
Course Outline

COURSE:	LAWS 4802A – Criminal Jury Trials
TERM:	FALL 2023
PREREQUISITES:	LAWS 2908, CRCJ 3001 or CRCJ 3002 and LAWS 2301, LAWS 2302 and 4th year Honours standing
CLASS:	Day & Time: Wednesday 6:05pm – 8:55pm Room: Please check with Carleton Central for current room location
INSTRUCTOR: (CONTRACT)	Kelly Lauzon
CONTACT:	Office Hrs: By appointment Email: kellylauzon@cmail.carleton.ca

CALENDAR COURSE DESCRIPTION

Critical analysis of the criminal jury system including its history and context, the role of the judge, jury dynamics and jury composition. Perspectives and roles of the accused, victims, police, defence counsel, Crown attorney, judges, juries, media, politicians and the public.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will critically examine the criminal jury trial system. While we will look at topics such as juror qualification, jury selection, opening and closing addresses, the trial process (including deliberations and the judge's charge to the jury), many other options for discussion are possible. The direction of this class will be guided largely by class discussions.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Upon successful completion of the course, student should:

- Be familiar with the features and structure of the criminal jury trial in Canada.
- Be familiar with the role played by many of the actors in the criminal jury trial in Canada (ex: jurors, Crown, defense attorney, expert witnesses).
- Be able to identify some of the difficulties that may present themselves to actors within the criminal jury system.
- Be able to critically look at, engage with and gain a deeper appreciation of this area of the criminal justice system.
- Be able to collaborate with others in order to produce an effective working relationship in order to achieve goals.

REQUIRED TEXTS

The assigned readings for each week are listed in the lecture schedule below. These readings will be available via Brightspace.

Students are also encouraged to follow media reports on current issues dealing with jury trials so that they can be better prepared to participate in class discussions.

COMMUNICATION

The primary means of communication for this class will be through Brightspace. However, I am always happy to answer any questions you may have or to discuss the class material further. If you would like to talk to me in person, we can set up an appointment to meet via Big Blue Button. If you would like to communicate via email, please be sure to use your Carleton email account.

Email policy: I check my email regularly from 8 am to 4pm (Monday to Friday) and aim to reply the same day. I do not check my e-mail regularly after these hours during the week or on the weekend/holidays; if you send your email during these times, I will aim to reply by the next business day.

EVALUATION

Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor, subject to the approval of the Department and 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 Department and the Dean.

NOTE: All components must be successfully completed in order to get a passing grade – this includes the attendance and participation components. If you do not receive a passing grade (50%) on *each* of the attendance and participation components, you will not receive a passing grade for this course.

1. Attendance and Contribution to Discussion (20%)

- This class will focus strongly on discussion. You are expected to come to class prepared to discuss the readings and the course material.
- Class attendance will only account for 10% of your grade. You need to be prepared to contribute to the class discussions to earn the additional 10%.
- Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each class. Attendance grades will not be given retroactively.
- In accordance with the Student Rights and Responsibility Policy [Student Rights and Responsibilities Policy](#), discrimination and harassment will not be tolerated.

2. Jury Decision Review (10%)

- Due by **6pm on September 27** (week 4)
- Choose a case (historical or recent) that was decided by a jury.
- In 5-7 pages (double spaced) you are asked to:
 - Provide a **brief** synopsis of the case and the jury's decision.
 - Explain whether you agree or disagree with the jury and why.
- To explain your stance, you may wish to discuss topics such as
 - What you think may have influenced the jury in their decision.

- What could have been done differently to change the jury's decision.
- What you would have decided if you were part of that jury.
- What tactics you think were important in helping the jury reach the verdict.

