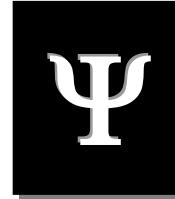




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# CURRENT TOPICS IN ABNORMAL PSYCHOLOGY



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## Controversial Issues in Abnormal Psychology

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Course Instructor	Zachariah Campbell
Course Code	PSYD33H3
Section	L03 2011 S
Lecture Details	Mondays from 3 to 5 in AA 208
Office Hour Details	Mondays 5 to 7 PM in SY 178 <i>(or by appointment)</i>
Contact email	<a href="mailto:zac.campbell@utoronto.ca">zac.campbell@utoronto.ca</a>

## Course Description

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

Since this is a survey course, students are expected to contribute to the curriculum by collectively selecting topics considered worthy for presentation. That is, students are required to present a chosen topic to the class (in groups of two) by way of a formal presentation. By following the textbook (that was carefully selected for this course), areas considered worthy of consideration include in depth analyses of psychological conditions and treatments, trends towards biological interventions, and social issues in the mental health field. Students will also be able to gain knowledge within a personal area of interest that is germane to this course by selecting, researching and writing a term paper.

Overall, final grades 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 debates & discussion).

## Important Details

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- A. All course related inquiries are to be directed to the instructor's email address listed on the first page. To ensure delivery, please write the subject line in the following format: "PSYD33H3 - W2011 - *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](http://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 or inclement weather), students are still responsible for the material that was to be discussed that day (e.g., lecture slides, assigned readings).
- E. If a student misses a class, it is recommended that they request the notes of fellow students who attended class (e.g., their presentation team mate).
- F. If a student is absent for their presentation or term test due to illness or other extenuating circumstance, they must contact the instructor as soon as possible.
- G. 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](mailto:ability@utsc.utoronto.ca).
- H. 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

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### Readings for Class Presentations

Halgin, R. (2010). *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 4 (Instructor Presentation on Ecstasy/MDMA use)

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., Young, D. A., & 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

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## Attendance & Participation (10%)

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 (25%)

Students are required to present a two-member team review of their chosen topic of study for twenty minutes which will be followed by twenty to thirty minutes of questions and class debate. Partner assignments will be randomly determined. Topics will be based on a class popularity vote across the 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.

The evaluation of each presentation will be based on each group's demonstrated knowledge of their chosen chapter topic. This will be assessed by way of the delivery of each presentation (including the appropriate division of labour between teammates), the organization of material, your chosen debate question(s), and each group's ability to assist in the moderation of 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 to 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).

### Term Tests (2 x 20%)

There will be a midterm and a final examination will be based on in-class presentations and textbook readings. 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 term tests will be comprised of approximately 40 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 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. Five questions are to be submitted from each person of 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 a comprehensive review paper that is based on any approved topic that is germane to this course. Ten to twelve content pages will be required (i.e., excluding title page, abstract, references, etc).

Grading will be based on style, clarity and scholarship (third-person style). APA style (5<sup>th</sup> 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. You must only submit a Microsoft Word document (.doc and not .docx) via email 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 that may arise etc.

Students will be required to submit their course essays to Turnitin.com for 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. 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.

*\*This includes comparisons to papers completed by other members of this course as well as students who have previously completed assignment in this course.*

## Presentation and Paper Topics

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

### Unit 1 – Psychological Conditions and Treatments

- Issue 1 Is the Use of Aversive Treatment an Inhumane Intervention for Psychologically Disordered Individuals?
- Issue 2 Is Gender Identity Disorder a Mental Illness?
- Issue 3 Is Forced Treatment of Seriously Mentally Ill Individuals Justifiable?
- Issue 4 Should Individuals with Anorexia Nervosa Have the Right to Refuse Life-Sustaining Treatment?
- Issue 5 Is Psychological Debriefing a Harmful Intervention for Survivors of Trauma?
- Issue 6 Are Blocked and Recovered Memories Valid Phenomena?
- Issue 7 Is Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) a Real Disorder?
- Issue 8 Should MDMA (Ecstasy) Be Prohibited, Even for Therapeutic Use?

### Unit 2 – The Trend Toward Biological Interventions

- Issue 9 Is Addiction a Brain Disease?
- Issue 10 Should Memory-Dampening Drugs Be [for] Symptoms of Trauma?
- Issue 11 Is Ritalin Overprescribed?
- Issue 12 Should Psychologists Prescribe Medication?

### Unit 3 – Social Issues

- Issue 13 Is it Unethical for Psychologists to Be Involved in Coercive Interrogations?
- Issue 14 Is it Ethical to Support the Wish for Healthy Limb Amputation in People with Body Integrity Identity Disorder (BIID)?
- 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 Must Mentally Ill Murderers Have a Rational Understanding of Why They Are Being Sentenced to Death?
- Issue 18 Does Research Confirm That Abortion Is a Psychologically Benign Experience?



# Schedule

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Week 1 – January 10

Welcome

- General introduction, course description and requirements

Week 2 – January 17

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

- Psychological evaluation: assessor, clinical interview, psychometric testing, diagnostic formulation, report writing, recommendations
- Clinical intervention: psychotherapy, medication, and other alternatives
- 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 as it applies to abnormal psychology. Please note that these forms will be kept confidential and secure until the following class where they will be distributed and reviewed in detail (after which they will be confidentially shredded).

Week 3 – January 24

Personality Assessment Inventory – Presentation and Review

- All scored PAI protocols will be returned to each student. After providing a period of time wherein the class has the opportunity to read through their individual reports, a sample report will be presented and analyzed by the detail by the instructor.

Review Paper Topic Choices Due (electronically) – January 30

Week 4 – January 31

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).

Week 5 – February 7

Presentation 1: TBA

Presentation 2: TBA

Week 6 – February 14

Presentation 1: TBA

Presentation 2: TBA

Family Day & Reading Week (February 21 – 25)

Week 7 – February 28  
Term Test (In-class)  
\*To be taken up in class

Week 8 – March 7  
Presentation 1: TBA  
Presentation 2: TBA

Week 9 – March 14  
Presentation 1: TBA  
Presentation 2: TBA

Week 10 – March 21  
Presentation 1: TBA  
Presentation 2: TBA

Week 11 – March 28  
Presentation 1: TBA  
Presentation 2: TBA

Week 12 – April 4  
Presentation 1: Tentatively unavailable  
Presentation 2: Tentatively unavailable  
Review and Summary of the Course

Term papers due – April 8  
Last day for submission of term assignments