PSY 4938: Pro Seminar: Applying Psychology to the Legal System

Meeting Time & Place: Wednesdays 6:00 pm to 8:50 pm Room A214

Prerequisites: Psychology Senior or CI

Instructor: Christine Ruva, Ph.D.
Office: C249 Phone: 359-4629
Mailbox: SMC Room C 263 e-mail: ruva@usf.edu
Web Site: http://luna.cas.usf.edu/~ruva/index.htm

Office Hours: Wednesdays – 5:00 pm to 5:50 pm or by appointment.


Required Readings In Canvas you will find links to assigned readings.

Course Website The syllabus, assignments, readings, grades, and other course-related materials, will be posted on Canvas which can be accessed via https://my.usf.edu. It is expected that all students will have access to this site, and therefore will be responsible for assignments/materials. Please check the site frequently!

Course Introduction. This course was designed to survey how major areas of psychology (i.e., Physiological, Cognitive, Social, Developmental, Clinical, and Affective/Motivation) have been applied to the study of the legal system and the problems it faces. This course was also designed to be the culmination of your undergraduate studies in which you demonstrate the psychological knowledge you have accumulated. You will do this by presenting research articles to the class, participating in class discussions, participating in the peer review process, and writing essays that demonstrates this accumulation of knowledge for multiple psychological areas, methodology, and statistics.

Course Goals and Objectives. One of the main goals of this course is to demonstrate that all areas of psychology have something significant to contribute to the legal system and that many problems or issues can benefit from research in multiple areas. A second goal is to show students that there is more than one way to go about exploring a question or a problem and that a study’s methods should be driven by the study’s question. Students upon completion of this course should demonstrate:
1. knowledge and integration of the major theoretical approaches used in psychology
2. the research skills necessary address a question, and design a study/experiment accordingly
3. knowledge of ethics in conducting research and the ability to apply them appropriately
4. proficiency with APA writing standards (beyond just formatting)
5. recognition of the impact of human diversity (gender, race, ethnicity, socio-economic status, sexual orientation, culture, age, religion, handicaps, disabilities) on behavior and mental processes

Readings and Lectures. The tentative schedule lists the articles you are assigned to read and when to read them. Each week two students will be assigned to present the assigned research articles for that week; with each student presenting three articles over the semester. All students will be required to read all of the assigned research articles and come to each class meeting prepared to discuss these articles. Therefore, while class attendance is not mandatory, missing class will reduce our participation score/points. More information on article presentations appears below.
**Article Presentations.** Students will read, evaluate, discuss, and present research in each of the major areas of psychology that focuses on application of psychological theory or research to the legal system. Each student will be assigned **TWO** articles to present to the class each worth **35 points.** Presentations are to include a typed **1- to 2-page hand-out** summarizing the area/s of psychology used to explore the research question, theory that drove the research, methods and procedures used in the study, limitations of the study (discussed and not discussed in the article), future directions, and how the article is relevant to other topics discussed in class. There will be **NO MAKE-UP** article presentations. Therefore, be sure to be in class on the day you are assigned to present.

**Participation/Discussion & Human Subject Training.** All students will be required to read all of the assigned research articles and come to each class meeting **prepared to discuss these articles.** Part of your grade is also dependent on your contribution to the class discussion on days you do not present. Therefore, while class attendance is not mandatory, missing class will reduce your participation score. In addition, all students are required to complete a **Human Subjects Training Course (Foundation Course)** by 1-14-15 at **6 pm.** You will provide Dr. Ruva with an **electronic copy via Canvas** and a **Hard Copy** by the beginning of class on 1-14-15. Online Course: [http://www.citiprogram.org](http://www.citiprogram.org); additional readings and information about this educational requirement can be found at [http://www.research.usf.edu/dric/hrpp/education.asp](http://www.research.usf.edu/dric/hrpp/education.asp)

**Essays: First Drafts.** There will be a total of **FOUR** essays each worth **50 points.** Detailed instructions for each essay will be given the week before the essay is due (or earlier). I will go over these instructions in class as well as information needed to complete these essays. By **6:00 pm** on the date each Essay is due, you will submit an electronic version of the essay to **CANVAS** and provide Dr. Ruva with a **HARD COPY** of the essay. You will receive a **20% reduction in points** for each day these assignments are late. Therefore, the maximum points you can receive on an essay that is 1-day late is 40 points.

