

Psychology and Law

| Spring 2024 | Department of Sociology and Criminology and Law |
| University of Florida | Classes 26267 and 10989|

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course concerns the application of behavioral science research and practice to the legal system. Topics will include: psychologists and the legal system; lawyers' socialization, training and ethics, legality, morality, and justice; forensic assessment; the insanity defense; competence in the legal system; eyewitness identification; jury selection; theories of crime; and punishment and sentencing.



Your professor:

Email:

Office hours:

Office hours location:

Dr. Lora Levett (she/hers)

llevett@ufl.edu

(put CJL4037 in the subject line)

Mondays 1:30 – 3:30pm

and by appointment

Turlington 3336 or online via

Zoom – link in CANVAS

NOTE:

Email is the most effective way to reach me! If I do not email back within 48 hours, please email me again

READINGS and MOVIES:

We will be reading required peer-reviewed articles, chapters, law review articles, and news articles that are available through our library. These are assigned for each module and available as PDFs through our canvas website. We will also watch 12 Angry Men and Central Park Five, which are available to rent through amazon.com or your own sources (required), and other movies available through the library (also required). You will also need access to the NY Times Newspaper through the UF provided subscription service.

1. Define psychology and law and the various subareas of the field

8. Communicate concepts in psychology and law to lay audiences

7. Identify various career paths in the field

6. Critically evaluate criminal justice procedure and policy using psychological theory and methodology

2. Define vocabulary words to communicate in psychology and law

COURSE OBJECTIVES

By the end of this course, you should be able to:

3. Describe the psychological methodologies and theories used by psychologists to study legal questions

5. Demonstrate knowledge of important issues, topics, and research questions in psychology and law

4. Apply psychological theory and methodology to legal questions and situations at various stages of the criminal justice process

COURSE REQUIREMENTS



EXAMS

Three non-cumulative, closed note/book exams will be administered. The exams will consist of 40 multiple choice questions worth 2 points each. The exams will cover the four topics discussed in the portion of the class before the exam. Exams will cover all material presented (lectures, readings, videos, activities). Exams will be administered via honorlock. Exams must be taken on the day they are offered.



ACTIVITIES

For each topic, you will complete an activity. Generally, the activities are designed to help you apply the material to legal questions and situations and critically evaluate criminal justice procedure and policy. Each of these activities is worth 10 points toward your final grade. Activities range from worksheets, reflection/reaction assignments, evaluation assignments, case analyses, and discussions. Activities may be completed any time before the due date but must be completed by the posted due date.



VOCABULARY QUIZZES

Half of the battle in learning any discipline or material is knowing the vocabulary. Students who know vocabulary well tend to perform better on exams as well. So, to help you with the goal of learning the vocabulary, each topic includes a vocabulary quiz worth 10 points toward your final grade. Vocabulary quizzes may be completed any time before the due date but must be completed by the posted due date.



INFOGRAPHIC

In applied fields like psychology and law, communicating the science to stakeholders is essential to using the science to improve our criminal justice processes, policies, and outcomes. To engage in science communication, you must relay information in a way that is accessible to those who could benefit from that knowledge in their decision making – whether they be jurors, judges, attorneys, policy makers, police officers, or the public. One way to communicate information in an accessible way is through the use of infographics. Therefore, you will construct one infographic this semester to communicate one of the concepts you learn about. The infographic will be graded according to the rubric provided and is worth 40 points toward your final grade. Infographics may be completed any time before the due date but must be completed by the posted due date.

Each of the course requirements is designed to assess whether you have met one or more of your course objectives. The course objectives are matched with the course requirements for you below.

COURSE REQUIREMENT	COURSE OBJECTIVE(S)
EXAMS	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
ACTIVITIES	3, 4, 5, 6, 7
VOCABULARY QUIZZES	1, 2
INFOGRAPHIC	3, 5, 8

Final grades will be determined according to the point structure below and are based on your work on a combination of exams and assignments. GPA assignments are also noted. For more information about UF grades and grading policies, see the [UF Undergraduate Catalog Grades and Grading Policies \(linked here\)](#).

