

**Psychology 3850B – Psychology of Crime  
Summer 2017  
Tuesdays & Thursdays 1:00pm to 3:50pm  
Room: B730**



Instructor	Contact Info	Office Hours
Jennifer Arthur Psychology Department University of Lethbridge	<b>Office:</b> D878 (University Hall) <b>Lab:</b> M3019 (Markin Hall) <b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:jennifer.arthur@uleth.ca">jennifer.arthur@uleth.ca</a> <b>Phone:</b> TBA	Please e-mail to schedule a mutually agreeable time to meet.

**Course Description**

This course provides an overview of recent advances in the study of antisocial behaviour, aggression, and criminal behaviour. In the first part of the course we will identify individual and social factors that seem to increase people's likelihood of engaging in antisocial and criminal behaviour. We will pay particular attention to developmental continuity, examining factors that lead to persistence or desistance. In the second part of the course we will examine special topics such as female offenders, psychopathy, the assessment of risk to reoffend, and psychological treatment. The main goals of the course are to outline a general theory of crime and to think critically and scientifically about the causes of crime and its remediation.

**Text Books**

**Title:** Psychology of Criminal Behaviour: A Canadian Perspective 2nd edition

**Required:** Required

**Authors:** Shelly Brown, Ralph Serin, Adelle Forth, Kevin Nunes, Craig Bennell, Joanna Pozzulo

**Publisher:** Pearson Canada

**Readings**

There will be additional journal articles that you will be expected to read. These will be posted in Moodle under specific subject headings with dates that the material should be read by.

**Outline of Topics and Course Structure**

Time limitations prevent in-depth coverage of all chapters of the course text and some of the material covered in class will not come directly from the text, but from other scholarly sources and include the required readings listed above as well as readings added to Moodle throughout the course. Class lectures will be structured for a more focused study of specific areas of interest and their content is essential to successful course completion. Details regarding the coverage of material for exams will be provided in class and/or posted through Moodle.

### **Moodle**

Details regarding the coverage of course material throughout the semester and for exams will be provided in class and/or posted in Moodle. Students are strongly encouraged to access the course Moodle site multiple times per week as important materials, discussions, and announcements will be posted regularly throughout the semester.

### **Copyright, Moodle, and Intellectual Property**

With the exception of information that is freely available on the Internet, all course materials should be treated as copyright-protected. You are free to make personal use of any materials posted within Moodle, and you are free to take your own notes in class (of course!). You are not permitted to distribute materials or information in any form to persons not registered in this course in this semester. Once information is in your hands, you are responsible for what you do with it; the Instructor will not be held accountable for students who choose to violate copyright law. Audio or video recording of lectures or any other in-class presentation or activity is strictly prohibited. Doing so is a serious offence as it violates intellectual property rights and the privacy of your classmates who have not consented to have their voice/questions recorded.

### **Grade Assessment**

Your overall grade in the course will be determined by the following:

Presentation	25%
Midterm (May 25)	30%
Assignments	20%
Final Exam (June 20)	25%

**The Exams** will consist of definitions, short-answer questions, and long-answer questions based on class lectures and discussions, group presentations, and on the readings assigned for particular topics. They will encompass all material covered in prior weeks (i.e., cumulative).

**The In-Class Presentation:** Details will be discussed in class and posted on Moodle. The goal is to learn about a particular topic through library research and to teach other students a synthesis of what you learned and to facilitate a larger class discussion about the topics being presented. A scientific (empirical) paper will be the focus of your presentations. A list of topics, articles, and dates will be provided by the instructor. There can be only one presentation per topic. Groups can include a maximum of 4 members. Scheduling and choice of topic will be done by a random draw. Once groups have formed, the instructor will draw groups from a hat. The first group drawn will choose their topic and date first; the second group drawn will choose their topic and date second; and so on.

**Assignments:** Details will be discussed in class and posted on Moodle. The lectures and in-class presentations are meant to facilitate a larger class discussion about the topics being presented and as such it is expected that the assigned readings will be done before class. The purpose of your assignments is to demonstrate that you have read the assigned readings and thought about the topic that will be discussed in class. You will receive a grade for your assignment based on the quality and thoughtfulness of your written responses. Paper copies of assignments will be submitted prior to the start of each class.

### **Missed Exam**

If a student is unable to write an exam during the designated exam period, please contact the course Instructor as soon as possible. Medical reasons must be supported by a physician's statement that test performance would be seriously affected by the illness, along with the physician's name and contact information. Non-medical reasons must also be supported. It is the student's responsibility to contact the Instructor to set up a make-up exam. Unless a medical note, documentation of bereavement, or other acceptable documentation is presented, a grade of 0% will be assigned for any exam not written during the designated time.

### **Students with Special Needs**

If you have a documented condition that prevents you from fully participating in this course, including evaluation procedures, it is your responsibility to contact your Instructor regarding your individual situation. Please note that no accommodations will be given without official notification from the Accommodated Learning Centre (<http://www.uleth.ca/ross/accommodated-learning-centre/>).

