

# CRJ 435 – Jury Decision-Making Fall 2012

**Instructor:** Dr. Joel D. Lieberman

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**Office Hours:** Mon. 1:30-3:00, Tues. 10:00-12:00, Thur. 10:00-12:00

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## Course Overview

This course will explore factors that affect jury decision-making. More specifically, it will focus on the impact that various cognitive and social influences have on juror verdicts. Among the topics to be discussed are: jury selection procedures, the relationship between juror attitudes and behavior, the impact of witness testimony, the effectiveness of jury instructions, juror willingness to follow the law, psychological factors affecting deliberations, and theories of decision-making.

## Required Readings

Lieberman, J. D., & Krauss D. (2009). *Psychology in the Courtroom: Volume 1 – Jury Psychology: Social Aspects of the Trial Process*. Ashgate Publishing Limited: Hampshire, England.

Vidmar, N., & Hans V. (2007). *American Juries*. Prometheus Books: Amherst, NY.

## Grading

Your final grade in this course will be determined by your performance on two midterms (20% each), a final exam (25%), a paper (20%), and homework assignments (15%).

- Late submissions for homework assignments will result in a deduction of 1% of your final grade per day.
- Late submissions for the paper will result in a letter grade deduction per day for the assignment.

## Learning Outcomes

By the end of the semester you should be able to demonstrate familiarization with the social and cognitive factors that have been empirically demonstrated to influence jurors' decisions, as well as knowledge of the historical development of the jury system and relevant procedures. These outcomes will be measured using the aforementioned exams and paper assignment.

## Disruptive Behavior

Behaviors such as texting, whispering to other students during class, sleeping, allowing cell phones to go off during class, routinely walking in considerably late or walking out early are disruptive and will not be tolerated. The first time behaviors such

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as these are exhibited a warning will be given. The second time a student exhibits these behaviors, the student's grade for 1 exam will be dropped 1 letter grade. If a student is disruptive a third time, they will be administratively dropped from the class, in accordance with UNLV policy as stated in the Undergraduate Catalog.

### Academic Misconduct

Academic integrity is a legitimate concern for every member of the campus community; all share in upholding the fundamental values of honesty, trust, respect, fairness, responsibility and professionalism. By choosing to join the UNLV community, students accept the expectations of the Academic Misconduct Policy and are encouraged when faced with choices to always take the ethical path. Students enrolling in UNLV assume the obligation to conduct themselves in a manner compatible with UNLV's function as an educational institution. An example of academic misconduct is plagiarism. Plagiarism is using the words or ideas of another, from the Internet or any source, without proper citation of the sources. See the *Student Academic Misconduct Policy* (approved December 9, 2005) located at:  
<http://studentconduct.unlv.edu/misconduct/policy.html>.

### Copyright

The University requires all members of the University Community to familiarize themselves and to follow copyright and fair use requirements. **You are individually and solely responsible for violations of copyright and fair use laws. The university will neither protect nor defend you nor assume any responsibility for employee or student violations of fair use laws.** Violations of copyright laws could subject you to federal and state civil penalties and criminal liability, as well as disciplinary action under University policies. Additional information can be found at:  
<http://provost.unlv.edu/copyright/>.

### Disability Resource Center (DRC)

The Disability Resource Center (DRC) determines accommodations that are "reasonable" in promoting the equal access of a student reporting a disability to the general UNLV learning experience. In so doing, the DRC also balances instructor and departmental interests in maintaining curricular standards so as to best achieve a fair evaluation standard amongst students being assisted. In order for the DRC to be effective it must be considered in the dialog between the faculty and the student who is requesting accommodations. For this reason faculty should only provide students course adjustment after having received this "Academic Accommodation Plan." If faculty members have any questions regarding the DRC, they should call a DRC counselor. UNLV complies with the provisions set forth in Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. The DRC is located in the Student Services Complex (SSC-A), Room 143, phone (702) 895-0866, fax (702) 895-0651. For additional information, please visit: <http://drc.unlv.edu/>.

