

PSY 4930: Legal Psychology – UF Flexible Learning

3 credits

"The struggle for justice doesn't end with me. This struggle is for all the Troy Davis's who came before me and all the ones who will come after me. I'm in good spirits and I'm prayerful and at peace." Troy Davis most likely an innocent man who was executed by the State of Georgia on Sept 21, 2011 at 11:00 PM.

This course expires 16 weeks after the date of your enrollment.

About the Course

Instructor

- Dr. Brian Cahill
- Psy 359
- brian.cahill@ufl.edu
- 352-273-2175
- Virtual office hours by appointment only. I love my students so I will make myself available to you whenever you need me.

Course Website

elearning.ufl.edu

Course Communications

The first place you should look for questions is in the syllabus but if you cannot find an answer to your question there I have created a discussion post forum where you can ask me and your classmates' general course questions. If you have a question about your grade or some other kind of personal matter please email me your question.

Instructor will respond to students' inquiries within 24 hours on work days and within 48 hours on weekends.

Recommended Text

Text: Castanzo & Krauss (2015). Forensic and Legal Psychology (2nd ed.). Worth Publishers, NY, NY.

Additional Resources

- [The Innocent Man: Murder and Injustice in a Small Town](#) by John Grisham
- [The Wrong Guys: Murder, False Confessions, and the Norfolk Four](#) by Tom Wells and Richard Leo

- [Witness for the Defense: The Accused, the Eyewitness and the Expert Who Puts Memory on Trial](#) by Elizabeth Loftus and Katherine Ketcham
- [Serial Podcast, Season 1](#): This podcast series investigated the 1999 murder of Hae Min Lee and is wickedly addicting!
- [Murder on a Sunday Morning](#): Is an Oscar winning documentary that covers the murder trial of a young black man in Florida. If you love this class you will love this movie!

I have so many more recommendations so if you get through all of these and want more just let me know!

Course Description

Legal Psychology is the study of the interaction between the individual and the legal system. This course will cover the major topics in the field, including eyewitness identification, investigative interviewing, interrogations, jury selection, the insanity defense, and punishment. Throughout the course, we will examine psychological research that investigates issues related to law and the legal process. At the end of the course, you will have a better understanding of how the legal system can be informed by psychological research, and how psychological research can be reactive to legal issues. Students should be prepared to think critically about each topic and to actively participate in class discussions; I enjoy discussions, so expect them in most of the modules! Successful completion of this course requires participation in class activities, completion of all assignments, and timely reading of assigned materials.

Course Goals and/or Objectives

Upon completion of this course, students will:

1. Have a better understanding of a variety of contemporary issues in the legal system.
2. Have a basic understanding of research methods in the study of psychology and law.
3. Understand how psychological research can inform legal policies and procedures.

Course Policies

Performance Policy

This Flexible Learning course has been developed with the same rigorous standards of content as a campus course. Expectations for your performance as a Flexible Learning student are as high as they would be if you were taking this course in a classroom.

Participation Policy

Students are required to participate in all course activities and submit all assignments posted on the website.

Quiz/Exam Policy

At the start of class you will have access to all of the quizzes and exams will be open for you to take. They'll be timed, such that you won't be able to look up answers quickly enough without knowing exactly where to look, so preparation's important. These quizzes and exams are non-cumulative, thus they will focus on the current material being covered that week/module. Also, the questions will be randomly selected from a large question pool so each person's quiz will differ.

ProctorU

The Exams, not the quizzes, in this course will be proctored using ProctorU. A computer with a webcam and built in microphone is required for the exams and a hard-wired, high speed Internet connection is recommended. During Exams you will not be allowed to use your book or any other kinds of notes.

For more information about ProctorU, refer to the [ProctorU website](#). Any questions or issues concerning online proctoring should be directed to Proctor U and not to the instructor. You must complete proctored assignments within the allotted time. You must call ProctorU (855-772-8678) at least 72 hours in advance to make a reservation for each of your exam. The fee is covered by your tuition. However, if you sign up less than 72 hours before the test, ProctorU may assess you a late fee.

Make-up Policy

As there are no due dates, other than the end of the class, in this course you will not be allowed to make up any assignment unless you experience a technical difficulty that is the result of an issue on Canvas (i.e., if your internet connection is lost that is not a legitimate reason for making up an assignment). Please see below for how to report technical difficulties and how to ask to make-up an assignment.

