

PSYC*4310 - Advanced Topics in Social and Applied Social Psychology

Winter 2025 Course Outline

Section: 01

Credits: 0.50

Land Acknowledgement: Guelph

The University of Guelph resides on the ancestral lands of the Attawandaron people and the treaty lands and territory of the Mississaugas of the Credit. We recognize the significance of the Dish with One Spoon Covenant to this land and offer respect to our Anishinaabe, Haudenosaunee and Métis neighbours. Today, this gathering place is home to many First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples and acknowledging them reminds us of our important connection to this land where we work and learn.

Calendar Description

This is an in-depth examination of specific advances in social psychological research, theory, and/or applications. Selected topic areas may include the psychology of social groups, women's health and well-being, and community interventions. Specific topics, to be announced prior to course selection, will vary according to the interests of the instructor of the course.

Restriction(s): **Restricted to students in BAH.PSYC or BAH.PSYC:C with a minimum 70% cumulative average in Psychology courses.**

Department(s): **Department of Psychology**

Course Description

This course will focus on theory, methodology, and practice of public deliberation. Public deliberation is a particular kind of public conversation that aims to involve a diversity of individuals in collectively working toward solutions to a social problem. In public deliberations, members of the public convene to become informed about the issues at hand, engage with each other respectfully and revise their opinions based on new information and the perspectives of other participants, and they work together toward civic minded solutions. Ideally, the recommendations from public deliberations are taken up in public policy.

Topics that will be discussed include:

- What is deliberation?
- What are the historical and conceptual foundations of public deliberation?
- What are the main methods for implementing public deliberations?
- How is the advice from deliberative public forums integrated into policies?

Public deliberation is an interdisciplinary practice. Accordingly, the course will draw on materials from social psychology, applied ethics, and political theory. The course will also be skills based: students will take part in weekly discussions, and they will have the opportunity to learn and practice facilitation skills for group discussions.

Lecture Schedule

Tu 2:30pm-5:20pm in MCKN*226 (1/6 to 4/21)

Instructor Information

Kieran O'Doherty

Professor

Email: odohertk@uoguelph.ca

Office: Mackinnon Extension 3014

Office Hours:

Tuesday 1-2pm

Additional Support

The TA for the course is Laureen Owaga (lowaga@uoguelph.ca).

Learning Resources

Course Resources

All readings for the course are provided on CourseLink. Please check the course schedule for when readings will be discussed in class. Students are expected to have read relevant readings before class and be prepared to discuss them.

Campus Resources

If you are concerned about any aspect of your academic program: Make an appointment with a Program Counsellor (<https://www.uoguelph.ca/uaic/programcounsellors/>) in your degree program. If you are struggling to succeed academically: There are numerous academic resources offered by the Learning Commons (<https://www.lib.uoguelph.ca/using-library/spaces/learning-commons/>) including, Supported Learning Groups for a variety of courses, workshops related to time management, taking multiple choice exams, and general study skills.

Cost of Textbooks and Learning Resources

There are no costs to students for the learning resources for this course.

Course Level Learning Outcomes

1. Understand definitions, rationales, and applications of public deliberation.
2. Understand the role that public deliberations can play in involving everyday people in policy decisions.
3. Be able to name and describe key methodological elements of public deliberations.
4. Be able to identify social issues that could benefit from public deliberation, and differentiate them from problems where public deliberation may not be helpful.
5. Be able to engage in deliberative discussions and achieve agreement on civic-minded solutions to social problems.

Teaching and Learning Activities

Weekly Activities

All classes will be offered in a modified seminar format. Typically, classes begin with opening remarks from the instructor who will provide background on the readings. Before readings are discussed, students will take a knowledge check quiz to assess how well students have engaged with the required readings. Discussions on the readings will take place both in small groups and the class as a whole. Across the semester, students will be guided to build skills in group discussion and facilitation. There will be regular discussions on specific social issues in both small and large group formats.

Always be prepared by reading relevant materials before class! Students who have not read materials will receive lower participation grades.

Course Outline Quiz 2%

There will be an online quiz in the first week of class to test your knowledge of the Course Outline. Please make sure to complete the quiz by the deadline to ensure that you receive credit.

In-class knowledge checks 18%

In each class there will be a short quiz based on the content of readings done for that class. Each quiz counts for 2% of the final grade. The top 9 quizzes will be counted. There will be a total of 11 quizzes offered.

