

PSYC 3404 A: POLICE PSYCHOLOGY

Instructor	Dr. Craig Bennell
Term	Fall 2026
Course Delivery	In-Person
Email Address	craig.bennell@carleton.ca
Office Location	Loeb A505
Office Hours	By appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION/INSTRUCTOR'S STATEMENT

The course provides a broad overview of police psychology. The course exposes students to the domains within which police psychologists work and to theories and methods that police researchers use to understand various aspects of police work. Topics will include evidence-based policing, police selection, police stress, police investigations, police discretion, police use of force, and police management. PSYC 3404 is highly interactive and relies heavily on discussions and activities. This course also depends on lectures from the instructor and guest presenters who are either police researchers or police practitioners. The goal of this course is for students to leave with a solid foundation of knowledge for the content, both from a research perspective and from the perspective of individuals who work within the policing system (as officers, psychologists, or researchers).

EVALUATION (SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

Participation activities: 5%

Online quizzes: 25%

Midterm exam: 35%

Final exam: 35%

TEXT

There is no textbook for this class. Instead, students will read assigned journal articles, which will be available through an electronic reserve reading room hosted by the library.