### **Grade Ranges**

Letter grades will be assigned to final course percentages according to the following scale:

<b>Letter</b>	<b>GPA</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Letter</b>	<b>GPA</b>	<b>Percent</b>
A+	4.0	90 - 100%	C+	2.3	64 - 67.9%
A	4.0	85 - 89.9%	C	2.0	60 - 63.9%
A-	3.7	80 - 84.9%	C-	1.7	56 - 59.9%
B+	3.3	76 - 79.9%	D+	1.3	53 - 55.9%
B	3.0	72 - 75.9%	D	1.0	50 - 52.9%
B-	2.7	68 - 71.9%	F	0	0 - 49.9%

### **Extra Credits for Research Participation:**

This course provides students with an opportunity to get involved as a participant in ongoing research projects. If you volunteer to be a participant, each project usually requires about one hour of your time. In recognition of the value of your data, and in recognition that you are learning something about the discipline of scientific psychology, beyond that of the typical classroom environment, an extra credit of 1 to 2% for each study (variable) in which you participate will be added to your final course percentage. MAXIMUM EXTRA CREDIT = 2%. These extra credits are added after all grade cutoffs have been established for course work, such that students who choose not to participate are not disadvantaged.

#### **Directions for Participation:**

You will receive an email to your U of L account with your Login name and password. Please go to <http://psychleth.sona-systems.com> and sign in as soon as you receive notification to do so. Studies will then become available on May 8, 2017. There will be NO transfer of credits between courses. If you are registered in another course that offers credits, a second email will be sent to you with a different email and password. Sign up in the course to which you want your credits to be assigned. Further studies and timeslots will be added throughout the semester, please keep checking, but remember that participation is on a first-come basis. Note that not all students may not be able to achieve the maximum credit. Questions regarding research participation should be directed to Leanne at [wehlage@uleth.ca](mailto:wehlage@uleth.ca). The last date to participate in studies is June 19, 2017.

### **University, Classroom, and Teaching Policies and Procedures**

- ❖ Everyone is entitled to their own opinion, but not their own facts. Given the nature of the course material, a diversity of viewpoints will inevitably exist in the classroom. Voicing well-reasoned disagreement with others' opinions is perfectly fine; being combative, intolerant, or disrespectful towards others is not (see the University Calendar Section 5.b.1). Open-mindedness is a prerequisite for learning.
- ❖ As per the University Calendar, Section 5.h.1.: "When a student disrupts instructional activities, the instructor may exclude the student immediately from instructional space and/or from future scheduled instructional meetings of that course pending further actions by the Dean."
- ❖ When students talk &/or giggle amongst themselves during lecture, it disrupts instructional activities and, consequently, your Instructor must respond according to the University Calendar regulation. To minimize other forms of disruption, turn off your cell phone or any other noise-emitting device prior to the beginning of class. Avoid engaging in off-task Internet use (e.g., Facebook, Google, Texting) during lectures as it distracts you and others around you.
- ❖ Students are responsible for familiarizing themselves with the Academic Regulations and Policies contained within the University of Lethbridge Academic Calendar  
<https://www.uleth.ca/ross/sites/ross/files/imported/academic-calendar/2016-17/part04.pdf>
  
- ❖ In all email messages addressed to the Instructor or Teaching Assistant, include the course name and topic of your email in the Subject line. Address the recipient appropriately by name, and end the email by typing your full name. Adhering to this structure makes sending accurate replies and keeping track of correspondences much easier! Every effort will be made to respond to email inquiries in a timely manner during weekday 'working hours' (Monday morning through Friday afternoon). If you fail to structure your email correspondence by these guidelines, or if you email the Instructor with a question that has been clearly answered on Moodle or in this course outline, do not expect a reply.

### **Tips for success in PSYC 3850**

- ❖ Keep your chin up. Research tells us that texting while driving increases one's risk of car accident to a degree roughly equivalent to that of driving drunk. Instructors' experience tells us that texting during class increases students' risk of failing to a degree roughly equivalent to that of coming to class drunk.
- ❖ Increase your likelihood of success - don't do either, or send a designated note-taker on your behalf. Understand that your instructor is your ally, not your adversary. As your Instructor, I want nothing more than for you to feel passionate about, engaged in, and enthralled by Abnormal Psychology as much as I am. I want you to learn, understand, and apply the material, to succeed and earn high grades in the course. I can help you achieve this goal, but I can't do it for you.
- ❖ Achieving success requires regular class attendance, showing up on time (i.e., before the lecture begins), staying until class has officially ended, paying full attention during lecture, participating in class activities, completing all assigned work, and checking Moodle frequently for valuable resources.
- ❖ If in doubt, find out. If you are unclear about any of the material presented in class or posted as assigned readings in Moodle, or if you have a question that has not been answered in any of the valuable course resources that have been provided to help you, then ASK! Your Instructor is more than happy to address any pertinent questions you may have.