John Jay College of Criminal Justice
The City University of New York
524 West 59th Street
New York, NY 10019

Course: Forensic, Social and Experimental Psychology
Sections: PSYC 421 99 [34808]
Semester: 2024 Fall
Instructor: Thomas Coghlan, PsyD
Email: tcoghlan@jjay.cuny.edu
Class Time: Online Learning Environment / Asynchronous
Office Hours: available via virtual appointment

Course Description:
Capstone requirement. 3 hours, 3 credits. This course critically examines selected areas in social and experimental forensic psychology. Students will gain an in-depth knowledge of topics focusing on individual behavior and perceptions (such as eyewitness, child witness, or expert witness testimony) and topics focusing on group behavior (such as jury selection and decision making.) Students will read original research articles and will explore current debates in the field relating to research questions, research methods and ethical issues in research.
Prerequisites: ENG 201, PSY 221, PSY 311 and PSY/LAW 370

Students will be expected to read the assigned readings closely, and come to class prepared to participate in a critical analysis of the research. We will evaluate the research from both a basic (e.g., What contributions has the research made to relevant theory in psychology, and what are the implications for future research?) and an applied (What contributions has the research made to our understanding of a psychological problem in a legal context, and what are the implications for social policy?) perspective.

Learning Objectives:

Knowledge Base of Psychology: Students will develop the ability to identify the foundational topics in psychology and the law and a general knowledge of the major theories and research findings in psychology as they relate to legal processes.

Application of Psychology: Students will develop an understanding of the major research methods in psychology and law, the ability to read, and critically analyze the published research on the topic of psychology and the law, propose research questions and hypotheses that to add to the existing knowledge about the interface of psychology and the law, and the ability to propose research designs that test relevant hypotheses.

Required Text: There is no required textbook for this course. Readings, assignments, videos, etc. will be posted to the course Blackboard page and / or distributed via email.

Course Evaluation:
Discussion Boards: 35%
Assignments: 35%
Final Writing Assignment: 20%
Attendance: 10%

Class Format:
This is a fully online, asynchronous course, meaning that students complete all course work on their own time through Brightspace, (https://bbhosted.cuny.edu/) a web-based course management system that creates a password-protected site for the course. The instructor will use it to distribute course materials, communicate and collaborate online, disseminate assignment instructions, and post grades. Please make sure to check Brightspace regularly for class work and announcements. Note that the course is organized by weeks. The weekly folders contain all assignment details, including deadlines and additional resources (if applicable). Although there will be no regularly scheduled class meetings, students are invited to schedule a virtual meeting.
The instructor recognizes that students have busy lives. Students should plan work for this course, bearing in mind other classes, work schedule and other personal commitments. Please do your best to keep with all assignments and due dates. If you fall behind, please contact me *as soon as possible*. I am here to help, and we can discuss strategies to help you succeed in this course. Please note that all times and deadlines listed in this course are Eastern Standard Time (EST).

Course Requirements:
Attendance: Attendance will be taken based on the student submitting weekly assignments or contributions to discussion boards. A student will be considered as having attended electronically if the student has submitted a response to the assignment or discussion board for that week. Attendance will be worth 10% of the final grade.

Discussion Boards (35%): Discussion Boards will be posted to the course page. For every Discussion Board, students are expected to post a minimum of three times; one initial contribution as a response to the Discussion Board (worth a potential 70 / 100 points), and two replies to classmates' contributions (worth a potential 15 / 100 points each). If a student fails to post contributions or replies, they will receive a zero for that portion of their expected discussion board contribution. Discussion Boards will constitute 35% of the final grade.

The online week will begin on Sundays. All initial contributions are due by end of day on the Thursday of the assigned week, and both replies are due by end of the day Saturday. For example, a hypothetical initial responsive contribution for a discussion posted on Sunday January 1 would be due by the end of day on Thursday January 5 (for a potential 70 / 100 points), and both replies to classmates are due by end of day on Saturday January 7 (for a potential 15 / 100 points x 2). Discussion Board responses (both initial contributions and replies to classmates) must be substantive and must reflect familiarity with, and mastery of the assigned reading material. Posts which fail to demonstrate mastery of the assigned material, or familiarity with the assigned material, will receive low grades. Students MUST use in-text citations in both the initial contribution and in their replies to classmates as a way to demonstrate their mastery of, and familiarity with the assigned material for the week.

Replies to classmates which simply state non-substantive things which do not continue to contribute to the learning experience such as "I agree with you", "Great post!", "Good point!", will receive low grades, if any grade at all. Required word length will vary, and will be indicated in the Discussion Board assignment.

Assignments (35%): Weekly assignments will be posted to the course Blackboard page on Sunday. Each assignment will be worth 100 points. Assignments will constitute 35% of the final grade. Each assignment is due by the end of day on the following Saturday (i.e., a hypothetical assignment posted on Sunday January 1 would be due by end of day on Saturday January 7).

Final Writing Assignment: A final writing assignment will be posted on December 8, 2024. It will be due by end of day on May 24, 2021. It will be worth 20% of the final grade.

Letter Grade	Value	%	Explanation
A	4.0	93.0 - 100	Excellent
A-	3.7	90.0 - 92.9	Excellent
B+	3.3	87.1 - 89.9	Very Good
B	3.0	83.0 - 87.0	Very Good
B-	2.7	80.0 - 82.9	Very Good
C+	2.3	77.1 - 79.9	Satisfactory
C	2.0	73.0 - 77.0	Satisfactory
C-	1.7	70.0 - 72.9	Poor
D+	1.3	67.1 - 69.9	Poor
D	1.0	63.0 - 67.0	Very Poor
D-	0.7	60.0 - 62.9	Very Poor
F	0.0	00.0 - 59.9	Failure

Writing Center (01.68 New Building)
The Writing Center is a service that provides free tutoring to students of John Jay. The Center has a staff of trained tutors who work with students to help them become more effective writers, from planning and organizing a paper, to writing and then proofreading it. The Writing Center is a valuable resource for any student and I encourage you to use it. If I give you a Referral form to the Writing Center, you must attend to get further instruction on the specific items addressed on the form. This is not optional.

