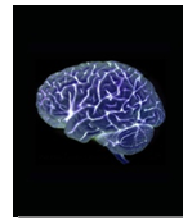
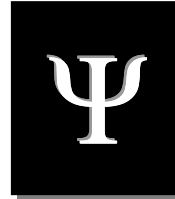




CURRENT TOPICS IN ABNORMAL PSYCHOLOGY



Controversial Issues in Abnormal Psychology

Course Instructor	Zachariah Campbell
Course Code	PSYD33H3 Y
Section	LEC01
Lecture Details	Mondays, 3-5 PM, MW223
Office Hour Details	Mondays, 5:30-7:30 PM, SY178
Contact email	zac.campbell@utoronto.ca

Course Description

The objective of this course is to survey the discipline of clinical psychology and allied mental health disciplines by thoroughly examining controversial issues that are of current relevance. Overall, this course employs a seminar-based curriculum. As such, you will find the nature of this course to be unlike many of the courses you have taken to date. Moreover, a seminar is much like the type of learning experience you would gain in either graduate or medical school. Due to the smaller size, both collaborative and independent learning will be fostered throughout the course.

Since this is a survey course, students are expected to contribute to the curriculum by selecting topics to research and write a series of review papers. Students are also required to present their topic to the class in groups of two by way of a formal presentation. Areas worthy of consideration include in depth analyses of psychological conditions and treatments, trends towards biological interventions, and social issues in the mental health field. To this end, students will be able to gain knowledge within a personal area of interest that is germane to this course and disseminate that knowledge to their fellow students. Overall, your final grade will be tied to your ability to learn independently (i.e., review term papers), to work collaboratively in groups (i.e., class presentations), examinations, and your attendance and participation in class (i.e., class discussions).

Important Details

- A. All course related inquiries are to be directed to the instructor's email address listed on the first page. To ensure delivery, the subject line must be in the following format: "PSYD33H3 Summer - *Insert subject here*".
- B. Every enrolled student must ensure that they have access to the course materials via the Intranet. All course related content will be posted here (e.g., lecture slides, important announcements, midterm grades, etc). Aside from the use of Microsoft PowerPoint for presentations, the only format that will be used for all other posted documents is Adobe PDF. Free reading software is available at www.adobe.com.
- C. The prerequisites for this course are PSYB32H3 and one C-level half-credit in psychology.
- D. If a lecture is cancelled because of an unforeseen circumstance (e.g., unexpected illness), students are still responsible for the material that was to be discussed that day (e.g., lecture slides, assigned readings). In this situation, students may request the notes of fellow students who attended class (e.g., their presentation team mate). The same applies to the detail that follows below.
- E. If a student is absent for their presentation or the midterm test due to illness or other extenuating circumstance, they must contact the instructor as soon as possible.
- F. 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. The UTSC AccessAbility Services staff (located in S302) are available by appointment to assess specific needs, provide referrals and arrange appropriate accommodations (416) 287-7560 or ability@utsc.utoronto.ca.
- G. Lastly, please note that the University of Toronto treats academic integrity very seriously. To this end, the instructor will fully adhere to the University's [Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters \(1995\)](#).

Required Readings

Readings for Class Presentations

Halgin, R. (2008). *Taking Sides – Clashing Views in Abnormal Psychology*. Toronto: McGraw-Hill.

**Required readings from the course textbook will be based on class votes that will be determined in the second class. Group assignments and topic selections will also be determined in the second class.*

Reading for Week 2

First, M.B., Westen, D. (2007). Classification for clinical practice: how to make ICD and DSM better able to serve clinicians. *International Review of Psychiatry, 19*, 473-481.

Readings for Week 3 (Instructor Presentation on Ecstasy/MDMA use)

Campbell, Z., Zakzanis, K.K., Jovanovski, D., Joordens, S., Mraz, R., & Graham, S.J. (2009). Utilizing virtual reality to improve the ecological validity of clinical neuropsychology: an fMRI case study elucidating the neural basis of planning by comparing the tower of London with a three-dimensional navigation task. *Applied Neuropsychology, 16*(4), 295-306

Zakzanis, K.K., Campbell, Z., & Jovanovski, D. (2007). The neuropsychology of ecstasy (MDMA) use: A quantitative review. *Human Psychopharmacology, 22*(7), 427-435.

