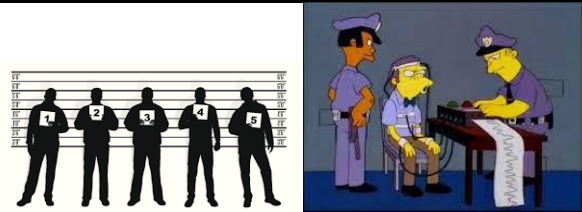# DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY

PSYO 2444: Forensic Psychology
SUMMARY of the course outline (see p. 2 for details)

Professor: Dr. Julie Blais (she/her)

julie.blais@dal.ca   OFFICE HOURS: Thurs. 10-11am (ONLINE)

LECTURES: Online + asynchronous

TOPIC		REQUIRED TEXT

Revel for Forensic Psychology

Learning how psychology works within the legal system.

ONLINE TEXTBOOK: Pozzulo et al. (see p. 3 of outline)

SKILL BUILDING OUTCOMES		MODALITY

Critical thinking	Test taking skills	Writing		Mini-lectures	Readings/Videos/ Podcasts	Reflect/Discuss/Apply

ASSESSMENTS		IMPORTANT DATES

- REVEL 18%
- MIDTERM 25%
- ASSIGNMENTS 32%
- FINAL EXAM 25%
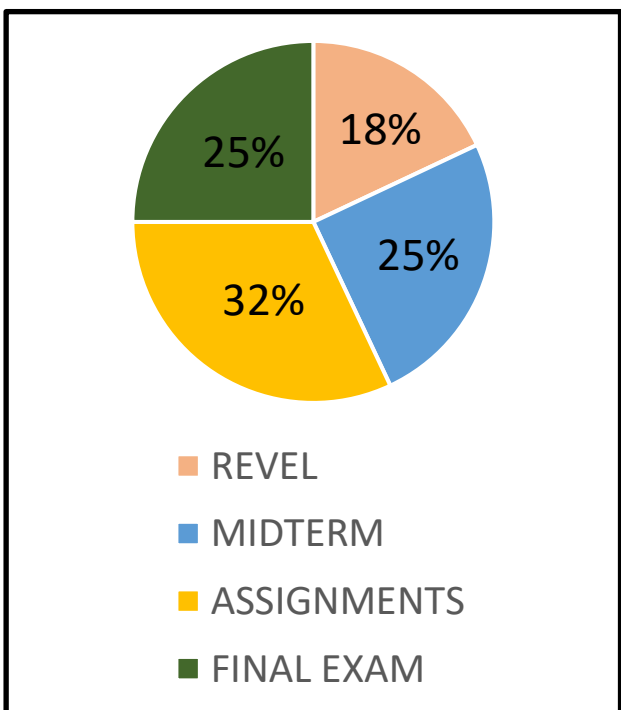
REVEL Readings	Every TUESDAY by 11:59pm (first deadline Sept. 19)
1st assignment	Oct. 6 (before 11:59pm)
2nd assignment	Nov. 10 (before 11:59pm)
Midterm	Oct. 20 (8am to 11:59pm) ONLINE + ASYNCHRONOUS
Final exam	During exam period ONLINE + ASYNCHRONOUS
SONA Bonus (2%)	Anytime during the semester

DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY

Faculty of Science Course Syllabus
Department of Psychology and Neuroscience
PSYO 2444, Forensic Psychology
FALL 2023

Instructor: Dr. Julie Blais (she/her)
Office hours/location: Thursdays, 10-11am **(ONLINE)**
Email: julie.blais@dal.ca
*Feel free to email me or to log into 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.
Office hours will be held online through Collaborate Ultra on Brightspace.

Lecture times: This course is ONLINE and ASYNCHRONOUS
Lecture location: Not applicable (this is on ONLINE and ASYNCHRONOUS course)
Laboratories/Tutorials: Not applicable (this is a lecture course only)

Marker: Jennifer McArthur
Email: Jennifer.mcarthur@dal.ca
Contacting Charlotte: Jennifer has extensive expertise in forensic psychology. She will be grading short answer questions on the exams and the assignments. You are welcome to contact her for more feedback on anything she has graded. ANY OTHER course related questions should be posted to the Q&A board on Brightspace or directed to me.

Course prerequisites

PSYO 1011.03 or PSYO 1021.03 or PSYO 1031.03 and PSYO 1012.03 or PSYO 1022.03, or SCIE 1505X/Y.18, SCIE 1515X/Y.36, 1520X/Y.30 or 1540X/Y.27 (with a grade of B- or better)

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

This course will offer an introduction to the various topics related to forensic psychology from police investigations to profiling and serial murder. How do police officers conduct interrogations? How accurate is eyewitness testimony? How do we measure psychopathy? Together we will explore these questions and others through the evaluation of scientific research and the examination of specific case studies.

