

# CJL 4037 Psychology & Law

Fall 2023

9:35 – 10:25 Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays | Little Hall 0127

## 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 decision making; and punishment and sentencing.



**Instructor:**  
Shelby Mikkelson  
Pronouns:  
she/her/hers

**Email:**  
[s.mikkelson@ufl.edu](mailto:s.mikkelson@ufl.edu)  
Please include "CJL 4037" in the  
subject line.

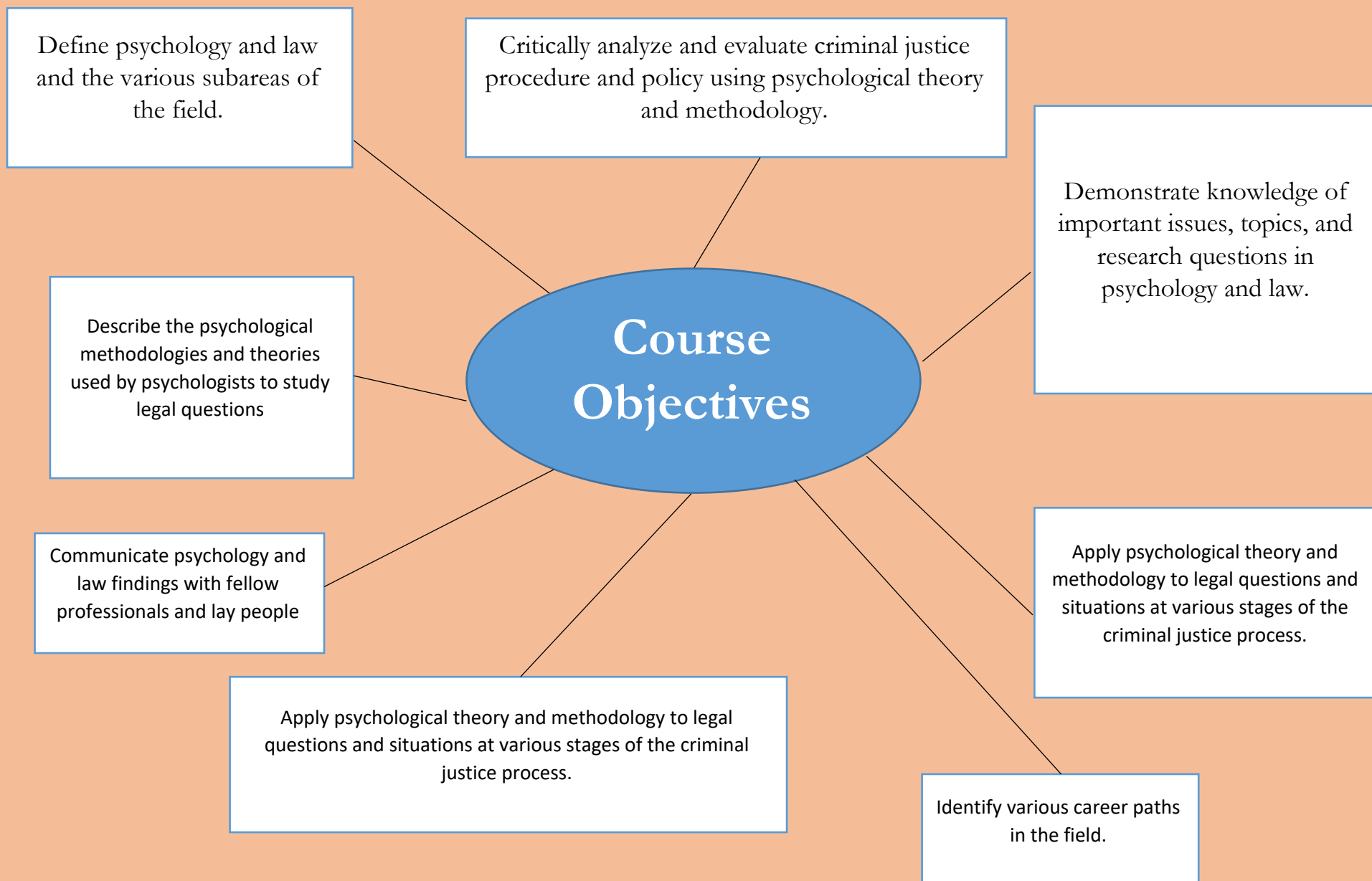
**Office Hours:**  
Fridays  
11:00 – 1:00 pm in  
Turlington 3347

Email is the easiest and most effective way to reach me.  
However, if I don't answer your email within 48 hours, please re-email me.