Zakzanis, K.K., & Campbell, Z. (2006). Memory impairment in now abstinent MDMA users and continued users: A longitudinal follow-up. *Neurology, 66*(5), 740-741

Zakzanis, K.K., Young, D. A., & Campbell, Z. (2003). Prospective memory impairment in abstinent MDMA ("Ecstasy") users. *Cognitive Neuropsychiatry, 8*(2), 141-153

Grading Scheme

Attendance & Participation (15%)

Students are expected to learn from each other by way of timely attendance (not arriving beyond ten minutes after the hour) and participation during student presentations. A signature sheet will be passed around at ten minutes after the hour to document attendance and will not be re-circulated. Participation will be graded each class by way of asking questions and generating class discussion (all or none each class). Marks will be recorded in-vivo. Lastly, marks for these two course components will be divided equally toward your final grade.

Class Presentation (20%)

Students are required to present a two-member team review of their chosen topic of study for duration of approximately thirty minutes which will be followed by twenty to thirty minutes of questions and debate. Partner assignments will be randomly determined. Topics will be based on a class popularity vote across a series of nineteen available chapters in the textbook. This will be followed by a lottery in which student teams will be able to select their preferred topic (order of selection will be based on another lottery).

The evaluation of your presentation will be based on your demonstrated knowledge of your chosen chapter topic. This will be assessed by way of the delivery of the presentation (including the appropriate division of labour between teammates), the organization of your material, your chosen debate question(s), and your ability to moderate class discussion. That is, the audience will be divided equally into two groups which will debate their randomly assigned side of opinion. Please note that a strict time-limit of between twenty five and thirty minutes will be enforced by way of a timer, so please practice and prepare ahead of time.

All of the necessary equipment that is necessary to conduct each presentation will be provided. Teammates are expected to design their presentation in Microsoft PowerPoint format as this is the software that is available with the provided equipment.

Important: 1) These slides must be submitted electronically to the instructor by noon on the day prior to the scheduled presentation. This will allow the audience to access your slides through the intranet and print them off for note

taking during your presentations. **2)** On the day of your presentation (if you are presenting in the first time slot, please arrive at least ten minutes early (i.e., at the hour).

Midterm Test (20%) and Final Examination (20%)

There will be a midterm and a final examination will be based on in-class presentations and textbook readings. It will be multiple-choice in format. Questions will be derived from all of the presentations held to date (i.e., instructor and student generated) as well as all of the required readings.

Both the midterm test and final examination will be comprised of approximately 50 multiple-choice questions that are created by the instructor and approximately 10 multiple-choice questions that are created by those students who have completed their presentations to date. A total of 90 minutes will be allotted for each examination. A bonus grade of up to 5% that contributes to each test grade (not the overall final grade) will be allotted to students which will be based on the quality of the submitted questions. Four questions are to be submitted from each group. These questions should be based not only on the content of the PowerPoint slides but also material that is communicated orally during the presentation. Sample questions will be provided by the instructor ahead of time to guide the creation of questions for both the midterm test and final examination.

Ninety minutes will be allotted to complete both examinations. For the midterm, the test will be taken up in class with peer marking on the same day using alternative ink.

Important: Please note that those questions that are created by each student and their team member must be kept confidential and are **NOT** to be disseminated to classmates. This is an issue of academic honesty and is important for the learning process as it will challenge each student in the audience to pay careful attention to each class presentation and participate in class discussions. It will also be of benefit to each presentation team as there is nothing worse than giving a lecture in which the audience is not alert or motivated to be interested.

Term Review Papers (25%)

Students are required to complete two comprehensive review papers that are based on any two preferred topics in the textbook that are not presented in

class. Each paper should address one of the challenge questions listed at the end of the each respective chapter. It is expected that each paper will incorporate the relevant research literature that is above and beyond that which is discussed in the textbook. Additional details on the requirements and expectations of this course component will be discussed at length in class. The two topic choices must be communicated to the instructor by Week 3 as indicated in the Schedule section of this document.

Ten to twelve content pages per chosen topic (i.e., excluding title page, abstract, references, etc) are required. Grading will be based on style, clarity and scholarship (third-person style). APA style (5th ed.) is required and will be an important component of the grade allocated to this assignment. Please also note that this assignment is due on last day to submit term assignment in winter courses (i.e., *Insert Date*). You must also only submit a Microsoft Word document via email to the instructor and to the Turnitin website (see next two paragraphs) before midnight on the due date (no other format will be accepted). For every day that it is late, 10% will be taken off the total possible grade that could be allocated to the assignment. It is highly recommended that you submit your paper well in advance of the evening to avoid any technical issues etc.

In addition to the requirement of submitting an electronic copy of the term papers to the instructor, the use of Turnitin will be requested (please see the following paragraph). If Turnitin is not used, students will be required to submit their rough notes and hard copies of the references that they sourced within their assignments.