3. Student-led Presentation (30%)

- Presentations begin the fifth week of class (**October 4**) and will continue throughout the term.
- Groups of 2 or 3 students will be required to present their chosen topic to the class.
 - Although the presentation will be prepared and presented in pairs, you will be marked individually. This means that you may receive a different grade than your partner.
- You can sign up for your week/topic/partners in class or by emailing me. Topics will be assigned on a first come-first served basis. The list of presentations will be posted on Brightspace.
 - It is your responsibility to attend the class that you have signed up for; there will not be a chance to reschedule.
 - If you haven't signed up by the 3rd week of class (Sept 20), I will assign your topic (and partners).
- Presentations are expected to last approximately 45 minutes (including discussion) and should provide an overview of the topic and a critical reflection of these points.
 - The entire presentation and discussion should not extend beyond 60 mins. Presenters will be asked to end their presentation/discussion after 60 minutes, and you will be graded on what has been presented up to this point. Therefore, it is important for you to be mindful of the time limit to ensure you have sufficient time to cover the important points of your presentation.
- Your presentation will consist of preparing lecture slides for your given topic and leading the class discussion. Presentations/slide material should provide an overview of the topic and a critical reflection of these points.
 - The slides should be submitted to me via email the week prior to your presentation, and I will post them to Brightspace. **You will lose marks** if they are not submitted at least one week in advance of your presentation date.
 - ex: if you are responsible for a presentation on week 7, you would have to submit your slides to me no later than week 6.
- You are required to conduct research beyond the assigned readings, and you will be required to circulate at least one reading to the class **the week prior** to your presentation. **You will lose** marks if it is not circulated at least one week in advance of your presentation.
- You are also required to develop at least 3 questions to guide class discussions. The questions should draw upon the main points of your presentation and foster lively academic debate. The discussion period should be the focus of the presentation and should last approximately 20-25 minutes.

4. Peer Evaluation of Presentation (5%)

- Each pair of presenters will be assigned a pair of peer evaluators.
- The list of evaluators will be posted on cuLearn.
 - It is your responsibility to attend the class that you are assigned to be an evaluator. There will not be an opportunity to be reassigned to another group.
- Evaluators will provide the student presenters with feedback on 3 main areas:
 - Quality of information imparted
 - Delivery of the presentation
 - Research conducted
- Evaluators will not assign a grade to the presenters, only comments.
- The peer evaluators will be graded on the submission of the feedback provided to their peers.

5. Take-Home Exam (35%)

- Instructions and information will be provided during our last scheduled class (Nov 29).
 - This information will also be posted on Brightspace the following day (Nov 30).
- Responses are due by **4pm on December 22**. Anything received after this time will require a deferral arrangement through the Registrar's Office.
- Responses are to be submitted via the drop box available in Brightspace. Emailed submissions will **not** be accepted.

LATE PENALTIES AND REQUESTS FOR EXTENSIONS

All assignments are due by via the appropriate dropbox on Brightspace. The submission deadline (date and time) is stipulated via the dropbox and on the class schedule below. **Do not** submit your assignment via email. **Unless you have been granted an extension, one letter grade** will be deducted for each calendar day (including weekends and holidays) that your submission is late. Assignments will not be accepted any later than seven days past their due date without prior instructor approval for an official extension.

The granting of extensions is determined by the instructor who will confirm whether an extension is granted and the length of the extension. For requests for extensions lasting less than 7 days, please complete the form at the following link and submit it to the instructor prior to the assignment due date: <https://carleton.ca/registrar/wp-content/uploads/self-declaration.pdf>.

Extensions for longer than 7 days will normally not be granted. In those extraordinary cases where extensions lasting longer than 7 days are granted, the student will be required to provide additional information to justify the longer extension (up to a maximum of 14 days).

