

Course Outline

COURSE: Psychology of the Jury (CRCJ 4100 B)

TERM: Winter 2021

PREREQUISITES: CRCJ 1000 and fourth-year standing.

CLASS: Fridays 8:35 pm - 11:25 pm via Zoom

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Susan Yamamoto

VIRTUAL OFFICE HOURS: Thursdays 1:30pm - 2:30pm & by appointment

CONTACT: susanyamamoto@cunet.carleton.ca

Academic Accommodation

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request the processes are as follows:

Pregnancy obligation: write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details click [here](#).

Religious obligation: write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details click [here](#).

Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: The Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) provides services to students with Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/mental health disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), chronic medical conditions, and impairments in mobility, hearing, and vision. If you have a disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact PMC at 613-520-6608 or pmc@carleton.ca for a formal evaluation. If you are already registered with the PMC, contact your PMC coordinator to send me your Letter of Accommodation at the beginning of the term, and no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (if applicable). After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with me to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. Please consult the PMC website for the deadline to request accommodations for the formally-scheduled exam (if applicable).

Survivors of Sexual Violence: As a community, Carleton University is committed to maintaining a positive learning, working and living environment where sexual violence will not be tolerated, and where survivors are supported through academic accommodations as per Carleton's Sexual Violence Policy. For more information about the services available at the university and to obtain information about sexual violence and/or support, visit: <https://carleton.ca/equity/sexual-assault-support-services>

Accommodation for Student Activities: Carleton University recognizes the substantial benefits, both to the individual student and for the university, that result from a student participating in activities beyond the classroom experience. Reasonable accommodation must be provided to students who compete or perform at the national or international level. Write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. <https://carleton.ca/senate/wp-content/uploads/Accommodation-for-Student-Activities-1.pdf>

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will explore juror decision-making (JDM) research from Canada and the United States. After a theoretical foundation, the course work is broken into three major chronological units: pre-trial, mid-trial, and post-trial. In each of these units, we will focus on a contextual factor, a juror characteristic, and a legal safeguard against bias. Topics such as jury selection, emotion, neurolaw, and technology will be examined, in addition to a number of legal and extra-legal influences on jury decision-making.

COURSE TYPE

This course is a combination of synchronous and asynchronous content. Students will be assigned to one of two seminar groups, which will meet virtually for live discussion sessions during the scheduled class (starting at 9:00 am) once in February (5th or 12th) and once in March (5th or 12th). Seminar group preferences are on a first come, first served basis. The remainder of the course components can be completed on your own time, subject to deadlines.

COMMUNICATION

This course will be supported by the cuLearn Course Management System as well as the Zoom conferencing platform. Students will be fully responsible for reading and responding appropriately to all information distributed through the Course Page. Information provided on the cuLearn Course Page will be considered to have been provided to all registered students within 24 hours of posting. All correspondence with me should be carried out through the Carleton e-mail system, using “CRCJ 4100 B” as the subject. Expect a reply within 48-hours.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

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

- Describe the limitations and strengths of the jury systems in Canada and the US.
- Critically evaluate current legal safeguards from a social-cognitive perspective.
- Synthesize topics to form an evidence-based opinion on the system’s effectiveness.
- Formally communicate these opinions via a persuasive essay.

REQUIRED TEXTS

Najdowski, C., & Stevenson, M. (Eds.). (2019). *Criminal juries in the 21st century: Contemporary issues, psychological science, and the law*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press

This textbook is available for purchase at the Carleton University Bookstore.

There will also be supplemental readings that you can access online through the Carleton Library via PsycINFO. Full references will be posted on CuLearn.

EVALUATION

(All components must be completed in order to get a passing grade)

Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean. This means that grades submitted by the instructor may be subject to revision. No grades are final until they have been approved by the Dean

Zoom Discussion (x2)	10%	Choice of 2
Critical Response Papers (x2)	10%	Choice of 2
Discussion Forum Posts (x4)	20%	Ongoing
Online Quizzes (x3)	15%	Ongoing
Video Reflection	5%	Jan 29 th
Paper Outline	5%	March 19 th
Final Paper	35%	April 14 th

SUBMITTING YOUR ASSIGNMENTS: All written assignments must be submitted as a Word document via CuLearn before the specified time. To submit your assignments, navigate to the course CuLearn page (at <https://carleton.ca/culearn/>), click on the appropriate assignment drop box (e.g., “Final Paper”), and then click “Add Submission”. You will then be able to upload your Word document to the drop box.

PARTICIPATION: Active participation is essential to seminar-style classes. As such, part of your grade is allotted to attending and engaging in class. You will be assigned to a seminar group, which will meet twice on Zoom during the semester; on these days, your participation will be marked out of 5. You are free to observe and participate in any classes. Discussion sessions begin at 9:00 am.

Your discussion grade will be based on quality and quantity of participation. You should show respect to others’ contributions, help facilitate discussion, listen thoughtfully, offer constructive feedback, and avoid monopolizing the conversation.

Note: If you miss a seminar session for a legitimate reason (e.g., serious illness, death in the family, etc.), I may, at my discretion, assign you to another class.

CRITICAL RESPONSE PAPERS: To facilitate active participation, before your seminar class, you will be asked to provide a roughly one-page (single- spaced) reflection on the associated chapter (marked out of 5). In this reflection you must 1) provide a brief summary of the main points, 2) propose a novel discussion question or insight, 3) provide an opinion as to whether the research findings presented in the chapter are in favour of or against the jury system, and 4) ask a clarification question.

DISCUSSION FORUM: Each student is expected to post on the discussion forum and reply to a classmate’s post as part of two “Change My View” (CMV) exercises. More detailed instructions will be provided on CuLearn. Each post will be scored out of 5 (graded for novelty, persuasiveness, and clarity of expression).

