

PSYC*4900-02, Course Outline: Winter 2017

General Information

Course Title: Psychology Seminar

Course Description:

You have learned a lot about a lot of things psychological: the brain, social behaviour, development, psychopathology . . . You have developed methodological and statistical skills and you have put them to use. But now it is time to look at the 'big picture.' What is it all about? How has psychological science contributed to knowledge in general and to your knowledge in particular? What big questions remain unanswered? How can we have better theories? What are the best methods and the best analytic approaches? That is what this course is about. Through reading and discussion, and by presenting written and oral arguments, you will address these questions and come up with some answers, however tentative.

Credit Weight: 0.50

Academic Department (or campus): Psychology

Semester Offering: W17

Class Schedule and Location: Tuesdays 2:30 to 5:20 PM; MacKinnon 312 and 313

Instructor Information

Instructor Name: Ian Newby-Clark

Instructor Email: inewby@uoguelph.ca

Office location and office hours: MacKinnon Extension 3006; Mon 3 to 4 (or by appointment)

GTA Information

GTA Name: Ms. Hayley Bowers

GTA Email: hbowers@uoguelph.ca

GTA office location and office hours: MacKinnon 119A; By Appointment

Course Content

Specific Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this course, a successful student will be able to:

1. Extract and integrate information from a variety of core areas of psychology.
2. Ask and attempt to answer many questions from a critical perspective.
3. Facilitate discussion of complex concepts effectively.
4. Actively listen, reflect upon, and respond effectively to questions.
5. Write in a sophisticated manner, clearly conveying his/her message to a target audience (target audience = a PhD level graduate student in psychology).

Throughout this course, a successful student will be able to:

6. Demonstrate personal responsibility to his/her classmates by reading all assigned readings and arriving at class on time.
7. Demonstrate personal responsibility to the instructor and the TA by being highly familiar with the course syllabus and all other official course documents.

Lecture Content: Not Applicable

Labs: Not Applicable

Seminars:

Subject to change.

Date	Topic
Jan 10 th	Introduction to the Course Learning Outcomes How Things Will Run and Organization
Jan 17 th	Psychology in Crisis? I
Jan 24 th	Psychology in Crisis? II
Jan 31 st	Whither Clinical Psychology?
Feb 7 th	Controversies II Psychology Encounters Pseudoscience
Feb 14 th	Psychology Encounters Paranormal Claims
Feb 28 th	Theoretical Psychology
Mar 7 th	Controversies I
Mar 14 th	Psychology Encounters Pseudoscience Controversies II
Mar 21 st	Judgments, Decisions, and Behavioural Economics

Mar 28 th	The Future of Psychology
Apr 4 th	Reflections

Course Assignments and Tests:

Assignment or Test	Due Date	Contribution to Final Mark (%)	Learning Outcomes Assessed
First Essay (Any Topic From Jan 17 th to Feb 14 th)	February 17 th 11:59 PM CourseLink Dropbox	25	1,2,5,7 TA Assessment
Contribution to Group Discussion (Weeks 2 through 6)	Assessed Wks 2 to 6 Mark Issued During Reading Week	25	1,2,3,4,6,7 Peer Assessment
Second Essay (Any Topic From Feb 28 th to March 28 th)	March 31 st 11:59 PM CourseLink Dropbox	25	1,2,5,7 TA Assessment
Contribution to Group Discussion (Weeks 7 through 11)	Assessed Wks 7 to 12 Mark Issued During Exam Period	25	1,2,3,4,6,7 Peer Assessment

Additional Notes (if required):

1. Students will be randomly assigned to small discussion groups each week.
2. You are **STRONGLY** advised to come prepared with in-depth knowledge of the readings and discussion questions in hand.
3. The instructor and the TA will visit with the groups to observe and aid in facilitation of discussion. Group members will mark each other with respect to the identified learning outcomes for group discussion.
4. The instructor and teaching assistant use the senate guidelines (<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/2016-2017/c08/c08-grds-proc.shtml>) to define grading standards for each assignment. Those grading standards will be made available to students when an assignment is given.
5. The instructor checks email once a day during the week and he does not check email on weekends.
6. The instructor and TA will not respond to questions that can be answered by consulting the course syllabus, assignment documents, course-relevant emails, news items, in-class announcements, and instructor/TA postings in discussion forums.

