

PSYC 5800 L: APPLIED POLICE RESEARCH

Instructor	Dr. Simon Baldwin
Term	Winter 2027
Course Delivery	In-person
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Office Location	Virtual
Office Hours	By Appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION/INSTRUCTOR'S STATEMENT

This course offers a comprehensive overview of contemporary issues in policing and applied police research, with an emphasis on translating empirical evidence into practical, operational outcomes. Students will examine key psychological concepts such as cognition, stress, perception, and behaviour and apply them to case studies involving body-worn cameras, police training, race-based data collection, de-escalation, and responses to persons in crisis.

The course explores the drivers behind policing priorities, including political mandates, community needs, public and police safety, and inquiry recommendations. Students will assess data collection methods and sources, common barriers to accessing and using police data, and common statistical and research approaches necessary to support evidence-based policing.

Attention is given to the methodological and organizational challenges that arise when implementing evidence-based strategies in real-world policing environments. Students will learn best practices for developing and sustaining effective police-academic partnerships, enhancing methodological rigour, and mobilizing knowledge to senior leaders, organizational decision-makers, and frontline officers.

By breaking down barriers to conducting police research, the course builds practical, collaborative skills essential to applied policing research, including giving and receiving constructive feedback, developing research proposals, and presenting clear, actionable recommendations.

EVALUATION (SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

Attendance and active participation (including roundtable discussions): 10%

Weekly reflection questions: 20%

Government briefing note or police research brief: 20%

Class presentation (group research proposal): 20%

Final Term Paper (individual project scope document): 30%

There are no tests or exams.

TEXT

You will be provided with a reading list of articles from journals, which you can access online through the Carleton University Library and/or Brightspace. No textbook is required.