GRADING

COMPONENT OF YOUR GRADE		POINTS AVAILABLE	POINTS EARNED
EXAMS	Exam 1	80	
	Exam 2	80	
	Exam 3	80	
Vocabulary Quizzes	12 Quizzes worth 10 points each	120	
Activities	12 Activities worth 10 points each	120	
Infographic	Infographic	40	
TOTAL POINTS		520	

POINTS EARNED	GRADE	CORRESPONDING GRADE POINTS
483-520	A	4.00
468-482	A-	3.67
452-467	B+	3.33
431-451	B	3.00
416-430	B-	2.67
400-415	C+	2.33
379-399	C	2.00
364-378	C-	1.67
348-365	D+	1.33
327-347	D	1.00
312-326	D-	0.67
311 and below	E	0.00

On failing grades:
 You must earn at least a 'C' for the course to count for the criminology. If you are assigned an 'E' for the course, I must report whether you never attending the course, whether you stopped attending the course and did not complete it, or whether you attended the entire course and earned an E. Therefore, if you believe you are going to fail, complete the entire course anyway because this may have implications for financial aid. However, I hope you will come talk with me and we can work together to address the issues before it gets to that point!

Note: I do not round up or add points at the end of the semester, so please do not ask. However, you will be given a 5-point extra credit opportunity this semester. I encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity! It is provided so that if your grade is considered 'borderline' or within a few points of the next highest grade, you will have the opportunity to boost your grade. It is offered fairly to everyone, unlike arbitrarily asking the professor to award extra points on an individual basis at the end of the semester.

COURSE POLICIES



Makeup Policies

I understand that someone's life sometimes interferes with one's ability to complete class requirements. If you have a legitimate reason for missing a class assignment, you will be allowed to make up what you missed if you contact me immediately before or after the missing assignment. Legitimate reasons include Title IX related absences, serious accidents or emergencies affecting you, your roommates, or family, official university activities/requirements (e.g., school related trips, professional conferences, athletic competitions, music performances), military obligations, severe weather conditions that prevent class participation, legal obligations. Religious holidays are excused but must be discussed in advance.

Student Computing Requirements

The University of Florida expects students taking online courses to acquire computer hardware and software appropriate to the degree program. Coursework will require ongoing use of a computer and a broadband connection to the internet. You will need a computer with a camera, microphone, and speakers. UF does not recommend students rely on tablet devices, mobile phones, or Chromebook devices as their primary computer. [For more about student computing requirements, please click here.](#)

In this course, we will use Mediasite for lectures, Honorlock for exams (see above), and Microsoft Word for assignments (available through UF).

Honorlock Exam Proctoring

Exams will be proctored by honorlock. Honorlock is an online proctoring service that allows you to take your exam from the comfort of your home. You DO NOT need to create an account, download software, or schedule an appointment in advance. All that is needed is a computer, a working webcam, and a stable internet connection.

To get started, you will need Google Chrome and to download the Honorlock Chrome Extension. You can download the extension at www.honorlock.com/extension/install. When you are ready to test, log into Canvas, go to your course, and click on your exam. Clicking 'launch proctoring' will begin the authentication process, where you will take a picture of yourself and show your ID. Honorlock will be recording your exam session by webcam as well as recording your screen. Honorlock support is available for you during your exam. If you encounter any issues, you may contact them by live chat, phone (844-243-2500) and/or email (support@honorlock.com). If you encounter issues within Canvas, you may contact the UF Help Desk at helpdesk@ufl.edu or 352-392-4357. If you experience technical problems, you'll need to email Dr. Levett with your ticket number from those services. [Last, please click here for a page from UF to prepare for an Honorlock Exam.](#)

COURSE POLICIES, CONTINUED



Virtual Classroom Behavior

Students are expected to behave appropriately and professionally in the online environment. This class is meant to be an enriching, enjoyable experience for all of you. Disrupting the class or behaving inappropriately in our online environment results in depriving your fellow classmates and yourself of this experience. The instructor is the final arbiter of what behavior is appropriate and inappropriate. The instructor may remove your posts if they are deemed unacceptable.

