



Department of Psychology

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Current Topics in Abnormal Psychology



Instructor

Zachariah Campbell

Course Code

PSYD33H3

Section

LEC02 F2015

Lecture Details

Tuesdays 1-3 PM (AA 205)

Office Hours

Tuesdays 3-4 PM (SY 178)

Contact

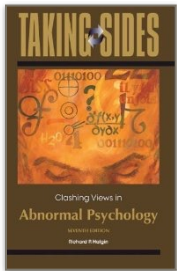
zac.campbell@utoronto.ca

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course employs a seminar-based curriculum that will survey a variety of issues and topics that are relevant to abnormal psychology and clinical psychology. Due to limited enrolment, a number of evaluative components are utilized to ultimately improve critical thinking, collaborative labour, writing skill and oral communication.

Performance in this course will be based on formal presentations, content quizzes, academic review papers as well as both regular attendance and participation in class debates. Overall, this seminar course is structured to mirror the type of learning experience you would gain in either graduate or medical school.

REQUIRED MATERIALS



Halgin, R. (2014). *Taking Sides – Clashing Views in Abnormal Psychology* (7th ed.). Toronto: McGraw-Hill.

The textbook has been ordered by the bookstore for you to purchase. Please note that there are other sources (e.g., online) that you may utilize to obtain your own copy.

COURSE MATERIALS

All course materials, component grades, and class schedule will be made available exclusively on the **Blackboard Learning Portal**.

OFFICE HOURS

All course related inquiries are to be directed to the instructor (zac.campbell@utoronto.ca) with the following subject line:

PSYD33H3 - F2015 - Student Inquiry: “Topic of your inquiry here”

Office hours will be normally held after class from 3 PM to 4 PM in SY178.

IMPORTANT NOTES

Prerequisites

This course requires the following PSYB32H3 and one C-level half-credit in psychology.

Academic Integrity

The **Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters** outlines the behaviours that constitute academic dishonesty and the processes for addressing academic offences. Potential offences include, but are not limited to: 1) using/possessing unauthorized aids or looking at someone else's answers during an exam or test; 2) misrepresenting your identity or falsifying/altering any documentation required by the University such as doctor's notes.

AccessAbility Resources

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 the instructor and/or AccessAbility Services as soon as possible. AccessAbility Services staff (located in Room SW302, Science Wing) are available by appointment to assess specific needs, provide referrals and arrange appropriate accommodations: 416-287-7560 & email: ability@utsc.utoronto.ca.

SESSIONAL DATES

Dates

September 3
September 17
October 12
October 13-17
November 19

Detail

Classes begin in F and Y courses
Last day to add F and Y courses
Thanksgiving (University closed)
Reading Week
Last day to drop F courses without academic penalty and add or remove CR/NCR mode of assessment
Last day of classes and term assignments for F courses
Study Break
Last day to drop F courses with a LWD transcript indication
Final examinations in F courses
Beginning of December Break (University closed)

EVALUATIVE COMPONENTS

Attendance & Participation (15%)

Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each class and marks will be awarded for regular attendance and being involved in the class debates after each presentation.

Quizzes (30%)

There will be three non-cumulative quizzes which will be based on in-class presentations and required readings. The exact number of questions will be based upon the amount of content covered by the date of each quiz. The quizzes are spaced evenly throughout the term. On the dates of each quiz, the start time will be right at the beginning of class (i.e., 1:10 PM).

Presentation (25%)

Students will be required to present evidence for one side of an issue from one of the chapter topics available in the required textbook. The presentations should be 20 minutes in duration and will be followed by a comprehensive class debate.

The evaluation of each presentation will be based on several factors. Specifically, performance will be assessed by way of the delivery of each presentation (including minimal reading and the appropriate division of labour between partners), the organization of material, chosen debate questions, each group's demonstrated knowledge of their chosen chapter topic area and ability to initiate an engaging class discussion. That is, the audience will be divided equally into two groups which will debate their assigned perspective. Please note that a strict time-limit of twenty minutes for each presentation that will be enforced by way of a timer, so please practice and prepare ahead of time.

All of the equipment required to deliver each presentation will be provided. Students are expected to prepare their presentation in Microsoft PowerPoint format as this is the software that is available with the provided equipment in the seminar room.

Important: (1) The final version of the Presentation Slides (and multiple-choice questions) must be submitted electronically to the instructor by 8 PM on the evening prior to the scheduled presentation (Monday evening).

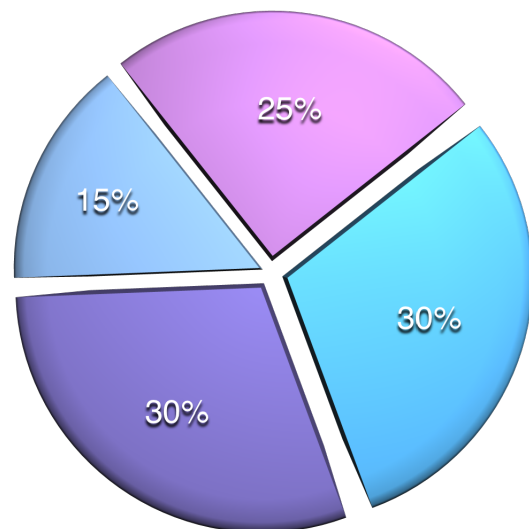
GRADING SCHEME (continued)

Term Paper (30%)

Students are required to complete a comprehensive review paper that is based on a topic of their choice that is also pre-approved by the instructor. This topic should be suitable for a length of review paper that is fifteen to twenty pages content pages (i.e., excluding title page, abstract, references, etc).

