

CCJ 4934 PSYCHOLOGY OF JURORS & JURIES



Instructor: Gissel Perez, M.A.

LIT 0127 | Spring 2022 | T (3:00-4:55PM) TH (4:05-4:55PM)



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TUR 3347

Mondays 12-2PM



There are no required textbooks for this course. All required readings will be available through UF Libraries or posted on Canvas.

Course Description

In this course a psychological perspective is used to examine claims regarding jurors and juries. We will discuss the jury system in America and its' history, barriers to jury service and jury pool representativeness. We will also examine how evidence (e.g., confession evidence, eyewitness evidence, etc.), the CSI effect, junk science, death qualification, and pretrial publicity affect how jurors and juries make decisions, among other topics. We will also discuss how psychological theories and research can give insight into these issues and how research in this field can inform the legal system.



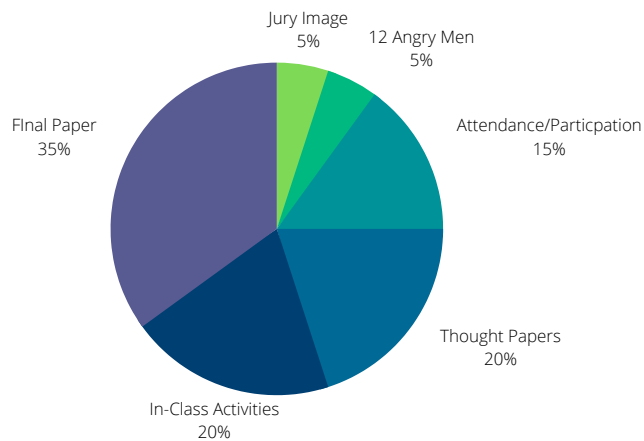
Course Objectives

By the end of the semester, you should have acquired:

- Knowledge on the jury system and how it works (e.g., the process of jury selection).
- Knowledge on the issues that affect jurors and juries.
- An understanding of how psychological theory and science can be used to address issues related to juries.
- The ability to think critically and write clearly about research as it relates to juries.
- A deeper understanding of the factors that contribute to your own views and attitudes toward the jury.

Course Grading

- Image-of-the-jury assignment **(5%)**
- 12 Angry Men Discussion **(5%)**
- Attendance and participation **(15%)**
 - Attendance will be taken at random, **at least** once per week
 - Participation will be assessed with class discussions
- Thought Papers **(20%)**
 - 6 throughout the semester.
- In-Class Activities **(20%)**
 - A total of 6
- Final paper **(35%)**
 - Will be on a topic of your choosing (regarding the psychology of juries of course!)



Grading Scale

A standard grading scale is used in this course. Please refer to this scale throughout the semester.

A = 93 +
A - = 90-92
B + = 87-89
B = 83-86
B - = 80-82
C + = 77-79
C = 73-76
C - = 70-72
D + = 67-69
D = 63-66
D - = 60-62
E = 59 and below

Communication



You may contact the instructor via e-mail (gisselperez@ufl.edu) or through canvas. You can expect a response within 48 hours. Please resend the e-mail if you do not receive a response within 48 hours. Be sure to include the course title in the subject heading (i.e., CCJ 4934). Also, please use your UF email. This reduces the likelihood that your email is sent to the spam folder and it is a more secure way of communicating.

Attendance & Participation

Attendance is **required** and part of your grade is participation in class. Participation will be determined with in-class discussions. You **cannot** make up participation assignments.

In this class you will be required to read research articles and other readings related to the class material. You may be asked to listen to Podcasts or watch videos. The participation discussions will require you to have read or listened to this material already, therefore it is your responsibility to come to class prepared to discuss these materials.

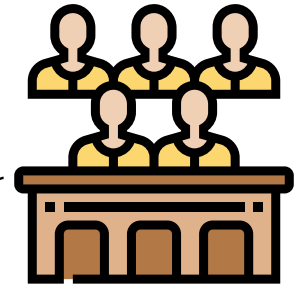


You should attend the entire class period and will only receive attendance and participation credit if you attend the full class. Attendance will be taken at least once a week at random. Thus, it is important to attend each class.

You are responsible for getting any notes and/or assignments from your fellow classmates should you need to miss class. As students, you must take responsibility for learning the material covered in class.