**Essays: Peer Review of Revised Essays.** Approximately one week prior to the date that your Revised Essays are due you will be handing in all four of them to Dr. Ruva (see Tentative Course Schedule below). You will also be providing **TWO additional sets of your FOUR REVISED ESSAYS** to your peers for review. That is, you are to bring **THREE sets** of the four revised essays. Each student will be responsible for reviewing two other students’ essay using the grading criteria provided by Dr. Ruva. You will be required to provide detailed comments both on the grading criteria sheet and on the actual paper. This will be done in class and you will discuss your review with the student whose essays you reviewed. You will then give this student your reviews so that he/she can edit his/her final essays. The students whose essays you review will hand in your reviews (both the grading criteria sheets and the essays) with their final revised essays. Note, in order to receive any points for these tasks you must bring in revised essays on the date specified on the Tentative Schedule below. Dr. Ruva alone will determine whether your essays have been sufficiently revised from your first drafts that she graded. These tasks are worth a total of **40 points:** 10 points for the four revised essays and 15 points for each set of four essays you review (max of 2 sets). Must submit via **TURNITIN** in order to receive any credit. Pay special attention to both you plagiarism % and the qualitative nature of your overlap.

**Revised Essays Final Drafts.** You will rewrite your four essays based on Dr. Ruva’s feedback and that of your peers. You will be handing in the **original copies** Dr. Ruva graded along with the revised copies and a **cover letter** outlining all of the changes you made to each essay. This cover letter will be **organized** by essay (Essay 1, Essay 2, Essay 3, and Essay 4), contain **appropriate headings,** and state the **page number** and **paragraph** for each change. If you do NOT make substantial changes to your essay based on Dr. Ruva’s feedback and that of your peers your grade will reflect this. That is, do not hand in an essay that is very similar to your first draft and expect to do well on this assignment. Essays will be considered late until all of the items listed below are turned in. Late essays will receive a 20% per day reduction in points. You will need to provide me with **TWO HARD COPIES** of your four revised essays and submit these essays to **TURNITIN THROUGH CANVAS.** This assignment is worth a maximum of **140 points (35 pts each).**
Essays (Continued)

**Academic Honesty.** Academic honesty is an essential component of the academic process. Both students and faculty are expected to “live up to the highest ethical standards with respect to the origin of ideas, the accuracy of data, and like matters” (Bryant, 2002).

**Academic Dishonesty:** Per the USF Undergraduate Catalog (p. 47-49) Academic Dishonesty includes PLAGIARISM, which is defined as:
“literary theft and consists of the unattributed quotation of the exact words of a published text, or the unattributed borrowing of original ideas by paraphrase from a published text. On written papers for which the student employs information gathered from books, articles, web sites, or oral sources, each direct quotation, as well as ideas and facts that are not generally known to the public at large, or the form, structure, or style of a secondary source must be attributed to its author by means of the appropriate citation procedure.”

**Plagiarism Detection:** The University of South Florida has an account with an automated plagiarism detection service which allows instructors to submit student assignments to be checked for plagiarism. Your research proposals will be submitted through Safe Assign and I reserve the right to submit all assignments to this detection system. Assignments are compared automatically with a huge database of journal articles, web articles, and previously submitted papers. The instructor receives a report showing exactly how a student's paper was plagiarized. Any plagiarism in this course will result in an “FF” for the class and a recommendation for disciplinary action by USF SM.

**Excused Absences.** These will be given for illness only with a doctor’s excuse (this illness must be severe enough to prevent you from participating in class – Your instructor alone will determine if your illness meets this criterion), for the death of an immediate family member, for school sanctioned functions, or for observance of religious holy days. Doctor’s excuse require that the student fill out a "Verification of Visit" form at the health center. Something similar should be done for students using private physician services and must state specifically what the illness was and the date/s of the illness. Death of an immediate family member requires a copy of the death certificate. Students who anticipate the necessity of being absent from class due to the observation of a major religious observance or a school-sanctioned event must provide notice of the date(s) to the instructor, in writing, by the second class meeting. If no notice is given the student will get no credit for the assignment/paper.