Fall 2023 Sessional Dates and University Closures	
<i>Please find a full list of important academic dates on the calendar website: https://calendar.carleton.ca/academicyear/</i>	
September 6, 2023	Fall term begins.
September 19, 2023	Last day for registration and course changes (including auditing) in fall and fall/winter courses.
September 30, 2023	Last day to withdraw from full fall and fall/winter courses with a full fee adjustment.
October 9, 2023	Statutory holiday. University closed.
October 23-27, 2023	Fall break, no classes.
November 15, 2023	Last day for academic withdrawal from full fall courses.
November 24, 2023	Last day for summative tests or examinations, or formative tests or examinations totaling more than 15% of the final grade, in fall term or fall/winter undergraduate courses, before the official December final examination period (see examination regulations in the Academic Regulations of the University section of the Undergraduate Calendar/General Regulations of the Graduate Calendar).
December 8, 2023	Fall term ends.
	Last day of fall classes.
	Classes follow a Monday schedule.
	Last day for final take-home examinations to be assigned, with the exception of those conforming to the examination regulations in the Academic Regulations of the University section of the Undergraduate Calendar/General Regulations of the Graduate Calendar.
	Last day that can be specified by an instructor as a due date for term work for full and late fall courses.
	Last day for receipt of applications for undergraduate degree program transfers for winter term.
December 10-22, 2023	Final examinations in full fall and late fall courses and mid-term examinations in fall/winter courses will be held. Examinations are normally held all seven days of the week.
December 22, 2023	All final take-home examinations are due on this day, with the exception of those conforming to the examination regulations in the Academic Regulations of the University section of the Undergraduate Calendar/General Regulations of the Graduate Calendar.

SCHEDULE**NOTE: An additional reading will be circulated weeks 5-12 by the presenting group.**

Week	Date	Material
1	Sept 6	Introduction to the Course <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review Syllabus • Brief Introduction & History
2	Sept 13	Right to a Fair Jury Trial <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Terry Skolnik, "The Jury System in Canada" <i>Sistemas Judiciales</i> 17 (2013) 16. • Regina Schuller & Neil Vidmar, "The Canadian criminal jury" (2011) 86 Chi.-Kent L. Rev. 497-524 (excerpt only). • Diane Francis, "What Juries Get Wrong and Why They'll Never Deliver True Justice" <i>Huffington Post</i> October 2013 (https://www.huffpost.com/archive/ca/entry/george-zimmerman-trial-jury-justice_b_3701305).
3	Sept 20	Pre-trial Publicity, Prejudices and Remedies (ex: change of venue, continuance, etc.) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lourdes Rodriguez et. al., "Making a Biased Jury Decision: Using the Steven Avery Murder Case to Investigate Potential Influences in Jury Decision-Making" (2019) 8 <i>Psychology of Popular Media Culture</i> 429. • Vineet R. Shahani, "Change the motion, not the venue: A critical look at the change of venue motion" (2005) 42 <i>Am. Crim. L. Rev.</i> 93.
4	Sept 27	In-Court Jury Selection Processes Jury Decision Review Due at 6pm <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • V. Gordon Rose & James R. P. Ogloff, "Challenge for cause in Canadian criminal jury trials: Legal and psychological perspectives" (2002) 46 <i>Crim. LQ</i> 210-221 + 229-234 (excerpts only). • Alafair S. Burke, "Prosecutors and Peremptories" (2012) 97 <i>Iowa Law Review</i> 1467. • Julia Schabas, "The Abolition of Peremptory Challenges" <online: http://www.thecourt.ca/the-abolition-of-peremptory-challenges-in-r-v-chouhan-a-license-for-discrimination-or-safeguard-for-representative-juries/>
5	Oct 4	Role and Expectations of the Expert Witness Limits on the Expert Witness, Problems with Expert Witnesses Student Presentations Begin <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brad Booth et. al., "Lessons from Canadian Courts for all Expert Witnesses" (2019) 47 <i>The Journal of the American Academy of Psychiatry and the Law</i> 1. • Real Life Wrongs Podcast Episode 10 (available on YouTube and Spotify)
6	Oct 11	Influencing the Jury (ex: Race, Graphic Evidence, Sensational Cases, Mr. Big, Eyewitness Testimony) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Laura McManus, Evelyn Maeder & Susan Yamamoto, "The Role of Defendant Race and Racially Charged Media in Canadian Mock Juror Decision Making" <i>Canadian Journal of Criminology and Criminal Justice</i> 60 (2018) 266. • K. D. Ford, I. S. Penton-Voak & N. Pound, "Justice is (not so) blind: Effects of facial masculinity and agreeableness on perceptions of criminal guilt" (2022) 16:1 <i>Evolutionary Behavioral Sciences</i> 67.