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## **Religious Holidays Policy**

Any student missing class quizzes, examinations, or any other class or lab work because of observance of religious holidays shall be given an opportunity during that semester to make up missed work. The make-up will apply to the religious holiday absence only. It shall be the responsibility of the student to notify the instructor no later than the last day of late registration of his or her intention to participate in religious holidays which do not fall on state holidays or periods of class recess. This policy shall not apply in the event that administering the test or examination at an alternate time would impose an undue hardship on the instructor or the university which could have been avoided. For additional information, please visit:

<http://catalog.unlv.edu/content.php?catoid=4&navoid=164>.

## **Tutoring**

The Academic Success Center (ASC) provides tutoring and academic assistance for all UNLV students taking UNLV courses. Students are encouraged to stop by the ASC to learn more about subjects offered, tutoring times and other academic resources. The ASC is located across from the Student Services Complex, #22 on the current UNLV map. Students may learn more about tutoring services by calling (702) 895-3177 or visiting the tutoring web site at: <http://academicsuccess.unlv.edu/tutoring/>.

## **UNLV Writing Center**

One-on-one or small group assistance with writing is available free of charge to UNLV students at the Writing Center, located in CDC-3-301. Although walk-in consultations are sometimes available, students with appointments will receive priority assistance. Appointments may be made in person or by calling 895-3908. The student's Rebel ID Card, a copy of the assignment (if possible), and two copies of any writing to be reviewed are requested for the consultation. More information can be found at:

<http://writingcenter.unlv.edu/> .

## **Rebelmail**

By policy, faculty and staff should e-mail students' Rebelmail accounts only. Rebelmail is UNLV's Official e-mail system for students. It is one of the primary ways students receive official university communication such as information about deadlines, major campus events, and announcements. All UNLV students receive a Rebelmail account after they have been admitted to the university. Students' e-mail prefixes are listed on class rosters. The suffix is always [@unlv.nevada.edu](mailto:@unlv.nevada.edu).

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## Readings

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>
8/27	<b>Introduction</b>
8/29	<b>History of the Jury</b> American Juries – Chaps. 1 & 2
9/5	<b>Methods of Jury Research</b> Jury Psychology – Chap. 1
9/10-9/12	<b>Jury Selection</b> Jury Psychology – Chap. 5
9/17	<b>Procedures of Justice</b> Jury Psychology – Chap. 2 <b>***Jury Selection Assignment Due on 9/17***</b>
9/19	<b>Scientific Evidence</b> American Juries – Chaps. 8 & 9
9/24	<b>Mid-term 1</b>
9/26-10/3	<b>Eyewitness Testimony &amp; Deception</b> <i>E- Reserve</i> - Costanzo, “Memory as Evidence” pp. 169-189.
10/8-10/10	<b>Pretrial Publicity &amp; Inadmissible Evidence</b> Jury Psychology – Chap. 4
10/15-10/17	<b>Inside the Jury Room</b> None <b>***Pretrial Publicity Assignment Due on 10/17***</b>

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10/22-10/24 **Defendant and Victim Characteristics**

*E- Reserve* - Lieberman and Sales “The influence of demographic factors” in *Scientific Jury Selection*, chp. 4.

10/29-10/31 **Persuasion**

*E- Reserve* - Frederick, “Persuasion at trial” pp. 155-188

**\*\*\*Persuasion Assignment Due on 11/5\*\*\***

11/5 **Mid-term 2**

11/7-11/14 **Jury Instructions**

Jury Psychology – Chaps. 6 & 7

11/19-11/21 **Deliberations & Leadership**

American Juries – Chap. 6

11/26-11/28 **Twelve Angry Men**

*E- Reserve* - Brown, “Twelve Angry Men” in *Social Psychology*, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition pp. 229-239

**\*\*\*Leadership Assignment Due on 11/28\*\*\***

12/3 **Decision-Making Models**

Jury Psychology – Chap. 3

12/5 **Jury Nullification & Dynamite Charge**

American Juries – Chap. 11

12/10 **Final Exam – 10:10 a.m.**