

PSYC 3402 C : CRIMINAL BEHAVIOUR

Instructor	Kelly M. Babchishin
Term	Winter 2026
Course Delivery	Online, Asynchronous (but with set deadlines and in-person exams)
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Office Hours	By appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION/INSTRUCTOR'S STATEMENT

Why do people commit crime? What factors place individuals at a greater risk for committing crimes? What factors or interventions reduce the chance of justice-involved individuals from committing additional crimes? The goal of this course is to provide a critical review of the psychology of criminal conduct. We will focus our discussions around three central components: 1) theory – what is our theoretical understanding? 2) research – what does the current research tell us? and 3) practical utility – how can we put theory and research into practice? The first half of the course provides the foundation on the theoretical and practical understanding of criminal behaviour and the second half of the course provides a deep dive into specific types of offending behaviours. We will also develop fundamental skills, including reading and understanding empirical research, summarising information by writing clearly, critical thinking, problem solving, and innovation (applying new approaches and knowledge). Learning will be multimodal, through videos, discussions, activities, and podcasts. **The delivery is asynchronous (no 'live' lectures), but there are set deadlines across the term, an in-person midterm, and an in-person final.**

EVALUATION (SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

You will be evaluated through one in-person midterm and one in-person final exam (multiple choice and short answers) and participation components (discussion posts, reflective 2-paragraph papers). Bonus marks can be obtained through optional activities.

TEXT

Brown, S. L., Olver, M. E., Babchishin, K. M., & Forth, A. E. (2023). *Psychology of Criminal Behaviour: A Canadian Perspective* (3rd Edition). Toronto, ON: Pearson.