Disability Accommodations
Students who believe that they may need an accommodation due to a disability are encouraged to immediately contact the Office of Accessibility Services (OAS) in room L.66 NB (212-237-8031 or accessibilityservices@jjay.cuny.edu). Students are welcome but not required to speak with the instructor privately to discuss specific needs for the class. Students with disabilities are entitled to confidentiality over disability-related status or details. Students are not required to disclose their specific disability to their instructors or anyone else.
(http://www.jjay.cuny.edu/studentlife/Reasonable_Accommodations.pdf)

Student Wellness:
Students experiencing any personal, medical, financial or familial distress, which may impede their ability to fulfill the requirements of this course, are encouraged to visit the Wellness Center (L.65 NB). Available resources include Counseling Services, Health Services, Food Bank, and emergency funding support. See http://www.jjay.cuny.edu/wellness-resources

Academic Integrity
The instructor has a zero tolerance policy in regard to breaches of academic integrity.
The instructor will remain vigilant regarding academic integrity.
The instructor will report all concerns regarding academic integrity to the college's Academic Integrity Unit in the Office of Academic Affairs.

Statement of the College Policy on Plagiarism
Plagiarism is the act of presenting someone else's ideas, words, research, or work as one's own creation. Using the ideas or work of another is permissible only when the original author is identified and acknowledged. Plagiarism may be intentional or unintentional. Lack of dishonest intent does not necessarily absolve a student of responsibility for plagiarism – it is the student's responsibility to recognize the difference between stating common knowledge (those that do not require documentation) and restating others' ideas. Paraphrase, summary, and direct quotation are acceptable forms of restatement, as long as the source is cited. Students who are unsure how and when to provide documentation are advised to consult with their instructors. The Library

has free guides designed to help students with problems of documentation. (See John Jay College of Criminal Justice Undergraduate Bulletin, http://www.jjay.cuny.edu/academics/654.php, Chapter IV Academic Standards)

Department of Counseling (L68.02 New Building) The Department of Counseling offers a variety of services for John Jay students. Its mission is to support the college community and it offers individual and group counseling, psychological services, crisis intervention, outreach, and consultation. It provides specialized services to support students with their adjustment to college life, choice of majors, and exploring the special programs offered through the college. There are also Peer Counseling services, which provide information to students about test anxiety, time management, and how to make the most at John Jay. I encourage anyone who is interested in these services to seek them out.

Resources for Reporting Sexual Harassment, Sexual Assault, Stalking, or Domestic and Dating/Intimate Partner Violence

The individuals below are available to discuss your rights and the resources available to you as well as help you explore your options for reporting sexual misconduct, harassment or discrimination of any kind:

1. Gabriela Leal, Title IX Coordinator, 646-557-4674, gleal@jjay.cuny.edu
2. Diego Redondo, Director of Public Safety & Risk Management, 212-237-8524, dredondo@jjay.cuny.edu
3. Michael Martinez-Sachs, Dean of Students, 212-237-8211, msachs@jjay.cuny.edu

To speak confidentially, you may contact Women's Center Counselor and Gender-Based Violence Prevention and Response Advocate, Jessica Greenfield, jgreenfield@jjay.cuny.edu. For more information, please see CUNY's Policy on Sexual Misconduct (PSM), or refer to this Q &A document.

Use of AI:

Since writing, analytical, and critical thinking skills are part of the learning outcomes of this course, we expect that all work students submit for this course will be their own. Additionally, students are not allowed to use any generative artificial intelligence tools (e.g. ChatGPT or Dall-E 2) at any stages of the work process, including preliminary ones. AI-generated submissions are not permitted and will be considered as plagiarism.

Course Schedule:

Some information for the course schedule was obtained from the college's academic calendar which can be found at the following URL:
Fall 2024 Academic Calendar:
https://www.jjay.cuny.edu/sites/default/files/2024-07/Fall-2024-Academic-Calendar-updated-7-5-24.pdf

Week of	Topic	Reading
8/28	Introduction	Syllabus
9/1	Research Methods	Assigned Reading
9/8	Psychopathology: Mental Defect	Assigned Reading
9/15	Psychopathology: Mood	Assigned Reading
9/22	Psychopathology: Trauma	Assigned Reading
9/29	Psychopathology: Psychosis	Assigned Reading
10/6	Risk, Threat and Threat Assessment	Assigned Reading
10/13	Competency	Assigned Reading
10/20	Civil Issue: Capacity	Assigned Reading
10/27	Sanity	Assigned Reading
11/3	Sex Offense Management	Assigned Reading

11/10	Legal Psychology: Voir Dire	Assigned Reading
11/17	Memory and Witness Testimony	Assigned Reading
11/24	Case Study	Assigned Reading
11/28-30	Thanksgiving Break. Happy Thanksgiving!	
12/1	Synthesis.	Assigned Reading
12/8	Final Writing Assignment Posted.	
12/14	Last Day of Classes.	
12/21	Final Writing Assignment Due.	End of Course.
12/27	Final Grades Submitted.	

Any and all information presented in this syllabus is subject to change at instructor's discretion. Immediate notification will be provided to students should this occur.