Course Technology

Students must use their Gatorlink email account for this course. Students are recommended to check their email account DAILY for the duration of the course. Access to and on-going use of a computer with Internet access is required for all students. Competency in the basic use of a computer is required. At times, computers crash and Internet connections fail. It is in your best interest NOT to wait until the last minute to complete assignments. The only other technology you will need reliable access to Netflix so you can watch the series titled 'Making a Murderer'.

For help with e-Learning, contact the Help Desk at <http://helpdesk.ufl.edu> or (352) 392-HELP - select option 2.

Online Course Evaluation

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations provided in the course modules (med-term and end-of-term evaluations).

Course Deadline and Extension Policy

Students are allowed **16 weeks from their date of enrollment** to complete and submit their coursework. If the student has not submitted at least 50% of their coursework and have an extenuating circumstance preventing them from submitting the coursework, a failing grade of “E”, “E0” or “E1” will be issued and recorded to the UF Registrar.

If the student has made sufficient academic progress, which is defined as completing and submitting at least 50% of the coursework and have an extenuating circumstance, the student may petition the instructor for a course extension before the course expires. Each course extension request will be administratively evaluated. Instructors are not required to allow extensions. If a student does receive an extension, an incomplete grade of an “I” will be assigned as an interim grade. When the course is completed, the instructor will initiate the change of grade. After that, the “I” grade will be changed to the student’s final course grade on their transcript.

Tuition Refund Policy

A tuition refund will be granted after a Flexible Learning student submits a written request to cancel their course within 30 days of enrollment. Refund requests may be made by fax, e-mail, or U.S. mail. All requests will receive a written response in the form of a detailed receipt. A refund is issued on course materials at the time of cancellation if they are returned within 30 days of sale and are in their original condition. No refunds are granted after 30 days. If a credit card was used to pay for tuition, the refund will be in the form of credit to that card.

A Course Cancel

A tuition refund may be granted after a student submits a written request within 30 days of enrollment to the Flexible Learning Office. This request must be emailed to learn@dce.ufl.edu or sent by fax (352-392-6950). Refunds will be the amount of tuition, less \$25.00 per course. If a credit card was used, the refund will be credited a back to the card. At the time of cancel, a refund can be issued for course materials. Course Materials need to be returned within 30 days of sale and in their original condition. No refunds are granted after 30 days.

Dropping a Course

To drop a course, you need to email the Flexible Learning office at learn@dce.ufl.edu with a request to drop within 14 weeks of the date of enrollment. In addition to their own request by email, UF students must have advisor approval to drop a flexible learning course. An advisor can email learn@dce.ufl.edu with the student’s name, the course that they want to drop, and

confirmation of permission to do so. It is the student's responsibility to verify that all drop requests have been received by the Flexible Learning office within the allotted time. The course grade will appear as "W" on a UF transcript.”

Students with disabilities who need to drop a course due to disability-related reasons are permitted to petition for additional drops. Find more information by contacting the Disability Resource Center.

Withdrawals

Full-Term Withdrawals

All full-term withdrawals must follow University of Florida policies/ procedures. An approved withdrawal form must be submitted to the [Dean of Students' Office](#) for review and final approval. Students must also notify the Flexible Learning of this request (learn@dce.ufl.edu).

Medical and Retroactive Withdrawals

It is the responsibility of the student to notify Flexible Learning of their approved medical or retroactive withdrawal so the students' record is updated. Email to our office a copy of the approval.

Medical Withdrawals:

[Information about the medical withdrawal process.](#)

Retroactive Withdrawals

[Information about the retroactive withdrawal process.](#)

How to Request a UF Transcript

The student can view their grades by logging into [MyUFL](#) with their Gatorlink login and by selecting Student Admin. To receive an official transcript, the student must complete [a transcript request form through the Registrar](#). The University of Florida assures the confidentiality of all your educational records in accordance with State University System Rules, State Statutes, and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act. Grades are not given over the phone. The Registrar's Office hours are Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and their phone number is 352-392-1374. Persons with hearing impairments can call FRS # 1-800-955-8771 (TDD).