Image-of-the-Jury Assignment

For this assignment you will need to find and share an image or depiction of the jury. It can be any jury or any depiction! It can be a real-life case that was decided by a jury, a favorite scene from a movie or TV show that features the jury, a YouTube video, an account of a person's experience on jury duty, a research study on jury decision making, etc. If you choose a video depiction, please make sure it is 10 minutes or less in length. You will need to submit a brief description (short paragraph) about what you think the image or depiction you selected says about trial by jury. Further instructions and the rubric for this assignment can be found on Canvas.



Thought Papers



You will need to complete 8 thought papers throughout the semester. You get to choose which weeks you want to submit a thought paper. In other words, you do not need to submit a thought paper on every topic we discuss, you only need to submit a total of 6. Thought papers should not be longer than 2-3 double-spaced pages. The purpose of these papers are for you to share your thoughts on the topic based on the readings for that week. I expect you to provide a brief and general summary of what was discussed in the readings, then I want you to explore your own thoughts. The rubric, along with further instructions and due dates are available on Canvas.

In-Class Activities



There will be a total of 6 in-class activities throughout the semester (dates posted below and on Canvas). You will need to follow the instructions provided and complete all parts of the activity. Instructions for these activities will be provided during class.

12 Angry Men Discussion



For this assignment you will be asked to watch the film "12 Angry Men." The link to this movie will be provided to you on Canvas through UF Libraries. After watching the film, you will be asked to answer the questions regarding the film on Canvas "discussions." You should answer the questions and respond to at least two other students in order to receive full credit. A rubric for this discussion can also be found on Canvas. The due date can be found on the course schedule below and on Canvas.

Final Paper

For the final paper, you will be allowed to select any topic of your choosing. However it must be related to the psychology of juries. Your paper can be a literature review, a research proposal, book review, etc. You will be required to meet with me at least once to discuss your idea for your paper and I must approve your topic. A rough draft will be due by a specified date (see below). Then, the final draft is due by another specified date. The rubric can be found on Canvas and this paper will be discussed in more detail in class.



Course Policies



The instructor has the primary responsibility for control over class behavior and may order temporary removal or exclusion of students from the discussions who disrupt the class or who violate the general policies of the College. Disruptive conduct shall include, but is not limited to, any offensive or rude behavior directed toward the instructor or other students during any online discussion forums or in the classroom.

Disputing Grades

All grades are posted on Canvas throughout the semester. It is your responsibility to review your grades regularly. If you have any question or concern about a grade you received, please reach out to me. If you have questions about your grade on a discussion, thought paper, etc. you have **one week** after the grade is posted on Canvas in which to inquire about your grade. In other words, if you want to dispute a grade you will have until one week after your grade was released to dispute it. After that one week, the grade stands. However, if you still want to discuss what you got wrong, how you can improve or simply ask a question about the class material to increase your understanding, you can still do so.

Make-Up Work

All make-up work is the student's responsibility. If you know you may miss a class, inform the instructor as soon as possible. I understand that sometimes one's personal life interferes with the ability to turn in a paper, attend class, etc. If you have a legitimate reason for missing a class or assignment (e.g., documented illness), and can provide documentation, you will be allowed to make up what you missed without a grade deduction, if you contact me immediately before/after the missed assignment. Religious holidays are excused without documentation but must be discussed with the instructor in advance.

Any requests for make-ups due to technical issues **MUST** be accompanied by the ticket number received from the Help Desk when the problem was reported to them. The ticket number will document the time and date of the problem. You **MUST** e-mail your instructor within 24 hours of the technical difficulty if you wish to request a make-up.

Late Work



Late papers will be accepted within 48 hours of the due date and will have the grade lowered as a penalty. For each day the paper is late, your grade will be reduced by 10% (i.e., if your paper is 2 days late, you will receive a 20% deduction). Any work submitted after 48 hours will not be accepted.

Academic Honesty Policy

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, "We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge 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 Honor Code (<https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-code-student-conduct-code/>) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel.

Students with Disabilities

Students requesting classroom accommodations must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The DOS will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the course coordinator, when requesting accommodation. <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/>. You should contact me and the Disability Resource Center as early in the semester as possible. The Disability Resource Center is located in 001 Building 0020 (Reid Hall). Their phone number is 352-392-8565.