**Grading.** Grading for this course will be on an accumulated point scale as follows:

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<th>COURSE WORK</th>
<th>POINTS</th>
<th>PERCENT OF TOTAL POINTS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Preparation/Discussion</td>
<td>50 (5 for Human Subj Training Cert)</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<td>Article presentations</td>
<td>70 (35 pts. each)</td>
<td>14%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Essays 1-4 (first drafts)</td>
<td>200 (50 pts. each)</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peer Review &amp; Revised Essays (drafts)</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>8%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Revised Essays 1-4 (final drafts)</td>
<td>140 (35 pts. each)</td>
<td>28%</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Possible Points</strong></td>
<td><strong>500</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
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A = 463+    A- = 448-462    B+ = 438-447    B = 413-437    B- = 498-412    C+ = 388-397
C = 363-387    C- = 348-362    D+ = 338-347    D = 313-337    D- = 298-312    F= 297 or less

--- MARCH 21st IS THE LAST DAY TO WITHDRAW WITHOUT ACADEMIC PENALTY ---
**Extra Credit.** Maximum of 20 points are possible.

1. **USFSM Sponsored Research Studies (maximum of 10 points):** You may choose to Participate in Research being conducted at USFSM. Participation in research is completely voluntary, and you will not be penalized in any way should you choose not to participate in research. Opportunities to participate in research can be found on the Sona website (https://usfsm.sona-systems.com) and instructions for accessing and using the Sona website can be found in the getting started module on Canvas. Per Sona Guidelines you can earn 1 Sona point for every 30 minutes of participation in a "live" research study (i.e., a study requiring in-person participation). For studies administered solely online studies you can earn 0.5 points for every 30 minutes of participation. The time allocated for a research study is established by the researcher and is based on the estimated time needed to participate. All Sona extra-credit is will be multiplied by 1 to determine number of course points earned."
   
   • Note – there is no guarantee that any studies will take place during spring 2015.

2. **Evelyn M. Duvall Family Studies Conference at USFSM (February 12-14, 2015).** You can earn up to 10 points of extra credit by doing all of the following: (1) register in advance for the conference, (2) sign in with conference organizers on the day of conference to verify attendance, (3) attend at least 3 hours of the conference, and (4) in a two-page typed paper summarize the talks and/or poster sessions you attended making sure to include the research design, theory, ethical considerations, limitations, and future directions. Faculty/Students use code 991415391028710 - for Registration at No Charge
   
   • Duvall Family Studies Website: http://www.usfsm.edu/duvall/

**Psychology Mission Statement**

The curriculum for a Psychology degree from USF Sarasota-Manatee prepares graduates for the many occupations (e.g., human services, community or public relations, administration, and advertising and market research) and graduate work in such disciplines as clinical, cognitive, industrial psychology, education, gerontology, counseling, management, medicine, law, and other human service programs. By the time our majors are ready to graduate, they are equipped with two vital skill sets. First, our majors are familiar with numerous factors influencing behavior and mental processes, and the interactions between them. These factors range from the molecular (communication in the brain) to the cultural (human diversity). Second, our majors have developed the critical thinking skills necessary for the consumption and production of psychological research. These skills include writing and familiarity with the ethics of conducting psychological research. Students will have the opportunity to take a capstone course that allows them to create their own research study to demonstrate these competencies.
Email. Be sure to check your USF email regularly for class announcements.

How to login to your USF email:
1. Login to myusf [https://portal.usf.edu/Pages/USF.aspx]
2. Click the link to “USF Office 365” or "Google mail." This will take you to your USF mail.

If you require technical assistance, please contact the USF Help Desk:

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<th>E-mail us at <a href="mailto:help@usf.edu">help@usf.edu</a></th>
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<tr>
<td>Or call 813-974-1222 or 1-866-974-1222.</td>
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Canvas use. Canvas will be used to post student grades, for emailing students, and for broadcasting announcements by Dr. Ruva.

- New student should use the Canvas tutorials: [http://guides.instructure.com/m/8470]
- Students needing technical assistance with Canvas should use the following resources:
  - Canvas Support is available through USFSM E-Learning staff from 9am to 5pm Monday through Friday. Please call (941-359-4295) or email (emmontoya@sar.usf.edu) Carlos Montoya.
  - The USF Tampa IT Helpdesk provides 24 hour support for CANVAS. Toll-free Helpline: 866-974-1222 or email: help@usf.edu if you need assistance outside of USFSM’s E-Learning hours.