Grading Policies

Assignments and Grading

Exams: At the beginning of the class you will have access to your exams. Each exam will consist of 45 multiple-choice questions and 1 open ended question. Each multiple-choice will be worth 2 points and the open ended question will be worth 10 points for a total of 100 points for each exam. There will be 4 exams in all and each exam will be non-cumulative. Exam 1 will cover chapters 1,2, and 3; Exam 2 will cover chapters 4, 5, and 6; Exam 3 will cover chapters 7, 9, and 11; and Exam 4 will cover chapters 13, 14, and 17. Each exam will be taken using ProctorU and remember you will NOT be allowed to use your book or notes. You will be given one hour and 15 minutes to complete the exam. Your lowest exam score will be dropped, so 3

exams x 100 = 300 points total.

Quizzes: At the beginning of the class you will have access to your quizzes. Each quiz will consist of 10 **multiple-choice questions**. They'll be timed, such that you won't be able to look up answers quickly enough without knowing exactly where to look, so preparation's important. These quizzes are non-cumulative, thus they will focus on the current material being covered that week/module. Also, the questions will be randomly selected from a large question pool so each person's quiz will differ. There will be 12 quizzes in total, one for each of the modules 2 -13, each worth 10 points (1 point per question). Your lowest quiz score will be dropped, so 11 quizzes x (10 questions x 1 points each) = 110 points total.

Discussion Posts: Starting with module 1 we will have a discussion post about every other module with the total number of posts being 6. The purpose of these posts is for you to think critically about a topic we have covered in class. The posts will likely change format from one to the next, but I will provide you with a detailed rubric for each post so you will have a clear understanding of what I am looking for in that particular post. To earn your full points, make sure you fully answer/address each component in the post. As for length your post should be no less than 200 and no more than 500 words. Your lowest discussion grade will be dropped, so with each post worth a maximum of 10 points, 5 posts x 10 points = 50 points total.

Activities: The last part of your grade is comprised of completing 3 activities. These activities are designed to be fun, interactive, and will help reinforce material we cover in that particular module. The first activity will be in Module 1 and will be a True/False quiz that will assess your knowledge of current legal issues. After you take the Legal Knowledge quiz you will discuss your reaction to your performance in a discussion post. The second activity will be in Module 6 and will consist of you categorizing killers into the different types based on their criminal acts

and motivations. The third activity will be in Module 12 and will consist of finding the correct words to fill in the blanks within a paragraph of text. More details about each of these will be provided at the beginning of their respective modules. Each activity will be worth 16 points for a total of 48 points.

| Assignment | Total Points | Percent of Grade |
|--------------------|--------------|------------------|
| Exams | 300 | 59% |
| Quizzes | 110 | 22% |
| Discussions | 50 | 10% |
| Activities | 48 | 9% |
| TOTAL | 508 | 100% |

For more information about the current UF grading policies for assignments and grade points go to the [UF Grades and Grading Policies web page](#).

You will receive grades for all assignments within 1 week of being submitted.

Grading Scale

| Percent | Grade | Grade Points |
|--------------------|-------|--------------|
| 93 or above | A | 4.00 |
| 90 – 92 | A- | 3.67 |
| 87 – 89 | B+ | 3.33 |
| 83 – 86 | B | 3.00 |
| 80 – 82 | B- | 2.67 |
| 77 – 79 | C+ | 2.33 |
| 73 – 76 | C | 2.00 |
| 70 – 72 | C- | 1.67 |
| 67 – 69 | D+ | 1.33 |
| 63 – 66 | D | 1.00 |
| 60 – 62 | D- | 0.67 |
| 59 or below | E | 0.00 |

Course Schedule

Weekly Schedule of Topics and Assignments

| Week | Topic | Readings/Lectures | Assignments |
|------|---|-------------------|--|
| 1 | Course Introduction | Making a Murderer | Syllabus Quiz Legal Knowledge Activity and Post |
| 2 | Course Introduction | Making a Murderer | Module 1 Discussion |
| 3 | Psychology and Law: A Cautious Alliance | Chapter 1 | Module 2 Quiz |
| 4 | Interrogations and Confessions | Chapter 2 | Module 3 Discussion Post Module 3 Quiz |
| 5 | Lie Detection | Chapter 3 | Module 4 Quiz |