It is important that you provide me with your accommodation requests as soon as possible so that I can accommodate you.

Campus Resources

Learning about jurors and juries may involve some sensitive topics. If this becomes emotionally difficult at times, I encourage you to seek out campus resources for support. UF provides several different types of resources:

- **Counseling and Wellness Center:**
 - <http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/Default.aspx>
 - 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/victimservices/>

- **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.
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Academic Resources

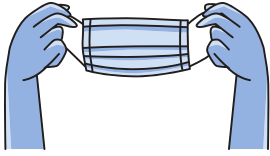
- **E-learning technical support:**
 - Contact the [UF Computing Help Desk](#) at 352-392-4357 or via e-mail at helpdesk@ufl.edu.
 - **Career Connections Center:**
 - Reitz Union Suite 1300, 352-392-1601. Career assistance and counseling services.
 - **Library Support:**
 - Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.
 - **Teaching Center:**
 - Broward Hall, 352-392-2010 or to make an appointment 352- 392-6420. General study skills and tutoring.
 - **Writing Studio**
 - 2215 Turlington Hall, 352-846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers.
 - **Student Complaints On-Campus:**
 - Visit the Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code webpage for more information.
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Evaluations



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/>.

COVID-19 Policies



Everyone is expected to wear a mask at all times when inside any UF facility, even if you are vaccinated. This includes students, faculty, staff, vendors and visitors. You can stay updated on any changes regarding COVID-19 policies here: <https://coronavirus.ufl.edu/university-updates/>

The instructor reserves the right to alter the course syllabus as circumstances dictate. Any changes will either be announced in class or posted on Canvas. Students not attending class are responsible for obtaining this information.

Course Schedule

Required Readings are posted on Canvas

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Module / Dates	Class Description	Assignments Due
Module 1 Jan. 6 th – 13 th	Introduction / Syllabus American Juries & History of Juries	Module 1 Thought Paper Due Jan. 18th 11:59 PM Image of the Jury Assignment Due Jan 19th 11:59 PM
Module 2 Jan. 18 th & 20 th	Barriers to Jury Service	Module 2 Thought Paper Due Jan. 24th 11:59 PM *In-Class Activity this module
Module 3 Jan. 25 th & 27 th	Jury Pool Representativeness	Module 3 Thought Paper Due Jan. 31st 11:59 PM
Module 4 Feb. 1 st & 3 rd	Jury Selection	Module 4 Thought Paper Due Feb. 7th 11:59 PM *In-Class Activity this module
Module 5 Feb. 8 th & 10 th	Race & Juries	Module 5 Thought Paper Due Feb.14th 11:59 PM *In-Class Activity this module

Module 6
Feb 15th – 24th

Jurors Evaluation of Evidence
(Confessions, Eyewitnesses, &
Experts)

Module 6 Thought Paper
Due Feb 28th 11:59 PM

***In-Class Activity this module**

Module 7
Mar. 1st & Mar. 3rd

Junk Science

Module 7th Thought Paper
Due Mar. 6th 11:59 PM

***In-Class Activity this module**

Spring Break – No Class Mar. 8th & 10th

Module 8
Mar. 15th & 22nd

CSI Effect

Module 8 Thought Paper
Due Mar. 26th 11:59 PM

**No In-Person Class Mar. 18th (Watch “12 Angry Men”)
“12 Angry Men” Discussion Due Mar. 20th 11:59 PM**

Module 8
Mar. 24th & 29th

Pre-Trial Publicity

Module 8 Thought Paper
Due Apr. 2nd 11:59 PM

Module 9
Mar. 31st & Apr. 5th

Death Penalty

Module 9 Thought Paper
Due Apr. 9th 11:59 PM

***In-Class Activity this module**

Module 10
Apr. 7th & 12th

Civil Trials / Damage Awards

Module 10 Thought Paper
Due April 15th 11:59 PM

Module 11
Apr. 14th & 19th

Changes in Attitudes
Police & LGBTQ+

Final Paper due April 23rd 11:59 PM

Other Important Dates:

February 23rd – Final Paper topic must be approved by this date

March 23rd – Rough draft / outline must have been discussed by this date