In addition to learning about these interesting topics, my goal is to help you further develop skills that will aid you in completing your degree. These skills include effective studying for different types of exams (e.g., multiple choice, short-answer), reading and understanding empirical research, and critical thinking. Overall, I hope that this course will help you become a critical consumer of information as well as a successful University student.

I expect that this course will:
1) Provide you with a theoretical, empirical, and practical understanding of several topics related to forensic psychology
2) Develop your study skills, test taking skills, and critical thinking skills
3) Provide an engaging online learning environment.

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

REQUIRED TEXT
*Our text is an e-book ONLY (please read below)

Title: REVEL for Forensic Psychology, Sixth Canadian Edition
Authors: Pozzulo, Bennell, & Forth
ISBN-13: 9780135749999

Note from the instructor about the text
I have adopted this text for three main reasons: 1) it is a recent Canadian edition that is interesting, thorough, yet not too long, 2) it is available as an e-book, and 3) it has many functionalities that will help with accessibility (e.g., download the app and listen to your readings like a podcast).

Everyone is required to use the e-book because there are quizzes associated with the readings that you will submit for course credit. This is done through the REVEL learning software.

How to get your REVEL e-book?
1.You can purchase your access code for your REVEL e-book through the Dal bookstore link below:
https://bookstore.dal.ca/CourseSearch/?course%5b%5d=SUB,FALL23,PSYO,PSYO2444

2. Redeem your access code here: https://bookstore.dal.ca/textbooks/redeem-access-codes
Once you redeem your access code, you will be given the PEARSON CODE that you enter in step 4 below.

3. NOW you can log into Pearson. This link is UNIQUE to this course:
https://console.pearson.com/enrollment/wkx2ac

Sign in with your Pearson Account: You can either a) sign in with an existing Pearson user name and password OR b) create a new Pearson account if this is your first Pearson digital product.

4. Choose your course under "My courses" and choose the access option: **redeem an access code that you got from your school's bookstore**

5. Once you've purchased REVEL online from a computer, you can now download the REVEL app to any smartphone, log in using your Pearson Account information to access your textbook. You can download the book to your phone to use without needing internet.
- Book mark https://console.pearson.com to easily access your materials.
- Pearson recommends using the latest version of Chrome, Firefox, or Safari with this digital product.

HOW TO USE REVEL: Pearson created this great short (only 5 minutes!) video on the main features of REVEL:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8QhFUt_AZqs

COMMUNICATION
IMPORTANT: Communication within business hours (Monday to Friday, 8:30am – 4:30pm)
The instructor and marker 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 marker within 24 business hours, students should assume the email was not sent and make necessary arrangements to contact the instructor/marker 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 videos, optional readings, activities) will be added regularly. Any written assignments will be submitted via the Brightspace portal.

COURSE POLICIES

Independent work: Any written work or content created for the assignments 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 or external websites for the exams or for the assignments in this course. I want to evaluate your ability to think on your own. You'll be required to complete declaration quizzes before submitting assignments and completing the exams in this course. These quizzes will be in Brightspace.

Using AI: Anyone who uses AI or outside websites will be given a grade of "0" on that component of the course.

COURSE CONTENT

Modules: This course is set up in modules on Brightspace. Each module corresponds with one week of the semester. The modules will contain all of the information you need for the week (minus your readings, which need to be done from the REVEL textbook). The first module contains the *orientation* information such as the course outline, instructions for all assignments, resources to help you succeed, and discussion boards where students can introduce themselves and ask questions. Proper course content begins in Module 2. Modules 2 to 12 will contain: 1) collaborate link to office hours; 2) mini-lecture videos + slides; 3) additional activities, readings, videos that may be of interest; 4) discussion board if you want to engage with your peers about the course content. Each module will have a START HERE video that outlines what the module is about and the deadlines for the week. I also use START HERE videos to give you important information on assignments and exams. **DON'T SKIP THE START HERE VIDEOS!!**

COURSE ASSESSMENTS

Component	Weight (% of final grade)	Due Date(s)
1. REVEL readings/ quizzes 9 out of 11 chapters count *First chapters DUE Sept. 19	18%	Every TUESDAY before 11:59pm
2. Two assignments (DUE before 11:59pm)	32% (16% each)	#1 – Oct. 6 #2 – Nov. 10
3. Midterm (multiple choice + multi-select + short-answer) Based on lectures, readings, extra videos ONLINE + ASYNCHRONOUS	25%	Oct. 20 OPEN FROM 8am to 11:59pm
4. Final exam (multiple choice + multi-select + short-answer) Based on lectures, readings, extra videos ONLINE + ASYNCHRONOUS	25%	During exam period
5. SONA Bonus (Participate in research!)	+2.0%	Anytime