| Week | Topic | Readings/Lectures | Assignments |
|------|--|-------------------|--|
| 6 | The Psychology of Forensic Identification | Chapter 4 | Exam 1: Ch. 1, 2, and 3 Module 5 Quiz |
| 7 | Criminal Profiling and Psychological Autopsies | Chapter 5 | Serial Killer Activity Module 6 Quiz |
| 8 | Jury Selection | Chapter 6 | Module 7 Discussion Post Module 7 Quiz |
| 9 | Eyewitness Identification and Testimony | Chapter 7 | Exam 2: Ch. 4, 5, and 6 |
| 10 | Eyewitness Identification and Testimony | Chapter 7 | Module 8 Discussion Post Module 8 Quiz |
| 11 | The Insanity Defense | Chapter 9 | Module 9 Quiz |
| 12 | Interviewing Children and Memories of Sexual Abuse | Chapter 11 | Module 10 Discussion Post Module 10 Quiz |
| 13 | Juries and Judges as Decision Makers | Chapter 13 | Exam 3: Ch. 7, 9, and 11 Module 11 Quiz |
| 14 | Predicting Violent Behavior | Chapter 14 | Module 12 Discussion Post Risk Assessments Concept Activity Module 12 Quiz |
| 15 | The Death Penalty | Chapter 17 | Module 13 Quiz |
| 16 | The Death Penalty | Chapter 17 | Exam 4: Ch. 13, 14, and 17 |

UF Policies

University Policy on Accommodating Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, www.dso.ufl.edu/drc) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

The Flexible Learning office should be notified of any special accommodations required by the student when they begin their course.

University Policy on Academic Misconduct

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 honesty 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. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to

appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class.

Plagiarism

“A student shall not represent as the student’s own work all or any portion of the work of another. Plagiarism includes but is not limited to:

1. Quoting oral or written materials including but not limited to those found on the internet, whether published or unpublished, without proper attribution.
2. Submitting a document or assignment which in whole or in part is identical or substantially identical to a document or assignment not authored by the student.”

Source: [Regulations of the University of Florida, UF-4.041](#).

“For a violation or violations of the Honor Code, a student may receive any of the sanctions that can be imposed for Student Conduct Code violations, including but not limited to conduct probation, suspension and expulsion as well as any educational sanctions. In addition, students may receive the following:

1. Assignment grade penalty. The student is assigned a grade penalty on an assignment including but not limited to a zero.
2. Course grade penalty. The student is assigned a grade penalty in the entire course including but not limited to an ‘E’.”

Source: [Regulations of the University of Florida, 4.047](#)

Netiquette

All members of the class are expected to follow rules of common courtesy in all email messages, threaded discussions and chats. Please read [the Netiquette Guide for Online Courses](#).

Security

Remember that your password is the only thing protecting you from pranks or more serious harm.

- Don't share your password with anyone
- Change your password if you think someone else might know it
- Always logout when you are finished using the system

Getting Help

Technical Help

If you have issues with **videos**, go to the [Mediasite Helpdesk](#).

For **other technical difficulties**, please contact the UF Computing Help Desk:

- Location: HUB 132
- Email: helpdesk@ufl.edu
- Phone: (352) 392-HELP - select option 2
- Website: <https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help.shtml>

Any requests for make-ups due to technical issues **MUST** be accompanied by the ticket number received from LSS 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.

Questions about Flexible Learning

If you have any questions about the course, please contact the instructor. If you have administrative concerns (e.g., paying for the course, receiving the textbook, etc.), please contact the Flexible Learning Office.

UF Flex Learning Office Contact Information

- Email: learn@dce.ufl.edu
- Phone: (352) 294-3896
- Fax: (352) 392-6950
- Website: <http://flexible.dce.ufl.edu/>

Other Resources

Other resources are available at the [UF Distance Learning website](#) for:

- Counseling and Wellness resources
- Disability resources
- Resources for handling student concerns and complaints
- Library Help Desk support

Should you have any complaints with your experience in this course please [email the Distance Learning office](#) or visit the [UF Distance Learning website](#) to submit a complaint.

Disclaimer

This syllabus represents my current plans and objectives. As we go through the semester, those plans may need to change to enhance the class learning opportunity. Such changes, communicated clearly, are not unusual and should be expected.