ONLINE QUIZZES: Each unit will have an open-book, 10 question online quiz based on the text and lectures. Each student must conduct and complete the quizzes independently. There are no deadlines for the quizzes, but you must attempt them before moving on to additional units. There are no opportunities for make-ups, but your lowest score will be dropped.

VIDEO REFLECTION: Instead of lecture during Week 3 you will be tasked with watching a video covering an actual trial (see CuLearn for details). You will be asked to answer some basic questions, apply specific concepts, and provide insights about the jury's decision-making process. The questions can be answered through CuLearn.

PAPER OUTLINE: Students must provide a roughly two-page, single-spaced outline of their proposed research essay. The outline must describe your planned paper structure and identify research articles that will be used to support the main argument. The outline should include a clearly delineated thesis statement indicating what you will argue. You should also provide a sense of relevant empirical research, highlighting major issues that are relevant to your argument.

FINAL PAPER: You will be tasked with writing an individual persuasive essay in this course. The paper should be 8-10 pages double-spaced (not including references or the title page) and is due April 14th by 11:59 pm. In the paper you will provide an argument in favor of maintaining or abolishing the Canadian jury system, while supporting your claims with empirical research. More detailed instructions and a grading rubric will be available on CuLearn so that you know what I expect in terms of content, structure, and formatting.

LATE ASSIGNMENTS: If you have a major problem (such as prolonged illness), please let me know with reasonable warning. Try to complete your assignments early and submit them on time. Late assignments will be docked 10% per day the assignment is late, **including weekends** (i.e., each day of the weekend counts as a full day). If an assignment is more than 3 days late, it will automatically receive a grade of 0% (zero percent).

An assignment is considered late if it is not fully submitted to the assignment portal on CuLearn by the end of the day on which it is due (i.e., by 11:59 pm). Assignments that are submitted as a draft or that are turned in after 11:59 pm on a due date will be considered one day late. Assignments that are turned in after 11:59 pm the following day will be considered two days late, and so on. You need to submit the assignment via the CuLearn assignment portal; assignments will not be accepted by email.

GRADING SYSTEM

Letter grades assigned in this course will have the following percentage equivalents:

A+ = 90-100	B = 73-76	C - = 60-62	F = 0-49 (Failure. No academic credit.)
A = 85-89	B - = 70-72	D+ = 57-59	
A - = 80-84	C+ = 67-69	D = 53-56	
B+ = 77-79	C = 63-66	D - = 50-52	

STATEMENT ON PLAGIARISM

The University Senate defines plagiarism as "presenting, whether intentionally or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one's own." This can include:

- reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else's published or unpublished material, regardless of the source, and presenting these as one's own without proper citation or reference to the original source;
- submitting a take-home examination, essay, laboratory report or other assignment written, in whole or in part, by someone else;
- using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, or paraphrased material, concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;
- using another's data or research findings;
- failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another's works and/or failing to
- use quotation marks;
- handing in "substantially the same piece of work for academic credit more than once without prior written permission of the course instructor in which the submission occurs."

Plagiarism is a serious offence that cannot be resolved directly by the course's instructor. The Associate Dean of the Faculty conducts a rigorous investigation, including an interview with the student, when an instructor suspects a piece of work has been plagiarized. Penalties are not trivial. They can include a final grade of "F" for the course.

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

Classroom teaching and learning activities, including lectures, discussions, presentations, etc., by both instructors and students, are copy protected and remain the intellectual property of their respective author(s). All course materials, including PowerPoint presentations, outlines, and other materials, are also protected by copyright and remain the intellectual property of their respective author(s).

Students registered in the course may take notes and make copies of course materials for their own educational use only. Students are not permitted to reproduce or distribute lecture notes and course materials publicly for commercial or non-commercial purposes without express written consent from the copyright holder(s).

ANONYMOUS COURSE FEEDBACK TOOL

I have set up an anonymous course feedback tool on the course CuLearn page. I encourage you to share your ideas about this course either anonymously using this tool or directly with me if you feel comfortable. I am genuinely interested in hearing what you think went well in the course, what didn't go so well, and suggestions for improving the course.

BONUS POINTS

There are two opportunities to earn bonus percentages. First, you can post a self-introduction on the student forum (worth 1%). Second, you can complete a self-assessment (worth 1%). This task requires you to answer 3 questions about your strengths and opportunities for growth.

SCHEDULE

You are expected to have read the corresponding chapter prior to the class period for which it is assigned. Anything covered in the lectures and readings can be a quiz question.

UNIT	WEEK	CONTENT	ACTIVITIES	READING
1: Theory	W1 (Jan 15 th)	JDM Models	Independent Study	None
	W2 (Jan 22 nd)	Social Cognition	Independent Study	See CuLearn
	W3 (Jan 29 th)	<i>State v. Ducic</i> (video)	Video Reflection	None
2: Pre-Trial	W4 (Feb 5 th)	Pre-trial Publicity	Seminar Group A*	Ch 7
	W5 (Feb 12 th)	Perceived Legitimacy	Seminar Group B*	Ch 6
	W6 (Feb 26 th)	Juror Selection	CMV Opens	Ch 2
3: Mid-Trial	W7 (Mar 5 th)	Evidence	Seminar Group A*	Ch 10
	W8 (Mar 12 th)	Emotion	Seminar Group B*	Ch 12
	W9 (Mar 19 th)	Juror Education	Paper Outline	Ch 5
4: Post-Trial	W10 (Mar 26 th)	Punishment	CMV Opens	Ch 3
	W11 (Apr 9 th)	Juror Wellbeing	Independent Study	Ch 13
	W12** (Apr 14 th)	Future of the Jury	Paper Q&A	Ch 14

*Group meets on Zoom during scheduled time

**Wednesday follows a Friday schedule