## Textbook & Other Materials

Advanced Introduction to Law and Psychology by Tom R. Tyler

While we have a required textbook, we will also be reading peer-reviewed articles, listening to various TED Talks, podcast episodes, and documentaries. Articles and links will be provided, podcasts and documentaries will be publicly available.



## Assessments

### Group Discussion Facilitation

Students will be assigned to a group at the beginning of the semester. Each week, one group will lead a class discussion on the readings and/or materials for the week. Each group will lead discussion twice in the semester, and topics will be picked (assigned) the second day of classes. Students will be expected to provide 2 discussion questions before Wednesday's class (due Tuesday). The group will then use these questions to lead a constructive discussion within the class about the week's topic. It is encouraged that students consider discussing the research itself, possible real world applications, etc. Students are encouraged to facilitate a healthy and respectful conversation about the week's topic.

Students will be graded in 2 parts – their question submissions (did they post 2 discussion questions, are they quality questions that will facilitate a good discussion, etc.) and their participation in leading and facilitating the class

### In Class Activities

Throughout the semester, there will be various in class activities or assignments. The purpose of these assignments is to further our discussion about various topics.

You can plan on at least one a week.

### Final Project

Students will be able to select either completing an APA amicus brief or a podcast episode for a topic discussed in class. The purpose of this assignment is to communicate the findings and main ideas of a subarea of psychology and law. Students will be required to provide a brief outline discussing what they will use for their final project. A rubric will be available on Canvas.

### Weekly Quizzes

Half of the battle of understanding psychology and law is understanding the terminology and research that has been done on the subject. Thus, there will be weekly quizzes that focus directly on the content of the topic (readings and materials). There are 14 assigned, 12 are required.

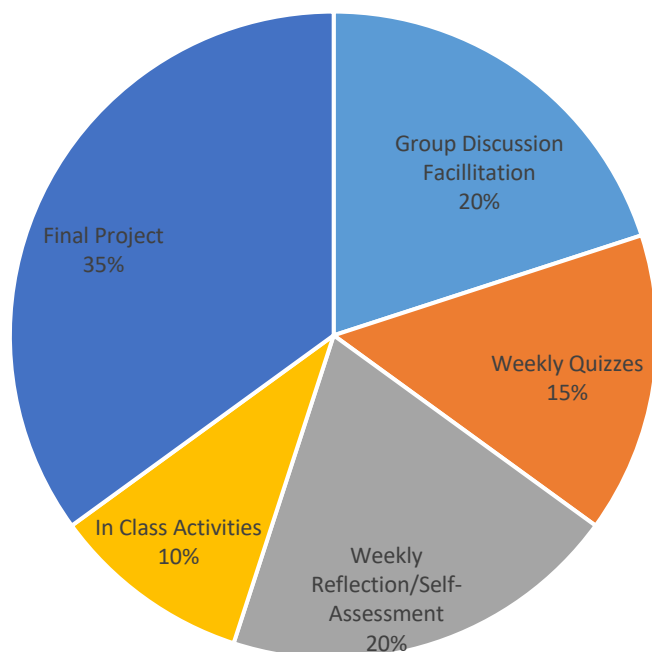
Quizzes will be 10 questions, and will be timed (12 minutes to complete.)

### Weekly Reflections/Self – Assessments

While I believe attendance and participation are highly important in a class such as this, I will not be grading students on just showing up to class. Instead, students will be assessing their own level of participation in class each week. A rubric will be provided that students are required to use. Students will also write a short (1 to 2 page, single spaced) reflection paper on the week. The reflection paper should discuss different things the student has learned from the readings and/or materials and class discussions that week. There are 14 of these assigned, 12 are required (if more than 12 are completed, the lowest 1 or 2 won't be included in final grade).

\*I reserve the right to agree/disagree with the student's self-assessment grade – this means I can grade differently by either adding or deducting points.

## Grading



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

**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 extra credit opportunities this semester. I encourage you to take advantage of these opportunities! These opportunities are offered fairly to everyone, unlike arbitrarily asking me to award extra points on an individual basis at the end of the semester.

## Course Policies

### Disputing Grades

All grades are posted on Canvas throughout the semester. It is your responsibility to review your grades regularly. Should you have a grading question, please reach out to me. If you have questions about your grade on an assignment, you have **one week** after the grade is posted on Canvas in which to inquire about your grade (or, petition for point changes based on justifiable criteria – except for the last week, because grades are due within a few days). After that time period, the grade stands. I reserve the right to re-grade your entire assignment, in the situation you raise serious questions about how something was graded. This means your grade may go up or down. I do my best to provide extensive feedback when I am grading, but I am always open to listening to respectful discussion on your grades.