It is an expectation in this course that you attend classes. Knowledge quizzes are done in class and are worth 2% each. You can miss 2 classes and still achieve full marks for this course component. This is an automatic accommodation to account for occasional illness or other reasons. For this reason, please do not ask for accommodation for missing 1 class on the grounds that you have already missed 2 classes previously. If you miss more than 2 classes, this will affect your grade. Work conflicts are not an acceptable reason for not participating in class.

In-class participation 20%

This will be based on quality of meaningful engagement in class discussions. Students are expected to attend every class, except in the case of emergencies, and to come prepared to discuss the assigned readings. If it becomes evident that students have not prepared for class discussion (i.e., have not done the readings), this will be reflected in the participation grade.

It is an expectation in this course that you attend classes. If you do not attend a class, you cannot participate, and a participation grade of zero will be assigned for that class. You can miss 2 classes without penalty. This is an automatic accommodation to account for occasional illness or other reasons. For this reason, please do not ask for accommodation for missing 1 class on the grounds that you have already missed 2 classes previously. If you miss more than 2 classes, this will affect your grade. Work conflicts are not an acceptable reason for not participating in class.

Group presentation 30%

Students will be allocated into groups and together prepare and deliver a presentation on a topic related to public deliberation in class.

Assessment Breakdown

{NOTE: instructor can add another row by hitting "TAB" button when they are at the end of the row}

Description	Weighting (%)	Due Date
Course outline quiz	2%	January 10, 2025, 5pm
Knowledge check quizzes	18%	weekly in class
In-class participation	20%	weekly in class
Group presentation	30%	TBD
Final exam	30%	April 16, 2025, 7pm

Final Exam

Date: Apr 16

Time: Wed 7pm-9pm

Location: TBA Please see Web Advisor closer to the date of scheduled final for location.

To understand rules and regulations regarding Examinations students are encouraged to read Student's Responsibilities (<https://calendar.uoguelph.ca/undergraduate-calendar/undergraduate-degree-regulations-procedures/examinations/>)

If the student is unable to meet the final exam requirements due to medical, psychological or compassionate circumstances they are encouraged to review Student's Responsibilities in the Academic Consideration, Appeals and Petitions (<https://calendar.uoguelph.ca/undergraduate-calendar/undergraduate-degree-regulations-procedures/academic-consideration-appeals-petitions/>) section of the Academic Calendar.

Last Day to Drop Course

The final day to drop Winter 2025 courses without academic penalty is the last day of classes: April 04

After this date, a mark will be recorded, whether course work is completed or not (a zero is assigned for missed tests/assignments). This mark will show on the student's transcript and will be calculated into their average.

Course Grading Policies

Requests for accommodations and extensions

It is an expectation in this course that you attend classes. Knowledge quizzes are done in class and are worth 2% each. You can miss 2 classes and still achieve full marks for this course component. This is an automatic accommodation to account for occasional illness or other reasons. For this reason, please do not ask for accommodation for missing 1 class on the grounds that you have already missed 2 classes previously. If you miss more than 2 classes, this will affect your grade. Work conflicts are not an acceptable reason for not participating in class.

Course Standard Statements

Course Policies

Guidelines for class discussion

It is expected that you follow professional and collegial conduct during class discussions. Constructive disagreement is encouraged, with the aim of working towards agreement. It is expected that you engage with fellow students in your discussion groups. Students who refuse to engage with fellow students during discussions or who choose to be on their phones or social media during in-class discussions will be asked to leave.

How to ask questions about the course

Before asking a question about the course, please check the Course Outline. If you cannot find the answer, you may ask questions in the "Discussion" part of CourseLink. You can also ask questions either during class, before class, or after class. If you would like to have a one-on-one conversation, please see me during my office hours. In general, please do not ask questions via email. Because of extremely high email volume, I will not respond to emails relating to course content, exam format, or assignments that are covered in the course outline or were discussed in class. Please do not expect the TAs or me to answer emails in the evenings or on weekends.

ChatGPT

The use of ChatGPT or other text generators is not permitted in this course. The purpose of your group presentation is for you to brainstorm ideas as a group and then develop the skills to turn those ideas into an informative and interesting presentation. To develop these skills, you need to come up with ideas yourself, based on your readings and experiences. You need to cognitively process these ideas to develop your skills. Use of AI text generators will bypass these cognitive pathways and thus prevent you from developing the skills yourself. Use of ChatGPT or other text generators in this course will be considered Academic Misconduct.