1. REVEL readings/ quizzes (18%) – Tuesdays starting Sept. 19 (before 11:59pm)
Each week you will be completing readings through our Revel text. You are required to complete readings and quizzes BEFORE the end of Tuesday each week (before 11:59pm). This will ensure that you are prepared for the week's content. The chapter that is due each week is listed in the weekly topic schedule on p. 6 and can also be found in Revel (note that there are TWO chapters due in Module 8). Assignments in Revel are ALREADY available. You can complete the readings and quizzes at any time BEFORE THE DUE DATE. _Grades are based on Module Quizzes and Chapter Quizzes._ **Note that Chapters 1 & 2 are due on Tuesday, Sept. 19 to coincide with the add/drop date.**

    **Missing a chapter deadline:** LATE readings are allowed but are penalized at 50%. You are ALSO allowed to miss up to TWO Revel chapter readings of the 11 chapters that are assigned. Your final Revel grade out of 18, will be based on your top 9 of 11 chapter scores. Therefore, requests for extensions WILL NOT BE GRANTED (the accommodation is already built in). If you miss a reading that will be covered on the exams, it is your responsibility to study this material.

2. Two assignments (16% each = 32%) – DATES: Oct. 6 AND Nov. 10 (Before 11:59pm)
You are responsible for completing 2 assignments. Instructions for each assignment are located in Module 1.

    **Late assignments:** EVERYONE automatically gets a 5-day extension on the assignments. BUT, make sure that you only use this extension if you ABSOLUTELY NEED IT. Once the 5-day extension is over, NO MORE ASSIGNMENTS will be accepted. 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-hours extensions offered through accommodations (you cannot stack the extensions – everyone gets the full 5 days).
Assignment 1 – DUE Oct. 6 (before 11:59pm); LAST DAY TO SUBMIT is Oct. 11 (before 11:59pm)
Assignment 2 – DUE Nov. 10 (before 11:59pm); LAST DAY TO SUBMIT Nov. 15 (before 11:59pm)

3. Midterm (25%) – Oct. 20 (AVAILABLE from 8:00am to 11:59pm).
The midterm will be ONLINE and OPEN BOOK. The midterm will be available from 8:00am to 11:59pm. ONCE YOU CLICK ON THE MIDTERM, YOU'LL HAVE 2 HOURS TO COMPLETE IT.
It will consist of 30-40 multiple choice and multi-select questions (4 response options are provided [a, b, c, or d]) and 3-4 short-answer questions (each graded out of 8). Questions will come from lectures and the textbook, though lecture materials will make up more of the exam questions (75/25% split). Midterm covers content from Modules 1 to 6. Both sections of the midterm are given equal weight when calculating your final midterm grade: 50% multiple choice and 50% short answer.

    **Missing the midterm:** 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. _**Failure to contact me within 24 hours results in an automatic grade of 0 on the midterm.**_ You must complete the **Student Declaration of Absence Form**. You will be given ONE MORE chance to complete the midterm. If you miss both the midterm and the makeup, you will get a grade of 0 on the midterm.

4. Final exam (25%) – Held during the official exam period
The final exam will be scheduled during the official exam period. It will be ONLINE and OPEN BOOK. The final exam will be available from 8:00am to 11:59pm. ONCE YOU CLICK ON THE FINAL, YOU'LL HAVE 2 HOURS TO COMPLETE IT. It will consist of 30-40 multiple choice and multi-select questions (4 response options are provided [a, b, c, or d]) and 3-4 short-answer questions (each graded out of 8). Questions will come from lectures and the textbook, though lecture materials will make up more of the exam questions (75/25% split). Final exam covers content from Modules 8 to 13. Both sections of the final exam are given equal weight when calculating your final midterm grade: 50% multiple choice and 50% short answer.

    **Missing the final exam:** A student's request for an alternate time for a final examination will only be granted in exceptional circumstances. Such circumstances include illness or other mitigating circumstances outside the control of the student. Elective arrangements (such as travel plans) are not considered acceptable grounds for granting an alternative examination time.

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.