Disabilities Accommodation. Students are responsible for registering with the Office of Students with Disabilities Services (SDS) in order to receive academic accommodations. Reasonable notice must be given to the SDS office (typically 5 working days) for accommodations to be arranged. It is the responsibility of the student to provide each instructor with a copy of the official Memo of Accommodation. Contact Information: SMC C107, 941-359-4714, [http://usfsm.edu/disability-services/]

Student Responsibilities. Every student is responsible for all materials in assigned readings, posted in Blackboard and on the course website, and provided in class. Students are expected to come to all class meetings on time and prepared to discuss course materials.

Cell Phones & Personal Electronic Devices. Any personal electronic devices (e.g., cell phones, smart phones, or tablets) other than notebook or laptop computers are to be TURNED OFF AND PUT AWAY before the beginning of class. Failure to comply could result in the student being asked to leave the classroom and thus loss of credit for any assignments due that day.

Academic Disruption. The University does not tolerate behavior that disrupts the learning process. The policy for addressing academic disruption is included with Academic Dishonesty in the catalog: [www.ugs.usf.edu/catalogs/0607/adadap.htm]. Occurrences of academic disruption should be addressed by the professor (depending on the situation, the student may be asked to leave or security may be called). Following the incident, the professor should establish with the student terms for continued course participation, and the professor should also submit a report to the dean. The consequences to the student can range from an administrative reprimand to suspension from USF.
Emergency Preparedness


- **Fire Alarm Instructions:** At the beginning of each semester please note the emergency exit maps posted in each classroom. These signs are marked with the primary evacuation route (red) and secondary evacuation route (orange) in case the building needs to be evacuated.

- **Contingency Plans:** In the event of an emergency, it may be necessary for USFSM to suspend normal operations. During this time, USFSM may opt to continue delivery of instruction through methods that include but are not limited to: Blackboard, Elluminate, Skype, and email messaging and/or an alternate schedule. It’s the responsibility of the student to monitor Blackboard site for each class for course specific communication, and the main USFSM and College websites, emails, and MoBull messages for important general information. The USF hotline at 1 (800) 992-4231 is updated with pre-recorded information during an emergency. See the Safety Preparedness Website for further information. [http://www.sarasota.usf.edu/facilities/SafetyPreparedness.php](http://www.sarasota.usf.edu/facilities/SafetyPreparedness.php)

Counseling Center and Mandatory Reporting

The Counseling and Wellness Center is a confidential resource where you can talk about incidents of sexual harassment and gender-based crimes including sexual assault, stalking, and domestic/relationship violence. You can receive assistance in confidence. This confidential resource can help you without having to report your situation to either the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities (OSSR) or the Office of Diversity, Inclusion, and Equal Opportunity (DIEO), unless you request that they make a report. Please be aware that educators must report incidents of sexual harassment and gender-based crimes including sexual assault, stalking, and domestic/relationship violence. If you disclose any of these situations in class, in papers, or to me personally, I am required to report it to OSSR or DIEO for investigation. The Deputy Coordinator for USFSM is Mary Beth Wallace, AVP for Student Enrollment, Engagement and Success, 941-359-4330 or marybeth@sar.usf.edu.

Counseling Center and Wellness Center 941-487-4254  
Victim Advocate (24/7) 941-504-8599  
List of off-campus resources:  
Hope of Manatee: 941-755-6805  
Safe Place & Rape Crisis Center (SPARCC) – Sarasota: 941-365-1976  
First Call for Help- Manatee: 941-708-6488  
- Sarasota & North Port 941-366-5025  
Manatee Glens: 941-782-4800
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week &amp; Date</th>
<th>Topics</th>
<th>Assignments Due</th>
<th>Readings</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 1: 1/07</td>
<td>Introduction &amp; APA Standards</td>
<td>Sign Permission to Post</td>
<td>APA Pub Manual</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 2: 1/14</td>
<td>Ethics &amp; Human Subjects</td>
<td>Human Subjects Training *No student presenters</td>
<td>Belmont Report Choose articles to present</td>
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<tr>
<td>3/04</td>
<td>SPRING BREAK – ENJOY!</td>
<td>NO CLASS</td>
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<tr>
<td>3/18</td>
<td>NO CLASS AP-LS</td>
<td>Essay 4 Due - Canvas</td>
<td>NO CLASS AP-LS</td>
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