However, you can ask questions about class material at any point to increase your understanding of what you did.

### Make-up Work

All make-up work is the student's responsibility. If you know you may miss a class, inform me as soon as possible. I understand that sometimes life just happens, and this can interfere with meeting deadlines. 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 me in advance (just so that I can be aware and make note). All deadlines are on the syllabus, please plan accordingly for other life events (e.g., birthday parties, tailgating, job interviews, weddings, etc.). You are responsible for getting any notes and/or assignments from your fellow should you need to miss class. We are all adults here, please take the responsibility for learning the material covered in class. In class work cannot be made up for any reason.

Late assignments will be accepted within 48 hours of the due date and will have the grade lowered as a penalty. For each day the assignment is late, your grade will be reduced according to the assignment's rubric. Any work submitted after 48 hours will not be accepted unless you have a documentable reason for the late submission. If you submit a late assignment after an approved extension date, the same policy will be used.

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

The important takeaway here is: please just **communicate** with me, I want you to succeed in my class.

### Learning Environment and Preferred Name

It is important to the learning environment that you feel welcome and safe in this class; and that you are comfortable participating in class discussions and communicating with me on any issues related to the class. If your preferred name is not the name listed on the official UF roll, please let me know ASAP by e-mail or in person. I would like to acknowledge your preferred name, and pronouns that reflect your identity. Please let me know how you would like to be addressed in class (this includes a nickname). I prefer to be addressed as Shelby and my pronouns are she/her/hers. 😊

## Course Policies (continued)

### 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](#) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions.

### ChatGPT & AI Software

The use of ChatGPT or other AI software to create responses to any assignment, quiz, or final project will not be allowed in this class. This software can be used as a **resource** but must be properly cited. Any student passing a response generated from one of these AI software as their own, will be cheating and in violation of the Honor Code. No points will be given for that response. Students may earn half points back by submitting a revised document, with track changes on, to improve the AI response with class material to create a better argument. Re-submission will be due **one week** after original grade was released.

### Students with Disabilities

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

### Plagiarism

A part of academic learning is learning how to critically engage in material, use this material to support our arguments, and to properly give credit where credit is due. I take plagiarism **EXTREMELY** seriously, meaning I will not tolerate it. If I suspect or TurnItIn flags your assignment for plagiarism, I will immediately report it to the Student Conduct office. We will not meet about it, and I will not discuss the assignment with you, until after you have been contacted by the student conduct office. You will receive a zero on that assignment, and I will only change that grade once a meeting has been held between you and the student conduct office, and the student conduct office has deemed a change of grade necessary. If the assignment is your final project, I will submit your final grade with your final project as a zero. Again, I will make any necessary changes should the student conduct meeting deem otherwise. To avoid all of this drama and stress, do your own work and give credit to those who came before us.

### 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: <https://gatorevals.ua.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.

## Campus Resources

- Part of learning about the topics in psychology and law involves examining some sensitive areas, such as racial disparities, gender discrimination, and victimization. If this becomes emotionally difficult, I highly encourage you to seek out campus resources for support. UF provides several different types of resources.
- Due to the nature of the course and the sensitive topics, I will NOT tolerate disrespect of bullying in the classroom. If either of these behaviors occur, you will be asked to leave. If it occurs several times over the semester, I will involve the appropriate individuals to handle the matter.

### Health and Wellness

Your mental health is extremely important, college can be a difficult time in a young person's life, and you need to know that it is OKAY to not be okay. Here are some resources (all links are hyperlinked, just click on the resource name for their website) that UF offers our Gator community. Please reach out if you are experiencing and distress or mental unbalance.

**Your mental health MATTERS.**

[Counseling and Wellness Center](#) (352) 392 – 1575

[Student Health Care Center](#) (352) 392 – 1161

[UF Police Department Office of Victim Services](#)

[Dean of Students Office - Emergency Response Team](#)

[U Matter We Care](#) (352) 392 – 1575 [umatter@ufl.edu](mailto:umatter@ufl.edu)

They can help students, staff or faculty in immediate distress. If you find yourself concerned about a fellow student, you can notify them, and they will reach out directly to the student. We are a community who looks out for each other, don't hesitate to reach out if you are worried about a fellow student, or staff member, or faculty member.

### Academic Resources

Did you know that those pesky student fees also give you access to many academic resources here at UF? I highly recommend taking advantage of these resources. All links are hyperlinked, just click on the name.