CSAHS Academic Misconduct Policy

The *Academic Misconduct Policy* is detailed in the Undergraduate Calendar. 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.

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.

Instructors shall not determine if academic misconduct has occurred. This is up to the Associate Dean Academic's office. Instructors shall not assign a grade of zero even if they believe that the student has committed some form of academic misconduct (e.g., copied material from a website like CourseHero) on an assignment or exam.

Instructors can determine if a student has poorly paraphrased and/or improperly cited material and can provide a grade accordingly as long as this is clearly identified as part of the assessment criteria via a rubric or other assessment tools.

For more information about Academic Integrity resources and how to prevent Academic Misconduct.

Standard Statements for Undergraduate Courses

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The Academic Misconduct Policy (<https://calendar.uoguelph.ca/undergraduate-calendar/undergraduate-degree-regulations-procedures/academic-misconduct/>) is outlined in the Undergraduate Calendar.

Accessibility

The University promotes the full participation of students who experience disabilities in their academic programs. To that end, the provision of academic accommodation is a shared responsibility between the University and the student.

When accommodations are needed, the student is required to first register with Student Accessibility Services (SAS). Documentation to substantiate the existence of a disability is required; however, interim accommodations may be possible while that process is underway.

Accommodations are available for both permanent and temporary disabilities. It should be noted that common illnesses such as a cold or the flu do not constitute a disability. Use of the SAS Exam Centre requires students to make a booking at least 10 days in advance, and no later than the first business day in November, March or July as appropriate for the semester. Similarly, new or changed accommodations for online quizzes, tests and exams must be approved at least a week ahead of time. For students at the Guelph campus, information can be found on the SAS website. (<https://www.uoguelph.ca/sas/>)

Accommodation of Religious Obligations

If you are unable to meet an in-course requirement due to religious obligations, please email the course instructor within two weeks of the start of the semester to make alternate arrangements.

See the Academic calendar for information on regulations and procedures for Academic Accommodations of Religious Obligations (<https://calendar.uoguelph.ca/undergraduate-calendar/undergraduate-degree-regulations-procedures/academic-accommodation-religious-obligations/>).

Copies of Out-of-class Assignments

Keep paper and/or other reliable back-up copies of all out-of-class assignments: you may be asked to resubmit work at any time.

Drop Date

Students will have until the last day of classes to drop courses without academic penalty. The deadline to drop two-semester courses will be the last day of classes in the second semester. This applies to all undergraduate students except for Doctor of Veterinary Medicine and Associate Diploma in Veterinary Technology (conventional and alternative delivery) students. The regulations and procedures for course registration are available in the Undergraduate Calendar - Dropping Courses (<https://calendar.uoguelph.ca/undergraduate-calendar/undergraduate-degree-regulations-procedures/dropping-courses/>).

Email Communication

As per university regulations, all students are required to check their <uoguelph.ca> e-mail account regularly: e-mail is the official route of communication between the University and its students.

Health and Wellbeing

The University of Guelph provides a wide range of health and wellbeing services at the Vaccarino Centre for Student Wellness (<https://wellness.uoguelph.ca/>). If you are concerned about your mental health and not sure where to start, connect with a Student Wellness Navigator (<https://wellness.uoguelph.ca/navigation/>) who can help develop a plan to manage and support your mental health or check out our mental wellbeing resources (<https://wellness.uoguelph.ca/shine-this-year/>). The Student Wellness team are here to help and welcome the opportunity to connect with you.

Illness

Medical notes will not normally be required for singular instances of academic consideration, although students may be required to provide supporting documentation for multiple missed assessments or when involving a large part of a course (e.g., final exam or major assignment).

Recording of Materials

Presentations that are made in relation to course work—including lectures—cannot be recorded or copied without the permission of the presenter, whether the instructor, a student, or guest lecturer. Material recorded with permission is restricted to use for that course unless further permission is granted.

Resources

The Academic Calendars (<http://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/?index>) are the source of information about the University of Guelph's procedures, policies and regulations which apply to undergraduate, graduate and diploma programs.

When You Cannot Meet a Course Requirement

When you find yourself unable to meet an in-course requirement because of illness or compassionate reasons please advise the course instructor (or designated person, such as a teaching assistant) in writing, with your name, id#, and e-mail contact. See the Undergraduate Calendar for information

on regulations and procedures for Academic Consideration. (<https://calendar.uoguelph.ca/undergraduate-calendar/undergraduate-degree-regulations-procedures/academic-consideration-appeals-petitions/>)