7. If you have questions and/or concerns about how you were graded by the TA on one of your essays, contact the TA. If you are dissatisfied with the outcome of your discussion(s) with the TA, you can ask the instructor for a re-grade. Please be advised that your mark could go up or down and that the new grade will be final. If you wish to be re-graded, send the instructor an email and indicate three things: 1. You have followed up with the TA who marked you. 2. You are not satisfied with the outcome of your discussion(s) and you wish to be re-graded. 3. You are aware that your mark could go up or down and that the new grade will be final.

Final examination date and time: N/A

Final exam weighting: N/A

Course Resources

Required Texts: None

Recommended Texts: None

Lab Manual: None

Other Resources:

All required readings will be posted on the course website (on CourseInk).

Field Trips: N/A

Additional Costs: N/A

Course Policies

Grading Policies

Late assignments will be given a grade of zero. No allowance will be made for failure to take note of the deadlines, misremembering deadlines, forgetting to submit, failure to confirm successful submission, failure to submit in one of the allowed formats, computer problems, and/or mechanical problems of any other kind. It is therefore highly recommended that assignments be submitted, and checked for successful submission, well before posted deadlines. Do not email TAs and/or the instructor your assignments. Any such emails will be ignored. It is also highly recommended that students back up their work. Catastrophic computer failures occur and no allowance will be made for such an eventuality.

Failure to attend class to participate in a group discussion will result in a mark of zero on group discussion for the date in question.

Course Policy on Group Work:

As alluded to above, this course runs well only if students arrive on time, having done the required readings, with discussion questions in hand.

Course Policy regarding use of electronic devices and recording of lectures:

Electronic recording of classes is expressly forbidden without consent of the instructor. When recordings are permitted, they are solely for the use of the authorized student and may not be reproduced, or transmitted to others, without the express written consent of the instructor.

University Policies

Academic Consideration

When you find yourself unable to meet an in-course requirement because of illness or compassionate reasons, please advise the course instructor in writing, with your name, id#, and e-mail contact. See the academic calendar for information on regulations and procedures for

Academic Consideration:

[Academic Consideration, Appeals and Petitions](#)

Academic Misconduct

The University of Guelph is committed to upholding the highest standards of academic integrity and it is the responsibility of all members of the University community, faculty, staff, and students to be aware of what constitutes academic misconduct and to do as much as possible to prevent academic offences from occurring.

University of Guelph students have the responsibility of abiding by the University's policy on academic misconduct regardless of their location of study; faculty, staff and students have the responsibility of supporting an environment that discourages misconduct. Students need to remain aware that instructors have access to and the right to use electronic and other means of detection. Please note: Whether or not a student intended to commit academic misconduct is not relevant for a finding of guilt. Hurried or careless submission of assignments does not excuse students from responsibility for verifying the academic integrity of their work before submitting it. Students who are in any doubt as to whether an action on their part could be construed as an academic offence should consult with a faculty member or faculty advisor.

In this course, your instructor will be using Turnitin, integrated with the CourseLink Dropbox tool, to detect possible plagiarism, unauthorized collaboration or copying as part of the ongoing efforts to maintain academic integrity at the University of Guelph.

All submitted assignments will be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of such papers. Use of the Turnitin.com service is subject to the Usage Policy posted on the Turnitin.com site.

The Academic Misconduct Policy is detailed in the Undergraduate Calendar:

[Academic Misconduct Policy](#)

Accessibility

The University of Guelph is committed to creating a barrier-free environment. Providing services for students is a shared responsibility among students, faculty and administrators. This relationship is based on respect of individual rights, the dignity of the individual and the University community's shared commitment to an open and supportive learning environment. Students requiring service or accommodation, whether due to an identified, ongoing disability or a short-term disability should contact [Student Accessibility Services](#) as soon as possible.

For more information, contact SAS at 519-824-4120 ext. 54335 or email csdexams@uoguelph.ca or see the website: [Student Accessibility Services Website](#)

Course Evaluation Information

Please refer to the [Course and Instructor Evaluation Website](#) .

Drop date

The last date to drop one-semester courses, without academic penalty, is Friday March 10th. For regulations and procedures for Dropping Courses, see the Academic Calendar: [Current Undergraduate Calendar](#)