7	Oct 18	Judge's Charge to the Jury Addresses, Deliberations and Verdicts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • J. Alexander Tanford, "The Law and Psychology of Jury Instructions" (1990) 69 Nebraska L. Rev. 71-101 (excerpt only). • Mark A. Oakes et. al., "Judge, jurors, and gendered instructions to disregard evidence: stereotype-congruent judicial instructions increase compliance" (2021) 27 Psychology, Crime & Law 933.
	Oct 25	FALL BREAK – NO CLASS
8	Nov 1	Jury Decision Making & Jury Nullification <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brian R. Hedden, "Should juries deliberate?" (2017) 31 Social Epistemology 368. • Robin MacKay, "Jury Nullification: The Quality of Mercy Is Not Strain'd" (2016) 63 Criminal Law Quarterly 80.
9	Nov 8	When the Jury Gets it Wrong – Wrongful Conviction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lauren Chancellor, "Public Contempt and Compassion: Media Biases and Their Effect on Juror Impartiality and Wrongful Convictions" (2019) Man. L.J. 427. • Real Life Wrongs Podcast Episode 2 (available on YouTube and Spotify)
10	Nov 15	When the Jury Gets it Wrong – Wrongful Convictions (con't) & Forensic Science (CSI Effect) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kimberlianne Podlas, "The CSI effect and other forensic fictions" (2006) 27 Loy. LA Ent. L. Rev. 87-106 (excerpt only). • Real Life Wrongs Podcast Episode 9 (available on YouTube and Spotify)
11	Nov 22	Representation of Jury Trials in Film/Media <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nerit Grossman, "Just Looking: Justice as Seen in Hollywood Courtroom Films" (2019) 15 Law, Culture and the Humanities 62. • Nicole Rafter, "American criminal trial films: An overview of their development, 1930–2000" (2001) 28 Journal of Law and Society 9.
12	Nov 29	<i>Take Home Exam Assigned</i> Influence of Social Media on the Jury <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amy J. St. Eve & Michael A Zuckerman, "Ensuring an Impartial Jury in the Age of Social Media" (2012) 11 Duke Law and Technology Review 2. • Kristin R. Brown, "Somebody Poisoned the Jury Pool: Social Media's Effect on Jury Impartiality" (2013) 19 Tex. Wesleyan L. Rev. 809.
13	Dec 6	This class will be held if required to catch up on outstanding course work or presentations.
	Dec 22	TAKE HOME EXAM DUE BY <u>4PM</u> TO BRIGHTSPACE DROPBOX

University and Departmental Policies

DEPARTMENT POLICIES AND REGULATIONS

Please review the following webpage to ensure that your practices meet our Department's expectations, particularly regarding standard departmental protocols and academic integrity requirements: <https://carleton.ca/law/student-experience-resources>.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is presenting, whether intentional or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one's own. Plagiarism includes 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. Examples of sources from which the ideas, expressions of ideas or works of others may be drawn from include but are not limited to: books, articles, papers, literary compositions and phrases, performance compositions, chemical compounds, art works, laboratory reports, research results, calculations and the results of calculations, diagrams, constructions, computer reports, computer code/software, and material on the Internet. Plagiarism is a serious offence. More information on the University's Academic Integrity Policy can be found at: <https://carleton.ca/registrar/academic-integrity>.

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS

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 accommodation regarding a formally-scheduled final exam, you must complete the Pregnancy Accommodation Form that can be found at: <https://carleton.ca/equity/contact/form-pregnancy-accommodation>.

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, please go to: <https://carleton.ca/equity/focus/discrimination-harassment/religious-spiritual-observances>.

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. You can find the Paul Menton Centre online at: <https://carleton.ca/pmc>.

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. Please contact your instructor 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. Read more here: <https://carleton.ca/senate/wp-content/uploads/Accommodation-for-Student-Activities-1.pdf>.

For more information on academic accommodation, please visit: <https://students.carleton.ca/services/accommodation>.