

**Psychology 3850-D – Psychology of Crime**  
**Fall 2018**  
**Mondays & Wednesdays 11:00 am - 12:15 pm**  
**Room: TH 201**



| Instructor   | Contact Info  | Office Hours   |
|--|---|--|
| Dr. Jennifer Williams<br>Psychology Department<br>University of Lethbridge | <b>Office:</b> SA8358<br><b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:jennifer.arthur@uleth.ca">jennifer.arthur@uleth.ca</a><br><b>Phone:</b> (403) 380-1852 | Thursdays: 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.<br>Or by appointment. |

**Graduate Teaching Assistant**

Kerri Norman will be the graduate teaching assistant for this course. You can contact Kerri at [kerri.norman@uleth.ca](mailto:kerri.norman@uleth.ca).

**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 desistence. In the second part of the course we will examine special topics such as 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.

**Outline of Topics and Course Structure**

Material covered in the class will come from scholarly sources including book chapters and peer reviewed journal articles. Required readings will be posted to Moodle. Lectures will be based on the required readings and be structured for a broader examination of specific areas of interest. Reading relevant course material prior to attending lecture is essential to successful course completion. Details regarding the coverage of material for exams will be provided in class and/or posted through Moodle. Note: As you will see below, many of the assigned readings in this course are from older articles this is because they are either seminal pieces of work which you should read or they describe key concepts and/or methodological issues.

**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:

|                   |     |
|-------------------|-----|
| Paper             | 25% |
| Oral Presentation | 15% |
| Midterm           | 30% |
| Final Exam        | 30% |

**Paper – 25% (Due Nov 18).** This assignment is a good opportunity for you to explore a topic within the *Psychology of Crime* in depth and to practice your writing skills. The topic you choose is entirely up to you; however, you must provide a minimum of 10 academic references for your paper. Your paper must be submitted both in hard copy and electronic copy through Moodle. The electronic copy will be submitted to Turnitin. Please format your paper and references in APA format including a title page and abstract. Your paper must be between 2500 and 3000 words. A detailed grading rubric will be posted on moodle. There will be no rewrites for the paper. Once your grade has been determined, you will not have the opportunity to correct mistakes. That being said, I am happy to work with you to improve your writing skills and paper. If you wish to receive feedback on your paper prior to submitting it for grading, please book an appointment with me no later than November 6.

**The In-Class Presentation – 15%.** For your presentation you are required to form a small group of students (3 or 4 maximum) to prepare a short oral presentation about one scientific (empirical) paper. **The instructor must approve the scientific paper that your group chooses.** There can be only one presentation per topic. Presentations will run throughout the semester and topics will complement lecture material. Scheduling and choice of topic will be done by a random draw on the first day of class.

In addition to developing your verbal/presentation skills, the goal of this exercise is to familiarize yourself with the methods used, and challenges faced, by researchers who investigate criminal behaviour; to critically think about how research this field is done; and understand the strengths and weakness of different methods employed by social scientists. The ideal presentation will be approximately 15 minutes long +/- 2 minutes (time will be part of your grade) and consist of a short slideshow summarizing the Introduction, Methods, Results, Discussion, and the Strengths and Weaknesses of the study. All group members will receive the same grade. A detailed grading rubric will be posted on Moodle.

**Midterm Exam – (30%) October 16.** The midterm will be written in class and will consist of multiple choice, fill-in-the-blank, and short answer questions. You will be tested on all of the material up to and including sexual behaviour and crime (see lecture schedule). You will have 75 mins to complete the exam.

**Final Exam – 30%. (TBA).** Final examinations are scheduled by the Registrar after the extended drop period or by the Moodle Testing Centre. Until such time as specific examination dates are announced, students must plan to be available for the entire final examination period (December 7 – 16, 2018). The final exam will be cumulative with 20% of the questions coming from the material covered prior to the midterm and 80% of the material coming from the material covered after the midterm. The final exam will consist of multiple choice, fill-in-the-blank, and short answer questions. You will have 2 hours to complete the exam.

### Missed Exam / Missed Assignment Policy

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/assignment. 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 or assignment not handed in by the due date.

### 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:

| Letter | GPA | Percent    | Letter | GPA | Percent    |
|--------|-----|------------|--------|-----|------------|
| A+     | 4.0 | 90 - 100%  | C+     | 2.3 | 67 - 69.9% |
| A      | 4.0 | 85 - 89.9% | C      | 2.0 | 63 - 66.9% |
| A-     | 3.7 | 80 - 84.9% | C-     | 1.7 | 60 - 62.9% |
| B+     | 3.3 | 77 - 79.9% | D+     | 1.3 | 55 - 59.9% |
| B      | 3.0 | 73 - 76.9% | D      | 1.0 | 50 - 54.9% |
| B-     | 2.7 | 70 - 72.9% | F      | 0   | 0 - 49.9%  |

### 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/sites/ross/files/imported/academic-calendar/2019-20/cal\\_doc.pdf](https://www.uleth.ca/sites/ross/files/imported/academic-calendar/2019-20/cal_doc.pdf)
- In all email messages addressed to the Instructor or Teaching Assistant, do not reply to messages sent out to the entire class, start a new email and 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**

- 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 the Psychology of Crime 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, participating in class discussions, 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.