

## PSY 462 – Seminar in Development: CHILD WITNESSES (Spring 2004)



**Thursdays , 9:25a – 12:05p, COH 303**

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### I. Purpose:

Content: To explore issues relevant to child witnesses within a developmental framework and to relate that knowledge to the courtroom.

Context: Senior seminars give students an opportunity to learn in smaller group settings which emphasize reading original work, discussion, presentation and writing rather than survey textbooks and standardized exams.

### II. Course Aims and Objectives:

"Must know" information: The goal of the seminar is to introduce students to aspects of the field of children's eyewitness testimony in which contemporary research has been empirically rich and theoretically significant, including topics with ethical and societal implications

Graduating "able" students: Students who earn a BA in Psychology at UCCS should be able to read, criticize, discuss and write about original empirical work.

***Specific Learning Objectives:*** By the end of this course, students will understand the important topics in the study of child witnesses as well as many of the contemporary controversies. Students will demonstrate their understanding of the material through class participation, weekly paper assignments, an in-depth presentation and an in-depth final writing assignment.

***Special note regarding senior seminars:*** Senior seminars are intense. They are intended to be the capstone for your major. I expect students to give significant effort and attention to the assignments in this course. Look over the entire calendar now and make plans for when you will be writing your final paper drafts, revising the draft several times and preparing a presentation!

### III. Text (on reserve at Kraemer Family Library)

Ceci, S. J., & Bruck, M. (1995). *Jeopardy in the courtroom: A scientific analysis of children's testimony*. Washington, DC: American Psychological Association.

#### IV. Format and Procedures:

The weekly class meetings will include presentations of supplemental material by the instructor, activities, guest lectures, videos and student critique and discussion of the readings. Attendance is highly weighted in grading decisions but is not sufficient. Students will be evaluated on their active contributions and preparedness for the weekly discussions. I expect students to come prepared to discuss the readings by having engaged the material before class. To facilitate this engagement, students will turn in weekly paper assignments. Guidelines for student discussion will be covered on the first day of class. Students exhibiting disrespect for their peers or for the instructor will be asked to leave the course after one warning and will be subject to academic disciplinary action.

#### V. Course Requirements:

##### 1. Class attendance and participation policy (Handout: Guidelines for discussion)

Students are expected to attend all classes and will be exempted for emergencies only with documentation and instructor permission. Students will receive full credit only if they participate actively in the discussion. It is the student's responsibility to make certain they sign the attendance sheet.

##### 2. Course readings

Required readings are on reserve at the Kraemer Family Library at the reserve desk under the course number and instructor name.

##### 3. Weekly paper assignments (Handouts: TP01, TP all weeks, TP guests)

Students will hand in weekly thought papers. The papers should reflect the student's own analysis and integration of the required reading material. The papers are to be **submitted during class**. Late assignments will have 10% per day removed unless accompanied by a documented medical emergency.

##### 4. Presentation (Handouts: Assignment, Speaking tips)

Students will in a formal, 'conference paper' style presentation. This conference will be held during class time but in a larger room and will be advertised within and outside of the department.

##### 5. Final paper and drafts (Handouts: Assignment, Persuasive essay, Writing tips)

Students will write an 8-10 page persuasive essay. Writing is one of the primary goals of the course and students will go through multiple drafts and revisions which are counted as a part of their grade. The paper will be due on **MONDAY, May 10<sup>th</sup> by NOON**. Draft deadlines are on the course schedule and in the final paper assignment. Detailed instructions for the paper will be distributed on the first day of the course. Late papers will have 10% per day removed unless accompanied by a documented medical emergency.

#### VI. Grading Procedures:

##### 1. Weighting of assignments:

Participation	15%
Weekly thought papers	35%
Presentation	10%
Drafts/topic proposals/etc	10%
Final paper	30%

**2. Grading plan for each assignment:**

- a.) Thought papers will be handed back in class weekly with comments and will be assigned a grade of 1 -10. Scores for the thought papers will be averaged.
- b.) Participation. Each class missed will result in an automatic deduction of 2% and each class late will result in an automatic deduction of 1% from the participation total (15%).
- c.) Drafts. The five drafts (topic choice, outline, peer draft, writing center, Dr. G) will each receive a grade from 0-2% based on effort.
- d.) Presentation. The instructor will provide written feedback and a score from 1-10% to the presenters.
- e.) Final papers. The final paper will be graded out of 100 points and the grading criterion will be given to students before drafts are due.

