kinkel |
| 4 | Jan. 27 Jan. 29 | Risk assessment Risk communication + practical application |
| 5 | Feb. 3 Feb. 5 | Punishment vs. rehabilitation Rehabilitation (continued) Last material covered on the mid-term |
| 6 | Feb. 10 Feb. 12 | Review class before midterm In-class MIDTERM |
| Winter Study Break (Feb. 17 – 21) | | |
| 7 | Feb. 24 Feb. 26 | Individuals with a history of violent offending (Topic continued) |
| 8 | Mar. 3 Mar. 5 | Individuals with a history of sexual offending (Topic continued) |
| 9 | Mar. 10 Mar. 12 | Justice-involved youth Justice-involved women |
| 10 | Mar. 17 Mar. 19 | Justice-involved Indigenous peoples (Topic continued) Assignment due March 19 by 11:59pm |
| 11 | Mar. 24 Mar. 26 | Extremism Desistance from crime |
| 12 | Mar. 31 Apr. 2 | Wrap up of course material Final exam review |
| Final exam TBD (April 9 – 26); Covers Modules 7 – 12 | | |

Faculty of Science Student Resources and Support

University Policies and Programs

Important Dates in the Academic Year (including add/drop dates):

http://www.dal.ca/academics/important_dates.html

Classroom Recording Protocol:

https://www.dal.ca/dept/university_secretariat/policies/academic/classroom-recording-protocol.html

Dalhousie Grading Practices Policies:

https://www.dal.ca/dept/university_secretariat/policies/academic/grading-practices-policy.html

Grade Appeal Process: https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/academic-support/grades-and-student-records/appealing-a-grade.html

Sexualized Violence Policy: https://www.dal.ca/dept/university_secretariat/policies/health-and-safety/sexualized-violence-policy.html

Scent-Free Program: <https://www.dal.ca/dept/safety/programs-services/occupational-safety/scent-free.html>

Learning and Support Resources

General Academic Support – Advising (Halifax): https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/academic-support/advising.html

General Academic Support – Advising (Truro): <https://www.dal.ca/about-dal/agricultural-campus/ssc/academic-support/advising.html>

Student Health & Wellness Centre: https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/health-and-wellness.html

On Track (helps you transition into university, and supports you through your first year at Dalhousie and beyond): https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/academic-support/On-track.html

Indigenous Student Centre: https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/communities/indigenous.html

Indigenous Connection: <https://www.dal.ca/about-dal/indigenous-connection.html>

Elders-in-Residence (The Elders in Residence program provides students with access to First Nations elders for guidance, counsel, and support. Visit the office in the Indigenous Student Centre or contact the program at elders@dal.ca or 902-494-6803:

<https://cdn.dal.ca/content/dam/dalhousie/pdf/academics/UG/indigenous-studies/Elder-Protocol-July2018.pdf>

Black Student Advising Centre: https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/communities/black-student-advising.html

International Centre: https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/international-centre.html

LGBTQ2SIA+ Collaborative: <https://www.dal.ca/dept/vpei/edia/education/community-specific-spaces/LGBTQ2SIA-collaborative.html>

Dalhousie Libraries: <http://libraries.dal.ca/>

Copyright Office: <https://libraries.dal.ca/services/copyright-office.html>

Dalhousie Student Advocacy Services: <https://www.dsu.ca/dsas?rq=student%20advocacy>

Dalhousie Ombudsperson: https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/safety-respect/student-rights-and-responsibilities/where-to-get-help/ombudsperson.html

Human Rights and Equity Services: <https://www.dal.ca/dept/hres.html>

Writing Centre: https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/academic-support/writing-and-study-skills.html

Study Skills/Tutoring: http://www.dal.ca/campus_life/academic-support/study-skills-and-tutoring.html

Faculty of Science Advising Support: <https://www.dal.ca/faculty/science/current-students/undergrad-students/degree-planning.html>

Safety

Biosafety: <http://www.dal.ca/dept/safety/programs-services/biosafety.html>

Chemical Safety: <https://www.dal.ca/dept/safety/programs-services/chemical-safety.html>

Radiation Safety: <http://www.dal.ca/dept/safety/programs-services/radiation-safety.html>

Laser Safety: <https://www.dal.ca/dept/safety/programs-services/radiation-safety/laser-safety.html>