

Psychology 430: Forensic Psychology 2007-2008

Dr. Don Dutton

“the proper design of public policies requires a clear and sober understanding of the nature of man, and in particular, of the extent to which that nature can be changed by plan”.

J.Q. Wilson Thinking About Crime

Psychology 430 (**Forensic Psychology**) examines applications of psychology to the criminal justice system, explanations for violent behaviour and the relationship of these explanations to criminal justice policy. The focus of the first terms' work will be on deterrence, domestic assault and the criminal justice system. The first term will also cover, legal policy and psychology, domestic violence: causes in perpetrators, effects on victims. The focus will be on the interplay between explanations of social problems and their solutions. Court cases involving expert testimony will be covered with a focus on psychological testimony in court. Topics include: personality disorders and violence, psychopathy, serial killers, spousal homicide, mass murderers.

The second term will cover self defence pleas, assessment, detection of deception, false confessions and government-induced violence, sometimes called genocide or democide. The latter topic will compare explanations for violent behaviour during civilian conditions with violent behaviour under military conditions.

Readings:

- 1) Donald G. Dutton, ***Rethinking Domestic Violence (RDV)***, UBC Press, 2006.
- 2) Donald G. Dutton, ***The psychology of genocide, massacres and extreme violence***. Praeger Press: New Jersey, 2007.
- 3) Course reading Pack:
 - a. JQ Wilson, ***Thinking about crime***. Atlantic Monthly, September, 1983.
 - b. Dan Gardiner, ***The War on Drugs***, The Ottawa Citizen.
 - c. Robert Hare, David Cooke & Stephen Hart, ***Psychopathy and Sadistic Personality Disorder***, from Oxford textbook of psychopathology, 1999.
 - d. To be announced in January.

Topics:

1. The legal control of human behaviour: punishment and deterrence.
 - a. JQ Wilson, *Thinking about crime*. Atlantic Monthly, September, 1983.
 - b. Dan Gardiner, *The War on Drugs*, The Ottawa Citizen.
 - c. Dutton RDV: Chapters 1,2,3,12,14.

2. The psychological explanation of intimate partner violence (IPV) and psychopathy.
 - a. Personality Disorders and Borderline Personality: Dutton RDV chapters 4-11.
 - b. Robert Hare, David Cooke & Stephen Hart, *Psychopathy and Sadistic Personality Disorder*, from Oxford textbook of psychopathology, 1999.

3. Other heinous acts: the case studies.
 - a. Assessment for risk and personality disorders: Dutton RDV chapters 9 &13
 - b. Serial killers: the Green River Killer (Gary Ridgeway).
 - c. Mass murderers: the curious case of Mark Chahal.
 - d. Spousal homicide: OJ Simpson.
 - e. Self defence pleas in court:
 1. Battered Woman self defence: Liz Whatley, Rachel Kleven.
 2. Battered Person Self Defence: Israel Marquez.
 3. NGRI: Not Guilty by Reason of Insanity.
 - f. Forensic Interviewing and the detection of malingering and deception; false confessions: Kassin.

4. Government sponsored/enabled violence.

Donald G. Dutton, *The psychology of genocide, massacres and extreme violence*. Praeger Press: New Jersey, 2007.

 - a. Arms dealers
 - b. Genocide
 - c. Terrorism and suicide bombers

Examinations:

Tentative dates:

- 1) October 22 and 24: first midterm
- 2) December: first term final.
- 3) February 11 and 13: second midterm
- 4) April: second term final

All exams are of equal value (25% of year total). The format will be multiple choice, short answer and paragraphs.

Teaching Assistants:

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Office hours will be by appointment except after exams. This will allow for a more flexible schedule. If you would like to see your TAs, please email them to set up an appointment. Also, if you have questions leading up to the exams, please leave time for you TAs to respond. In other words, do not email the night before and expect a response before your exam. Please put '**Psyc 430**' in the **subject line** of emails to ensure a quicker response.

Course Website:

Click on link or copy and paste URL in browser address bar. You will be asked for a logon name and password. Note: there are no capitals or spaces in the logon. Additionally, you might be asked for a second logon. Use the same logon and password as you did for the course website.

Course website address:
<http://www.psych.ubc.ca/~ddutton/psychology430/index.htm>

Logon: psychology430
Password: fall2007

Psychology Department's Position on Academic Misconduct

Cheating, plagiarism, and other forms of academic misconduct are very serious concerns of the University, and the Department of Psychology has taken steps to alleviate them. In the first place, the Department has implemented software that can reliably detect cheating on multiple-choice exams by analyzing the patterns of students' responses. In addition, the Department subscribes to *TurnItIn*—a service designed to detect and deter plagiarism. All materials (term papers, lab reports, etc.) that students submit for grading will be scanned and compared to over 5 billion pages of content located on the Internet or in TurnItIn's own proprietary databases. The results of these comparisons are compiled into customized "Originality Reports" containing several, sensitive measures of plagiarism; instructors receive copies of these reports for every student in their class.

In all cases of suspected academic misconduct, the parties involved will be pursued to the fullest extent dictated by the guidelines of the University. Strong evidence of cheating or plagiarism may result in a zero credit for the work in question. According to the University Act (section 61), the President of UBC has the right to impose harsher penalties including (but not limited to) a failing grade for the course, suspension from the University, cancellation of scholarships, or a notation added to a student's transcript.

All graded work in this course, unless otherwise specified, is to be original work done independently by individuals. Do **not** use Google/Yahoo/MSN Search/etc. to find articles for assignments in this course. **Do** use any of the indexes and databases listed under Indexes and Databases, Subject Resources, OneSearch or Metasearch on the Library's website at <http://www.library.ubc.ca>. (Not sure which index to use? Click HELP on the library homepage at www.library.ubc.ca or try Subject Resources.)

If you have any questions as to whether or not what you are doing is even a borderline case of academic misconduct, please consult your instructor. For details on pertinent University policies and procedures, please see Chapter 5 in the UBC Calendar (<http://students.ubc.ca/calendar>).