**3. Extra credit.** You can attend up to 3 talks/events/plays. Each talk can earn up to 1% which means you could raise your grade by 3%. Turn in a thorough one-page summary. You are not guaranteed credit. A shoddy summary could earn a 0. Take advantage of this! Every semester a lot of people are within 3% of the next grade higher!

**4. Grading scale**

Grade	From	To
A	93%	100%
A-	90%	92.9%
B+	87%	89.9%
B	83%	86.9%
B-	80%	82.9%
C+	77%	79.9%
C	73%	76.9%
C-	70%	72.9%

**VII. Academic Integrity**

Each student in this course is expected to abide by the Univ. of Colorado Academic Honor Code. Any work submitted by a student in this course for academic credit will be the student's own work. Should copying occur, both the student who copied work from another student and the student who gave material to be copied will both automatically receive a zero for their assignments. Penalty for violation of this code can also be extended to include failure of the course and University disciplinary action. See <http://web.uccs.edu/studentconduct/> for the full text.

**VIII. Disability Services**

If you have a disability for which you are requesting an accommodation, you are encouraged to contact the Disability Services Office within the first week of classes. Student Support Services is located in Main Hall 208, or can be reached by phone at 719 262 3354.

## IX. Course Schedule

CLASS	TOPIC	DATE	READING	Assignment
1	<b>COURSE OVERVIEW</b> <b><u>VIDEO</u>: THE MCMARTIN TRIAL</b>	Jan 22		
2	<b>CASES AND PREVALENCE</b>	Jan 29	1, 2 & 3	TP01
3	<b>BASICS &amp; HISTORICAL CONTEXT</b> <b><u>SPEAKER</u>: TESTIFYING AS AN EXPERT WITNESS</b>	Feb 5	4, 5 & 6	TP02 (due class 4)
4	<b><u>SPEAKER</u>: WHEN TO PROSECUTE</b>	Feb 12		TP03 (due class 5)
5	<b>SUGGESTIVE TECHNIQUES</b> <b><u>GUEST MINI-LECTURE</u>: Bias, stereotypes &amp; schemas</b>	Feb 19	7 & 8	TP04
6	<b>SUGGESTIVE TECHNIQUES 2</b> <b>FINAL PAPER BRAINSTORM</b>	Feb 26	9, 10, & 11	TP05
7	<b><u>SPEAKER</u>: CHILD PROTECTION IN COLORADO SPRINGS</b>	Mar 4		TP06 (due class 8)
8	<b><u>SPEAKER</u>: THE DEFENSE</b>	Mar 11		TP07 (due class 9) Paper topic choice
9	<b>AGE DIFFERENCES</b> <b><u>VIDEO</u>: DID DADDY DO IT?</b>	Mar 18	12, 15 & 16	TP08 Paper topic proposal Presentation choice
	<b><u>- SPRING BREAK -</u></b>	Mar 25		
10	<b>PEER COMMENTARY</b>	Apr 1		Peer draft
11	<b>FALSE MEMORIES vs REPRESSION</b> <b><u>GUEST MINI-LECTURES</u></b>	Apr 8	13 & 14	TP09 Writing center appt
12	<b>DRESS REHEARSAL</b>	Apr 15		Writing ctr draft due Slides due (8am)
	<b><u>NO CLASS MEETING</u></b>	Apr 22		Dr. G draft (noon)
13	<b>CONFERENCE</b>	Apr 29		Presentation due- 8am
14	<b>ETHICS</b>	May 6	IN CLASS	TP10 (in class)
<b>Final paper due <u>MONDAY</u>, May 10<sup>th</sup> by <u>NOON</u></b>				