Netiquette Guide for Online Courses

These guidelines are adapted from the UF Center for Teaching Excellence and are available in full here. When communicating, you should always treat your instructor and fellow students with respect. Remember all college level communication should have correct spelling and grammar. Don't use all caps BECAUSE THAT LOOKS LIKE YELLING. On discussion boards, ensure you are respectful of others' opinions, even when they are different from your own. You can disagree (in fact, disagreeing and having a constructive conversation is essential to critical thinking!). However, you should do that in a respectful, non-personal way.

Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request accommodations should connect with the Disability Resource Center. [Click here to get started with the Disability Resource Center.](#) It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs as early as possible in the semester.

Communication

I am here to help, and there are several ways in which you can communicate with me:

Discussion Board: You can post content or class related questions to the discussion board in our Canvas course shell. Be sure to look at previous posts to see if your question has been answered, and I will check this board regularly and weigh in. However, often your classmates may be your best resource. Think of this discussion board as a place to ask things that you would ask in class.

Email: The fastest way to reach me is through email – please include CJ4037 in the subject line. If you do not hear back from me within 48 hours, please pop it to the top of my inbox by forwarding it. I get a TON of email, and I don't want to lose yours in the shuffle. Email is for private questions or something you would not generally ask during class.

Office Hours: Please pop by and say hi during office hours! I am happy to meet with you about the material, answer questions about the major, and chat about careers – really talk about whatever you'd like to cover academically. To get the most out of office hours, come with an agenda of things you would like to cover. If the times do not work, email for an appointment!

COURSE POLICIES, CONTINUED

Course Evaluation

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <http://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

Additional Course Fees

Class number 26167 has no additional course fee. Class number 10989 has an additional course fee of \$18.00.

Academic Misconduct

UF Students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, “We, the members of the University of Florida community, please to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: “On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.” The Conduct Code specifies behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Click here to read the Conduct Code. Violations of the Honor Code in this class will result in a failing grade for the assignment and/or course. **In this course, all work is to be completed individually unless otherwise specified.** If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor.

A Note on AI

Students should not use AI tools during activity/writing assignments except when specifically instructed to do so by the assignment. Doing so constitutes plagiarism.

Consequences of Misconduct

UF takes misconduct very seriously, and all cases of suspected misconduct will be referred to the Dean of Students Office. Consequences may include failing the assignment and/or class.

Civility and Values

As members of this class and university, we are members of a larger learning community where excellence is achieved through civility. Our actions affect everyone in our community. Everyone is to be treated with respect, regardless of gender, age, race, religion, sexual orientation, culture, or other identity.

In-Class Recording

Students are allowed to record video or audio of class lectures. However, the purposes for which these recordings may be used are strictly controlled. The only allowable purposes are (1) for personal educational use, (2) in connection with a complaint to the university, or (3) as evidence in, or in preparation for, a criminal or civil proceeding. All other purposes are prohibited. Specifically, students may not publish recorded lectures without the written consent of the instructor.

A ‘class lecture’ is an educational presentation intended to inform or teach enrolled students about a particular subject, including any instructor-led discussions that form part of the presentation, and delivered by any instructor hired or appointed by the University, or by a guest instructor, as part of a University of Florida course. A class lecture does not include lab sessions, student presentations, clinical presentations such as patient history, academic exercises involving solely student participation, assessments (quizzes, tests, exams), field trips, private conversations between students in the class or between a student and the faculty or guest lecturer during a class session.

Publication without permission of the instructor is prohibited. To ‘publish’ means to share, transmit, circulate, distribute, or provide access to a recording, regardless of format or medium, to another person (or persons), including but not limited to another student within the same class section. Additionally, a recording, or transcript of a recording, is considered published if it is posted on or uploaded to, in whole or part, any media platform, including but not limited to social media, book, magazine, newspaper, leaflet, or third party note/tutoring services. A student who publishes a recording without written consent may be subject to a civil cause of action instituted by a person injured by the publication and/or discipline under UF Regulation 4.040 Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code.