[Career Connections Center](#) Career assistance and counseling services  
Reitz Union Suite 1300, (352) 392 – 1601

[Library Support](#) Library assistance and Finding resources

[Teaching Center](#) General study skills and tutoring  
Broward Hall (352) 392 – 2010

[Writing Studio](#) Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers.  
2215 Turlington Hall

[Student Complaints](#)

[helpdesk@ufl.edu](mailto:helpdesk@ufl.edu) For technical issues, contact the UF Help Desk

## Course Schedule

The material for each week will be released prior to the start of the week. Pay attention to the ‘to do’ list on Canvas because materials or pace of course may change. All materials for the week will be posted on the ‘to do’ list on that week’s module on Canvas. Each week you will have a quiz, a reflection paper, and a self-assessment due. Groups will be assigned TWO different topics (these materials will be made available to the leading group ahead of time).

The general flow of class will be as follows:

Mondays – lecture on general content for the week’s topic

Wednesdays – Group led discussion on materials

Fridays – Continued discussion time, in class activity

Below is a proposed semester schedule, and any changes will be updated on Canvas and announced in class. I reserve the right to alter this schedule as necessary, this includes changing materials. You are responsible for learning the material contained in the syllabus and on our

Module	Date	Topic	Materials	Assignments Due *all deadlines are 11:59 PM
1	8/23	Intro to Course	Syllabus	
	8/25	What is Psychology & Law?	Tyler: Chapter 1	
2	8/28	The Research		EC: Syllabus Quiz
	8/30	Lie Detection	Tyler: 4.1 – 4.5 Hartwig & Bond, 2014 Iacono & Ben-Shakhar, 2019	
	9/1			Reflection & Self-Assessment 1 9/3: Quiz 1
3	9/4	*No Class – Labor Day		
	9/6	Interrogations	Tyler: 4.6 Leo, 2020	



	9/8			Reflection & Self-Assessment 2 9/10: Quiz 2
4	9/11	Confessions	Tyler: 4.7 & 4.8 Malloy TED Talk Normile & Scherr, 2019 Kassin et al., 2020	9/12: Group Questions
	9/13			
	9/15			Reflection & Self-Assessment 3 9/17: Quiz 3
5	9/18	Eyewitness Identification	Tyler: Chapter 3 Wells et al., 2020 Loftus TED Talk	9/19: Group Questions
	9/20			
	9/22			Reflection & Self-Assessment 4 9/24: Quiz 4
6	9/25	Attorneys	TBD*	9/26: Group Questions
	9/27			
	9/29			Reflection & Self-Assessment 5 10/1: Quiz 5
7	10/2	The Court Process	TBD*	10/3: Group Questions
	10/4			
	10/6	*No Class – UF Homecoming		Reflection & Self-Assessment 6 10/8: Quiz 6
8	10/9	Plea Bargaining	Redlich et al., 2017 Hellgren & Kassin, 2022	10/10: Group Questions
	10/11			
	10/13			Reflection & Self-Assessment 7 10/15: Quiz 7

9	10/16	Insanity/Competency	Tyler: Chapter 6 Ralph Tortorici Chapter Andrea Yates Chapter	10/17: Group Questions
	10/18			
	10/20			Reflection & Self- Assessment 8 10/22: Quiz 8
10	10/23	Jury Decision Making	Tyler: 10.1- 10.5; 10.7	10/24: Group Questions
	10/25			
	10/27			Reflection & Self- Assessment 9 10/29: Quiz 9
11	10/30	Sentencing/Incarceration	Tyler: Chapter 7 Piper & Berle, 2019	10/31: Group Questions
	11/1			Final Project Outline
	11/3			Reflection & Self- Assessment 10 11/5: Quiz 10
12	11/6	Death Penalty	Steinberg & Scott, 2003 O'Neil et al., 2004 Daryl Atkins Chapter	11/7: Group Questions
	11/8			
	11/10	*No Class – Veterans' Day		Reflection & Self- Assessment 11 11/12: Quiz 11
13	11/13	After Exoneration	Scherr et al., 2018 Karaffa et al., 2017 Zannella et al., 2020	11/14: Group Questions
	11/15			
	11/17			Reflection & Self- Assessment 12 Final Project Outline 11/19: Quiz 12
	11/20	TBD		

	11/22	*No Class – Thanksgiving		
	11/24	*No Class - Thanksgiving		
14	11/27	Psychology & Civil Law	Tyler: Chapter 9	11/28: Group Questions
	11/29			
	12/2			Reflection & Self-Assessment 13 12/3: Quiz 13
15	12/4	Careers in Psychology & Law	APA Career Webpage	12/5: Group Questions
	12/6			
	12/5	*No Class – Reading Day		Reflection & Self-Assessment 14 12/10: Quiz 14
	12/13	Scheduled Final*		Final Project