

CURRENT TOPICS IN HUMAN BRAIN AND BEHAVIOUR
PSYD66
Spring 2009

Instructor: Dr. Janelle C. LeBoutillier
Room S557A
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Office Hours: Wed 11:00 to 12:00

Lecture: Thurs: 12-2 pm in BV 355

Textbook: There is no textbook for this course. You will make use of the library to access primary source readings

Course Description:

The aim of this course is to conduct an intensive examination of a cross-section of selected topics and research problems in human brain and behaviour. Topics may include, but not be limited to, the neural bases of mental functions such as language, learning, memory, emotion, stress, motivation and addiction.

You may find that the seminar nature of this course is unlike many of the courses you have taken to date. In fact, the format of this course is similar to the type of learning experience you would gain in graduate school. As a result of the small class sizes of our D level courses at UTSC, there is a greater opportunity for independent learning. You are expected to read and discuss current empirical research in this field during our seminars.

Students with diverse learning styles and needs are welcome in this course. In particular, if you have a disability/health consideration that may require accommodations, please feel free to approach me and/or the AccessAbility Services Office as soon as possible. Tina Doyle, the UTSC AccessAbility Manager 416 287-7560 is available by appointment to assess specific needs, provide referrals and arrange appropriate accommodations. The sooner you let us know about your needs, the quicker we can assist you in achieving your learning goals in this course.

Grading Scheme

15%	Class Participation
20%	Oral Presentation
2%	Literature Review Outline
33%	Literature Review
20%	Critique of Literature Review
10%	Response to Reviewer Comments

Class Participation:

A weekly mark out of 3 will be assigned for participation. This will be based on active participation in the class discussions. Students are expected to learn from each other by way of attendance and participation during presentations.

Oral Presentation:

Each student will give one oral power point presentation during the term. Students will present in groups of 3 or 4. Following a brief overview of the subject area each student in the group will discuss in-depth one or 2 empirical papers. Topics to be presented will be assigned following the first week of classes.

Literature Review:

Students will write a review paper on a specified topic which will be a maximum of 20 pages. A one page outline of your paper is due on January 29, 2008. You are required to submit 3 copies of this paper, one paper with your name and student number and 2 without your name and student number. In addition, you are required to submit your paper to Turnitin (details to follow). Papers should be prepared according to the Publication Manual for the American Psychological Association, 5th Edition. This assignment is due no later than 4 pm on the Monday following reading week ie Feb 23, 2009. Papers can be dropped off to my office S557 or to the Psychology office (S521B). All papers will be assigned a manuscript number only by me.

Critique of Literature Review:

Each student will receive 2 review papers on similar topics identified by number only. You will be required to read these papers and provide a critique of each manuscript. These critiques will be a maximum of 2 pages due March 12. Students are required to turn in two copies of each of these evaluations, one with their name and student number and the other with only the Manuscript ID number. You will be evaluated by the instructor on your critique of the assigned literature reviews. A copy of your evaluation (identification by manuscript number only) will be provided to the author of the paper.

Response to Reviewers Comments:

A formal response addressing the concerns of the reviewers is due on April 2, ie the last day of our class. This should be a maximum of 2 pages.

Late Assignments:

A penalty of 10% per day will be given for all late assignments. All assignments are due at the start of the lecture.

Turnitin:

First, some background information on this program. Turnitin.com is a tool that assists in detecting textual similarities between compared works i.e.: it is an electronic resource that assists in the detection and deterrence of plagiarism.

Students agree that by taking this course all required papers may be subject to submission for

textual similarity review to Turnitin.com for the detection of plagiarism. All submitted papers will be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of such papers. The terms that apply to the University's use of the Turnitin.com service are described on the Turnitin.com web site.

As indicated on the turnitin home page, all work submitted to Turnitin is checked against three databases of content:

- A current and archived copy of the publicly accessible Internet (more than 4.5 billion pages updated at a rate of 30-40 million pages per day);
- Millions of published works (from ABI/Inform, Periodical Abstracts, Business Dateline, ProQuest, the Gutenberg Collection of literary classics, and tens of thousands of electronic books);
- Millions of student papers submitted to Turnitin since 1996.

Students will submit all written reports to the turnitin.com site (www.turnitin.com). Detailed instructions on setting up your account can be found on this page. You must set up your own account and will need the following information: Course name, PSYD66; Class ID #, 2533186 ; Class Enrolment Password, jellybean.

<http://www.utoronto.ca/ota>

Topic Choices

1. Stress and the brain
2. Sleep and dreaming
3. Sleep and learning
4. The maternal brain and behaviour
5. Neurological bases for visual language processes
6. Hemi-neglect
7. Face recognition
8. Narcolepsy
9. Lateralization and Handedness
10. Exercise and Cognition
11. Williams Syndrome
12. Lead toxicity
13. Mild cognitive impairment
14. Others TBA

Tentative Course Outline

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| Jan | 8 | Course introduction |
| | 15 | Writing and Researching a Review Paper
Journal format |
| | 22 | Stress and the Brain |
| | 29 | Literature Outline due
Sleep and learning |
| Feb | 5 | Mild cognitive impairment |
| | 12 | No class |
| | 19 | READING WEEK |
| | 23 | Literature review due ON MONDAY |
| | 26 | Journal discussion, responding to reviewer comments |
| Mar | 5 | The maternal brain and behaviour |
| | 12 | Critique of Literature Review due
Neurological bases for visual language processes |
| | 19 | Fear and emotional learning |
| | 26 | Face recognition |
| April | 2 | Response to Reviewers Comments due |