RESOURCES

Campus Resources

Part of learning about topics in psychology and law involves examining sensitive topics, such as racial disparities, gender discrimination, and victimization. This may be emotionally difficult at times, and I encourage you to seek out campus resources for support. UF provides several different types of resources:

Counseling and Wellness Center:

<https://counseling.ufl.edu> 352-392-1575

Student Health Care Center: <https://shcc.ufl.edu> 352-392-1161

UF Police Department Office of Victim Services:

<http://www.police.ufl.edu/victim-services>

Dean of Students Office – Emergency Response team:

https://www.dso.ufl.edu/home/about/emergency_response

U Matter, We Care can also help students, staff, or faculty in distress. You can reach them via email at umatter@ufl.edu or phone 352-392-1575. If you find yourself concerned about a fellow student, you can notify U Matter, We Care, and they will reach out to the student. We are a community who looks out for one another, so don't hesitate to reach out if you're worried.

Academic Resources

Academic resources may be helpful in navigating issues you may encounter in this class or during your time at UF. I cannot tell you how many students I have referred to the Teaching Center for Study Skills help or the Writing Studio for assistance in writing. Student have always really benefitted from the services. AND, they are already included in your student fees! I encourage you to take advantage of these resources.

Career Connections Center: Reitz Union Suite 1300, 352-392-1601, <http://www.career.ufl.edu/>. Career assistance and counseling services.

Library support: www.cms.uflib.ufl.edu/ask various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.

Teaching Center: Broward Hall, 352-392-2010, <http://www.teachingcenter.ufl.edu> General study skills and tutoring.

Writing Studio: 2215 Turlington Hall, <http://www.writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio> Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers

Student Complaints (on campus):

<http://www.sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-code-student-conduct-code/>

Student Complaints (online):

<https://distance.ufl.edu/getting-help/student-complaint-process>

RESOURCES

Technical Help

For technical issues with the course, contact the UF Help Desk at helpdesk@ufl.edu or 352-392-4357. Honorlock support is also available to you during your exam, support@honorlock.com or 844-243-2500. If you encounter technical issues, please contact the help desk or honorlock first, and then contact me, including your help desk ticket number.

Succeeding in an Online Class

I'm excited to be working with you this semester! Here are some tips to help you succeed in the online format:

Know what is expected of you in class. Make sure you read the syllabus thoroughly and stay on top of to-do lists each week.

Communicate with me! I am happy to answer questions and am available just as much as if we were in a classroom. Make sure to take advantage of office hours or to email for an appointment if you'd like to chat – I am here to help.

Schedule 'class times' for yourself. Remember, 12-15 credits is a full time load. This means that for every hour you're spending 'in class' you should be spending 2-3 hours outside of the class studying each week. Translated for online classes, that means you should allocate around 9-12 hours per week for a 3 credit class. Remember, you earn 0 points for work turned in late!

Actively watch lectures – you're not watching TV! Take notes as if you were sitting in a live class. Post questions about the material on the discussion board – the online class offers a lot of opportunities to interact about the material, and I hope you'll take advantage of those.

If you run into trouble or need help in the course, do not wait to ask for it! I am here to help. The help desk is also incredibly helpful with technical issues, so don't forget to take advantage of those resources as well. Take pictures or screenshots and document what's happening.

Back up your work – since we're primarily working in a virtual environment, it becomes even more important to keep backups.

Be attentive in your work. Each assignment is carefully laid out for you. Make sure to answer every part of the question.

Enjoy the journey and the opportunity to expand your knowledge. I learn new things each semester, and I look forward to this journey with you.

[For more tips from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences for online learning, click here.](#)



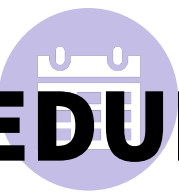
COURSE SCHEDULE

The material for each week will be released prior to the start of the week. Pay attention to the 'to do' list as the materials may change based on where we are in the course, current events, new scholarship, etc. Each week (other than exam weeks), you'll have readings to complete, videos to watch, an assignment to complete, and a vocabulary quiz to complete. During exam weeks, you'll have the entire week to study for the exam, which takes place on the last day of the week.

The syllabus and schedule are provided for your information and may change as deemed necessary. You are responsible for learning the material contained in the syllabus and on our Canvas site as well as any modification that are made during class. All changes to the syllabus will be announced and emailed to you. When you have questions, please contact me. A proposed semester schedule appears below, and any changes will be updated on Canvas and announced in class.

