

CRITICAL ANALYSIS IN SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY
PSYD16F
FALL 2016
COURSE OUTLINE

Professor: Gerald C. Cupchik
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Office Hours: Monday 11 - 12 ; Thursday 11 - 12
And by appointment

Text: Van Manen, M. (1990). **Researching Lived-Experience**. London: Althouse.
Additional readings will be assigned weekly.

Goals of the Course

The course is designed to help students understand the difference between psychology as a *discipline* and as a *profession*. This is equivalent to mastering *skills* in a particular area and learning how to develop a *career*. The course will help students develop *critical* skills which can be applied both in academic and practical settings. One way to do this is to examine historical trends and issues in social psychology. Students will be assigned a different reading each week which will be discussed in detail. Assigned readings will be on *3 hour reserve* in the library or they can be downloaded. The purpose of the textbook will be to help students understand the theoretical foundation of their term paper.

Evaluation

There will be a midterm essay exam (two hours), a final essay exam (three hours), and a term paper (30 pages minimum). Each exam will involve two essay questions and students will be given 5 single-spaced pages to develop an answer (along with an outline). The questions will be distributed to the students two weeks before the midterm and final exams. Answers to the questions will be written from memory and no notes will be permitted in the classroom. I would like to see a brief plan at the outset of each answer.

The term paper will explore a phenomenon from everyday life that is of interest to the student. Working with the professor, the student will define the problem and then interview people to obtain information about real events in which the phenomenon was manifested. These episodes will form the basis for the development of a theory to account for the phenomenon. In addition, the student will search the literature for relevant concepts after the episode data are collected and interpreted. They will then compare their ideas with those in the literature and reflect on the overall process in an epilogue.

Final Grade will be based on the Midterm exam (1/3), Final Exam (1/3), and Term Paper (1/3).

Missed Term Work due to Medical Illness or Emergency:

All students citing a documented reason for missed term work (this includes assignments and midterm exams) must bring their documentation to the Undergraduate Course Coordinator, Ainsley Lawson, **within three (3) business days** of the term test / assignment due date. All documentation must be accompanied by the departmental **[Request for Missed Term Work form](http://uoft.me/PSY-MTW)** (<http://uoft.me/PSY-MTW>).

In the case of missed term work due to illness, only an **original copy** of the **[official UTSC Verification of Illness Form](http://uoft.me/PSY-MED)** (<http://uoft.me/PSY-MED>) will be accepted. Forms are to be completed in full, clearly indicating the start date, anticipated end date, and severity of illness. The physician's registration number and business stamp are required.

In the case of other emergency, a record of visitation to a hospital emergency room or copy of a death certificate may be considered.

Forms should be dropped off in SW427C between 9 AM - 4 PM, Monday through Friday.

Upon receipt of the documentation, you will receive an email response from the Course Instructor / Course Coordinator within three business days. The Course Instructor reserves the right to decide what accommodations (if any) will be made for the missed work. Late penalties may be waived in legitimate circumstances (determined by verified documentation).

Note that this policy applies only to missed term work (assignments and midterms). Missed final exams are dealt with by the Registrar's Office (<http://www.utsc.utoronto.ca/registrar/missing-examination>).

Failure to adhere to any aspect of this policy may result in a denial of your request for accommodation.