



PSYD33 Current Topics in Abnormal Psychology

Thursdays 6-8 pm SW316

Contact Information

Instructor: Dr. Taryn Grieder

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Office: CCBR 1106 (UTSG)

Office Hours: Thursdays before and after class, and by appointment

Course Description, Goals, and Prerequisites

This seminar course will utilize active learning techniques to provide an evidence-based overview of the concepts of “stress” and “trauma”, and their complex relationship with neurological functioning, mental health and various psychological disorders. A critical review of prevalent theories and application of concepts will provide students with an understanding of how stress and trauma are operationalized from neurobiological, psychological, and integrative perspectives; and, how they increase the risk and severity of abnormal psychological disorders. Ultimately, students will come to understand the complexity of the individual stress response, and explore the importance of adopting a holistic perspective of prevention and treatment in vulnerable children and adults.

Note about prerequisites: It is your responsibility to ensure that you have met **all** prerequisites listed in the Psychology section of the UTSC Calendar for this course. If you lack any prerequisites you **WILL BE REMOVED**. No waivers will be granted.

Reading Material

There is no textbook for this course. All readings will be available online through the library and/or on Blackboard.

Course Evaluation/Marking Scheme

Quizzes - 10% (best 7 of 8): Jan 12, Jan 19, Jan 26, Feb 2, Feb 9, Feb 16, Mar 9, Mar 16

Group presentation - 20% (including peer and self-evaluation): Jan 19, Jan 26, Feb 2, Feb 9, Feb 16, or March 2

Commentary paper - 15%: March 2

Individual presentation - 15%: March 9, 16, or 23

Participation - 10% (includes self-reflection): Ongoing

Review paper - 30%: March 30

There will not be a final exam for this course.

Course Webpage/Blackboard

The website associated with this course is accessible via <http://portal.utoronto.ca>

Note: In order to access course material, monitor course information, and view your grades you must log into Blackboard. If you have any general questions regarding Blackboard, please visit the following help site: <http://www.portalinfo.utoronto.ca/content/information-students>

Course Policies

Penalties for Lateness

A penalty of 10% per calendar day (i.e., including week-ends and holidays, during which students are not able to submit term work) up to and including the last day of classes, will be applied by the Instructor. After the last day of classes, the penalty of 10% per calendar day will be applied by the Undergraduate Counsellor on behalf of the Department. No penalty will be assigned if request for special consideration, described above, was successful. Any term work that will be handed in **after** the final exam period is subject to a petition for extension of term work. This petition should be filed with the student's College Registrar's Office.

Turnitin.com

Normally, students will be required to submit their course assignments 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.

Academic Resources

Accessibility Needs:

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 Accessibility Services at (416) 978 8060; accessibility.utoronto.ca.

Writing:

As a student here at the University of Toronto, you are expected to have strong writing skills. The university provides its students with a number of resources to help them achieve this. For more information on campus writing centers and writing courses, please visit <http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/>.

Academic Integrity and Plagiarism:

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 (www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/behaveac.htm) outlines the behaviours that constitute academic dishonesty and the processes for addressing academic offences.

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 other institutional resources (see www.utoronto.ca/academicintegrity/resourcesforstudents.html).

Other Resources

Student Life Programs and Services (<http://www.studentlife.utoronto.ca/>)

Academic Success Services (<http://www.asc.utoronto.ca/>)

Counselling and Psychological Services (<http://www.caps.utoronto.ca/main.htm>)

Course Outline/Schedule

Please note that this outline and readings are subject to change depending on the needs of the class (we may need to modify the reading list or require additional time to cover a topic). Any changes will be announced in class and on Blackboard one week before. However, the assignment dates are fixed.

Date	Topic	Assignments
January 5	Introductions & Overview	
January 12	Stress and Neuroplasticity	Quiz 1
January 19	Addictive Behaviours	Quiz 2; Group Presentation
January 26	Anxiety Disorders	Quiz 3; Group Presentation
February 2	Personality Disorders	Quiz 4; Group Presentation
February 9	Mood Disorders	Quiz 5; Group Presentation
February 16	Somatic & Dissociative Disorders	Quiz 6; Group Presentation
March 2	Developmental Disorders	Commentary paper due; Group Presentation
March 9	Sexual Disorders	Quiz 7; Individual Presentations
March 16	Eating Disorders	Quiz 8; Individual Presentations
March 23	Sleep & Wake Disorders	Individual Presentations
March 30	Wrap up	Review paper due

Details on Assignments

Quizzes will test understanding of the weekly assigned readings and will occur at the beginning of class. Students that arrive late and miss the quiz will not have an opportunity to write the quiz and will receive a 0.

Group Presentations will involve facilitating discussion of readings assigned by the group to the

class. Group members will give a 75-minute presentation and seminar on the week's topic. Peer evaluation and self-evaluation will account for part of the marks.

Commentary paper: Students will choose a recent, original research article that is relevant to the course and write a 1000-word commentary paper on it. The major points should be highlighted and potential implications and significance commented on. This paper will be submitted to Turnitin. Further details are available in the commentary assignment outline on Blackboard.

Individual presentation: Students will give a 15-minute presentation of their analysis of their commentary paper to the class. This presentation should increase the class's knowledge and understanding of the chosen topic in a way that demonstrates, and elicits, enthusiasm about the material.

Participation will be assessed throughout the term. Students are expected to participate during group and individual presentations in a respectful manner.

Review paper: Students will focus on a relevant topic to the course and write a comprehensive 2500-word review paper on it. This amounts to approximately 10 double-spaced pages, not including title page and references. This paper will be submitted to Turnitin. Further details are available in the commentary assignment outline on Blackboard.