Normally, students will be required to submit their course essays to Turnitin.com or a review of textual similarity and detection of possible plagiarism. *In doing so, students will allow their essays to be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database, where they will be used solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism.** The terms that apply to the University's use of the Turnitin.com service are described on the Turnitin.com web site

**This includes comparisons to papers completed by other members of this course in either section of the course.*

Presentation and Paper Topics

The most popular topics included in the book will be determined by way of a popularity vote across lecture sections. Please obtain the book from the bookstore and create a list of your five most preferred topics before the second lecture date.

Unit 1 – Psychological Conditions and Treatments

- Issue 1 Is Forced Treatment of Seriously Mentally Ill Individuals Justifiable?
- Issue 2 Should Individuals with Anorexia Nervosa Have the Right to Refuse Life-Sustaining Treatment?
- Issue 3 Is Psychological Debriefing a Harmful Intervention for Survivors of Trauma?
- Issue 4 Are Blocked and Recovered Memories Valid Phenomena?
- Issue 5 Is Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) a Real Disorder?
- Issue 6 Should MDMA (Ecstasy) Be Prohibited, Even for Therapeutic Use?
- Issue 7 Should Abstinence Be the Goal for Treating People with Alcohol Problems?

Unit 2 – The Trend Toward Biological Interventions

- Issue 8 Should Memory-Dampening Drugs Be Used to Alleviate the Symptoms of Trauma?
- Issue 9 Are Antipsychotic Medications the Treatment of Choice for People with Psychosis?
- Issue 10 Is Ritalin Overprescribed?
- Issue 11 Should Psychologists Prescribe Medication?
- Issue 12 Is Electroconvulsive Therapy Ethical?

Unit 3 – Social Issues

- Issue 13 Is it Ethical to Support the Wish for Healthy Limb Amputation in People with Body Integrity Identity Disorder (BIID)?
- Issue 14 Is Sexual Orientation Conversion Therapy Ethical?
- Issue 15 Does Exposure to Media Violence Promote Aggressive Behavior?
- Issue 16 Would Legalization of Virtual Child Pornography Reduce Sexual Exploitation of Children?
- Issue 17 Does Evolution Explain Why Men Rape?
- Issue 19 Must Mentally Ill Murderers Have a Rational Understanding of Why They Are Being Sentenced to Death?

Schedule

Week 1 – Date

Welcome

- General introduction
- Course description and requirements

Week 2 – Date

Topic Selection & Lecture: Clinical Psychology, DSM, & ICD

- Psychological evaluation: assessor clinical interview, psychometric testing, diagnostic formulation, report writing, recommendations
- Clinical intervention: psychotherapy, medication, and other alternatives
- DSM & the multi-axial approach
- Reading: First & Westen (2007)

Week 3 – Date

Review Paper Topic Choices Due

Sample Presentation (by the instructor)

- Should MDMA (Ecstasy) be Prohibited, Even for Therapeutic Use? *See *Required Readings* section for all papers on the topic of MDMA (there are three).
- Personality Assessment Inventory (PAI) completion. This is strictly a voluntary component in which each student will have the opportunity to complete a comprehensive psychological instrument to better appreciate the nature of psychometric testing. Please note that these forms will be kept confidential and secure until the following class when they will be scored and reviewed by each individual student. Lastly, scoring procedures will be reviewed before the end of class along with scheduling of time slots.

Week 4 – Date

Personality Assessment Inventory Scoring & Individual Review

- In alphabetical order, students will be ordered in five minute slots to score their PAI form. Once inputted, a password protected report will be generated and the original file will be deleted. This will be followed by five minutes of review of their report on another secure computer which will also be deleted immediately thereafter. In the following class, a discussion of the PAI results will be held after the presentations.

Week 5 – Date

Presentation 1: TBA

Presentation 2: TBA

*Review of the PAI

Week 6 – Date

Presentation 1: TBA

Presentation 2: TBA

Week 7 – Date

Midterm Examination (In-class – 90 minutes)

*To be taken up in class

Week 8 – Date

Presentation 1: TBA

Presentation 2: TBA

Week 9 – Date

Presentation 1: TBA

Presentation 2: TBA

Week 10 – Date

Presentation 1: TBA

Presentation 2: TBA

Week 11 – Date

Presentation 1: TBA

Presentation 2: TBA

Week 12 – Date

Presentation 1: Tentatively unavailable

Presentation 2: Tentatively unavailable

Review and Summary of the Course