Week	Dates	Topics	Reading(s)	ASSESSMENT	DUE DATE
1	Jan 8 - 12	Topic 1: Introduction to Course	--	Syllabus quiz Vocabulary Quiz 1 Activity 1: Introduction Discussion	Jan 16 Jan 19 Jan 19
2	Jan 16- 19	Topic 2: Lie Detection	Vrij, 2014	Vocabulary Quiz 2 Activity 2: Deception Detection	Jan 22 Jan 22
3	Jan 22- 26	Topic 3: Interrogations and Confessions	Kassin, 2017	Vocabulary Quiz 3 Activity 3: Central Park Five Analysis	Jan 29 Jan 29
4	Jan 29- Feb 2	Topic 4: Alibis	Matuku & Charman, 2020	Vocabulary Quiz 4 Activity 4: Alibi Diaries	Feb 5 Feb 5
5	Feb 5-9	EXAM WEEK: EXAM 1	--	EXAM 1	Feb 9
6	Feb 12- 16	Topic 5: Eyewitness Identification	Wells et al., 2020	Vocabulary Quiz 5 Activity 5: Eyewitness ID Case Analysis	Feb 19 Feb 19

COURSE SCHEDULE CONTINUED



Week	Dates	Topics	Reading(s)	ASSESSMENT	DUE DATE
7	Feb 19-23	Topic 6: Interviewing Children	Poole, 2016	Vocabulary Quiz 6 Activity 6: Analyzing Interviews	Feb 26 Feb 26
8	Feb 26-March 1	Topic 7: Insanity and Competency	Zapf et al., 2009	Vocabulary Quiz 7 Activity 7: 'A Crime of Insanity' Reflection	March 4 March 4
9	March 4-8	Topic 8: Plea Bargaining	Redlich et al., 2017	Vocabulary Quiz 8 Activity 8: 'The Plea' Reflection	March 18 March 18
10	March 11 - 15	NO CLASS - SPRING BREAK!	--	--	--
11	March 18 - 22	EXAM WEEK: EXAM 2	--	EXAM 2	March 22
12	March 25-29	Topic 9: Jury Selection	Kovera, 2012	Vocabulary Quiz 9 Activity 9: Jury Selection Discussion	April 1 April 1
13	April 1-5	Topic 10: Jury Decision Making	Levett, 2023	Vocabulary Quiz 10 Activity 10: '12 Angry Men' Worksheet	April 8 April 8
14	April 8-12	Topic 11: After Innocence	Kukucka et al., 2022	Vocabulary Quiz 11 Activity 11: After Innocence Discussion	April 15 April 15

COURSE SCHEDULE CONTINUED

Week	Dates	Topics	Reading(s)	ASSESSMENT	DUE DATE
15	April 15-19	Topic 12: Careers In Psychology and Law	American Psychology-Law Society Report on Careers (canvas)	Vocabulary Quiz 12 Activity 12: Discuss Careers	April 22 April 22
16	April 22-24	STUDY FOR EXAM, FINISH INFOGRAPHIC		Infographic	April 24
17	May 1- 5	EXAM 3 ON MONDAY		EXAM 3	MONDAY May 1

A MESSAGE FOR STUDENTS:

Finally, I have a message for you all, taken from the National Commission on Excellence in Education (1997):
“To Students:

You forfeit your chance for life at its fullest when you withhold your best effort in learning. When you give only the minimum in learning, you receive only the minimum in return. Even with your parents’ best example and your teachers’ best efforts, in the end it is your work that determines how much and how well you learn. When you work to your full capacity, you can hope to attain the knowledge and skills that will enable you to create your future and control your destiny. If you do not, you will have your future thrust upon you by others. Take hold your life, apply your gifts and talents, and work with dedication and self-discipline. Have high expectations for yourself, and convert every challenge into an opportunity.”

It is my hope that you will take this course and your years in college as a unique, once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to expand your mind, enjoy yourself and your capacity to learn, and absorb as much knowledge as you can. Remember, you may never be here again. Get ready for a GREAT semester, and as always, **press on!**