

PSYC 3400 A: HONOURS SEMINAR IN FORENSIC PSYCHOLOGY

Instructor	Dr. Craig Bennell
Term	Fall 2026/Winter 2027
Course Delivery	In-Person
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Office Location	Loeb A505
Office Hours	By appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION/INSTRUCTOR'S STATEMENT

The primary focus of this course is on learning more about forensic psychology and the research that forensic psychologists conduct. Students will complete a journal article/report on some aspect of forensic psychology (topics to be decided once the course begins). This will include reviewing literature; collecting and analyzing data; and completing assignments that correspond to key sections of an article/report (a literature review, hypotheses, method, results, and discussion). The course will include brief lectures from your instructor, presentations from a range of forensic professionals, a lot of class discussions and interactive activities, and a lab component (run by your TA) that will focus primarily on writing and statistical issues.

A secondary aim of the course will be to prepare students for a potential career in the field of forensic psychology/criminal justice. Given this, some time will be spent on learning about educational and career opportunities. This part of the course will involve you conducting research on forensic psychology career opportunities; presentations from current honours and graduate students, relevant organizations on campus (e.g., Career Services), and forensic professionals; and an employment panel where I will bring in folks from different careers within the criminal justice field to present to us about their jobs and what they did to secure those jobs.

EVALUATION (SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

Class participation: 20%
Presentation: 5%
Infographic: 5%
Blog: 5%

Research brief: 5%

Journal article/report: 60% (distributed across: ethics application, literature review, methods, results, discussion, and final submission)

TEXT

To save on student costs, and to ensure the readings are useful and directly relevant to course content, there will be no required textbooks for this course. Instead, readings will consist of journal articles, which can be accessed through Carleton's electronic library, and specially designed handouts for the lab portion of this course.

If you would like to learn more about APA formatting, writing a thesis, or SPSS, I recommend the following optional textbooks:

American Psychological Association (2020). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (7th ed.). Washington, DC: American Psychological Association.

Cone, J. D., & Foster, S. L. (2006). *Dissertations and theses from start to finish: Psychology and related fields* (2nd ed.). Washington, DC: American Psychological Association.

Pallant, J. (2016). *SPSS survival manual* (6th ed.). Maidenhead, UK: Open University Press.