Tentative lecture schedule with assigned readings and due dates

Module	Dates	WEEKLY TOPIC	READING
1	Sept. 5-8	Introduction to the course	Course outline
2	Sept. 11-15	What is forensic psychology? Forensic psychology (past and present)	Ch. 1 DUE: Sept. 19
3	Sept. 18-22	Police psychology Contemporary issues in policing	Ch. 2 DUE: Sept. 19
4	Sept. 25-29	Police interrogations False confessions	Ch. 3 DUE: Sept. 26
5	Oct. 3-6	Deception detection Polygraph **ASSIGNMENT #1 DUE (Oct. 6)**	Ch. 4 DUE. Oct. 3
6	Oct. 10-13	Eyewitnesses Lineups **LAST MATERIAL ON MIDTERM**	Ch. 5 DUE. Oct. 10
7	Oct. 16-20	Mid-term review **MID-TERM: Oct. 20 (Modules 1 to 6)**	No reading
8	Oct. 23-27	Juries Mental illness	Ch. 7 Ch. 8 DUE: Oct. 24
9	Oct. 30-Nov. 3	Risk assessment	Ch. 10 DUE: Oct. 31
10	Nov. 6-10	Psychopathy **ASSIGNMENT #2 DUE (Nov. 10)**	Ch. 11 DUE: Nov. 7
		FALL STUDY BREAK (Nov. 13 – 17)	
11	Nov. 20-24	Intimate partner violence Harassment	Ch. 13 DUE: Nov. 21
12	Nov. 27-Dec. 1	Multiple murderers Profiling	Ch. 15 DUE: Nov. 28
13	Dec. 5	Wrap up Review for the final exam	No reading
		Final exam TBD (Dec. 8-19); Covers Modules 8 – 13	

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).

University Policies and Statements

This course is governed by the academic rules and regulations set forth in the University Calendar and by Senate

Academic Integrity

At Dalhousie University, we are guided in all of our work by the values of academic integrity: honesty, trust, fairness, responsibility and respect (The Center for Academic Integrity, Duke University, 1999). As a student, you are required to demonstrate these values in all of the work you do. The University provides policies and procedures that every member of the university community is required to follow to ensure academic integrity.
Information: https://www.dal.ca/dept/university_secretariat/academic-integrity.html

Accessibility

The Advising and Access Services Centre is Dalhousie's centre of expertise for student accessibility and accommodation. The advising team works with students who request accommodation as a result of a disability, religious obligation, or any barrier related to any other characteristic protected under Human Rights legislation (Canada and Nova Scotia).
Information: https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/academic-support/accessibility.html

Student Code of Conduct

Everyone at Dalhousie is expected to treat others with dignity and respect. The Code of Student Conduct allows Dalhousie to take disciplinary action if students don't follow this community expectation. When appropriate, violations of the code can be resolved in a reasonable and informal manner—perhaps through a restorative justice process. If an informal resolution can't be reached, or would be inappropriate, procedures exist for formal dispute resolution.
Code: https://www.dal.ca/dept/university_secretariat/policies/student-life/code-of-student-conduct.html

Diversity and Inclusion – Culture of Respect

Every person at Dalhousie has a right to be respected and safe. We believe inclusiveness is fundamental to education. We stand for equality. Dalhousie is strengthened in our diversity. We are a respectful and inclusive community. We are committed to being a place where everyone feels welcome and supported, which is why our Strategic Direction prioritizes fostering a culture of diversity and inclusiveness
Statement: http://www.dal.ca/cultureofrespect.html

Recognition of Mi'kmaq Territory

Dalhousie University would like to acknowledge that the University is on Traditional Mi'kmaq Territory. The Elders in Residence program provides students with access to First Nations elders for guidance, counsel and support. Visit or e-mail the Indigenous Student Centre (1321 Edward St) (elders@dal.ca).
Information: https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/communities/indigenous.html

Important Dates in the Academic Year (including add/drop dates)
https://academiccalendar.dal.ca/Catalog/ViewCatalog.aspx?pageid=viewcatalog&catalogid=117&chapterid=-1&topicgroupid=31821&loaduseredits=False

University Grading Practices

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

Student Resources and Support

Advising

General Advising https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/academic-support/advising.html

Science Program Advisors: https://www.dal.ca/faculty/science/current-students/undergrad-students/degree-planning.html

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

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

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

Academic supports

Library: https://libraries.dal.ca/

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

Studying for Success: https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/academic-support/study-skills-and-tutoring.html

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

Fair Dealing Guidelines https://libraries.dal.ca/services/copyright-office/fair-dealing.html

Other supports and services

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

Student Advocacy: https://dsu.ca/dsas

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

Safety

Biosafety: https://www.dal.ca/dept/safety/programs-services/biosafety.html

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

Radiation Safety: https://www.dal.ca/dept/safety/programs-services/radiation-safety.html

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

Dalhousie COVID-19 information and updates: https://www.dal.ca/covid-19-information-and-updates.html

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)		