Grading will be based on style, clarity and scholarship (third-person style). APA style is required and will be an essential component of the grade allocated to this assignment. Please also note that this assignment is due on the last day to submit term assignment in fall courses (Friday, December 3). Papers are to be prepared in Microsoft Word format (i.e., .doc) and submitted electronically to the Turnitin website (see next two paragraphs) before midnight on the due date. For every day that a paper is late, 20% 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 review papers 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.*



- In-Class Quizzes
- Term Paper
- Attendance & Participation
- Presentation

**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 TOPICS

The selection of available topics for inclusion into the course will be determined by way of a vote count on Blackboard prior to the second lecture.

Unit 1 – Psychological Conditions and Treatments

- Issue 1 Is Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) a Real Disorder?
- Issue 2 Is Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) Overdiagnosed and Overtreated?
- Issue 3 Is Gender Identity Disorder a Mental Illness?
- Issue 4 Is Psychological Debriefing a Harmful Intervention for Survivors of Trauma?

Unit 2 – The Trend Toward Biological Interventions

- Issue 5 Do We Still Need Psychiatrists?
- Issue 6 Should “Smart Drugs” Be Used to Enhance Cognitive Functioning?
- Issue 7 Should Memory-Dampening Drugs Be Used to Prevent and Treat Trauma in Combat Soldiers?
- Issue 8 Is Addiction a Brain Disease?

Unit 3 – Social, Ethical, and Legal Issues

- Issue 9 Does Research Confirm That Violent Video Games Are Harmful to Minors?
- Issue 10 Would Legalization of Virtual Child Pornography Reduce Sexual Exploitation of Children?
- Issue 11 Must Mentally Ill Murderers Have a Rational Understanding of Why They Are Being Sentenced to Death?
- Issue 12 Does Research Confirm That Abortion Is a Psychologically Benign Experience?
- Issue 13 Should Individuals with Anorexia Nervosa Have the Right to Refuse Life-sustaining Treatment?
- Issue 14 Is the Use of Aversive Treatment an Inhumane Intervention for Psychologically Disordered Individuals?
- Issue 15 Is It Unethical for Psychologists to Be Involved in Coercive Interrogations?
- Issue 16 Is It Ethical to Support the Wish for Healthy Limb Amputation in People with Body Integrity Identity Disorder (BIID)?
- Issue 17 Is Forced Treatment of Seriously Mentally Ill Individuals Justifiable?
- Issue 18 Is Excessive Use of Facebook a Form of Narcissism?

TERM SCHEDULE

Week 1 – September 8

- ▶ Welcome, general introduction, course description and requirements

Week 2 – September 15

- ▶ Topic Selection & Lecture: Clinical Psychology, DSM, ICD, & PAI Completion
- ▶ Psychological evaluation: assessor clinical interview, psychometric testing, diagnostic formulation
- ▶ 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, secure, and will be immediately shredding after student viewing.
- ▶ Overview of expectations and format of term papers and class presentations.

***Review Paper Topic Choices Due (Electronically via Turnitin.com) – Sunday, September 27**

Week 3 – September 22

- ▶ Personality Assessment Inventory: Discussion and interpretation
- ▶ Feedback on the Term Paper Proposals

Week 4 – September 29

- ▶ Presentation & Debate 1: TBA
- ▶ Presentation & Debate 2: TBA

Week 5 – October 6

- ▶ Presentation & Debate 1: TBA
- ▶ Presentation & Debate 2: TBA

Reading Week (October 13 – October 16)

Week 6 – October 20

- ▶ **Quiz 1 (in-class)**
- ▶ Presentation & Debate 1: TBA

TERM SCHEDULE (continued)

Week 7 – October 27

- ▶ Presentation & Debate 1: TBA
- ▶ Presentation & Debate 2: TBA

Week 8 – November 3

- ▶ Presentation & Debate 1: TBA
- ▶ Presentation & Debate 2: TBA
- ▶

Week 9 – November 10

- ▶ **Quiz 2 (in-class)**
- ▶ Presentation & Debate 1: TBA

Week 10 – November 17

- ▶ Presentation & Debate 1: TBA
- ▶ Presentation & Debate 2: TBA

Week 11 – November 24

Presentation & Debate 1: TBA
Presentation & Debate 2: TBA

Week 12 – December 1

- ▶ **Quiz 3**
- ▶ Presentation & Debate 1: TBA

***Term Papers Due on December 3 (electronically via [turnitin.com](https://www.turnitin.com))**