

CURRENT TOPICS IN HUMAN BRAIN AND BEHAVIOUR
PSYD66 LEC01
Tentative Course Outline Winter 2016

Instructor: Dr. Janelle C. LeBoutillier
Room S557A
leboutillier@utsc.utoronto.ca
Office Hours: Wed 11:30 to 1

Lecture: Tues: 1-3 pm in MW 264

Textbook: There is no textbook for this course. You will make use of the library and internet 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 are not limited to, the neural bases of mental functions such as language, learning, memory, emotion, stress, motivation and sleep.

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.

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of the course you will:

1. Increase your confidence in effective oral scientific communication of course content with both experts and lay persons
2. Develop and write a review paper on an assigned topic
3. Assess current topics in brain and behaviour through in-class discussion and written assignments
4. Critique and evaluate a current literature review on a topic you are familiar with
5. Articulate your personal response to feedback on your review paper

Grading Scheme Overview:

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|-----|-------------------------------|
| 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. A brief one page summary of the group presentation must be approved by the instructor. In the week of your assigned presentation a near complete version of the presentation must be submitted to me no later than noon on the Monday before the lecture.

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 26, 2016**. You are required to submit 3 copies of the paper, **one copy electronically** using TURNITIN with your name and student number and **2 printed copies** without your name and student number. Papers should be prepared according to the Publication Manual for the American Psychological Association. An exception to the APA format is that papers may be submitted with double sided printing but they must be double spaced. This assignment is due at the lecture following reading week ie: **February 23, 2016**. All papers will be assigned a manuscript number only by the instructor.

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 15, 2016**. Students are required to turn in two printed 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 **March 29, 2016**, 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 unless noted otherwise.

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. The terms that apply to the University's use of the

Turnitin.com service are described on the Turnitin.com web site.

“Normally, 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”

Students will submit their final paper to the turnitin.com site (www.turnitin.com). You will need the following information to submit your paper.

Course: PSYD66 Spring

Class ID: 11190527

Password: itsdone

You may submit your paper as a docx or a pdf.

Topic Choices

1. Stress and the brain
2. Healthy brain aging
3. Sleep and dreaming
4. Sleep-wake disorders
5. Biorhythms: Individual variations in sleep patterns
6. The maternal brain and behavior
7. Sexual orientation
8. Healthy and disordered eating
9. Hemi-neglect
10. Face recognition
11. Narcolepsy
12. Lateralization and handedness
13. Exercise and Cognition
14. Autism
15. Pet therapy and psychology
16. Enhanced learning, is there a smart pill?
17. Mild cognitive impairment
18. Diet, health and cognition
19. Animal models of cognitive disorders
20. The male brain/female brain
21. Music and emotion
22. Others TBA

General Information which you should be aware of:

The University of Toronto is dedicated to fostering an academic community in which the learning and scholarship of every member may flourish, with vigilant protection for individual human rights, and a resolute commitment to the principles of equal opportunity, equity and justice.

ACCESSABILITY STATEMENT

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. I will work with you and AccessAbility Services to ensure you can achieve your learning goals in this course. Enquiries are confidential. 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.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY STATEMENT

Academic integrity is essential to the pursuit of learning and scholarship in a university, and to ensuring that a degree from the University of Toronto is a strong signal of each student's individual academic achievement. As a result, the University treats cases of cheating and plagiarism very seriously. The University of Toronto's Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters (<http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/behaveac.htm>) outlines the behaviours that constitute academic dishonesty and the processes for addressing academic offences. Potential offences include, but are not limited to:

IN PAPERS AND ASSIGNMENTS: Using someone else's ideas or words without appropriate acknowledgement. Submitting your own work in more than one course without the permission of the instructor. Making up sources or facts. Obtaining or providing unauthorized assistance on any assignment.

ON TESTS AND EXAMS: Using or possessing unauthorized aids. Looking at someone else's answers during an exam or test. Misrepresenting your identity.

IN ACADEMIC WORK: Falsifying institutional documents or grades. Falsifying or altering any documentation required by the University, including (but not limited to) doctor's notes. All suspected cases of academic dishonesty will be investigated following procedures outlined in the Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters. If you have questions or concerns about what constitutes appropriate academic behaviour or appropriate research and citation methods, you are expected to seek out additional information on academic integrity from your instructor or from on-line institutional resources.

Tentative Course Outline

- Jan 5 Course introduction
Topic choices for written and oral presentation to be emailed to me no later than
Thurs Jan 7 at 5 pm
- 12 Introduction to Writing and Researching a Review Paper
Assigned readings posted to BB
- 19 Empirical articles (2 or 3) on your oral topic to be brought to class
Oral presentation format discussed
Individual appointments scheduled for literature outlines due next week
- 26 Literature Outline due and discussed
- Feb 2 No Class, work on paper
- 9 Presentation 1
- 16 READING WEEK
- 23 Literature review due today at 1 pm
Presentation 2
- Mar 1 Introduction to Responding to Reviewer Comments
- 8 Presentation 3
- 15 Critique of Literature Review due
Presentation 4
- 22 Presentation 5
- 29 Response to Reviewers Comments due
Presentation 6