January-April, 2018

Contact Information

Course Instructor

Professor Kyle Danielson

Email

psya02@utsc.utoronto.ca

IMPORTANT NOTE: Please only use the above email address. Do not use Kyle's personal UofT email address for enquiries about PSYA02. **Please include your student number in all emails.**

Office Hours

Mondays and Wednesdays after class, 10:15am-11:30am, in PO 103, room 108

Kyle will also be available at these same times for *virtual* office hours if you are off campus. Please see the Portal for more information.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Kyle's office hours are for **content-related questions** or academic/career advice. For all **administrative concerns**, such as missed deadlines, assignment instructions, AccessAbility accommodations, SONA issues, etc., please visit Priya's office hours.

Course Coordinator

Priya Sivathason

Email

psya02@utsc.utoronto.ca

IMPORTANT NOTE: Please only use the above email address. Enquiries to any other email address may not be answered. **Please include your student number in all emails.**

Office Hours

Weekdays, 9:00am-12:00pm and 2:00pm-4:00pm in SW427C

Please email if you would like to request a separate appointment.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Priya's office hours are for administrative questions (assignment instructions, missed deadlines, accommodations, issues with SONA, etc.) For content questions, please visit Kyle's office hours.

General Course Information

This course is the second part of Introduction to Psychology. Along with PSYA01, this course provides students with an overview of the foundational aspects of psychological science. In PSYA02, we will continue covering some of the **basic building blocks** of psychology, such as intelligence, emotion, social psychology, and personality. We'll also spend some time discussing **developmental change** across the lifespan. Finally, we'll finish the term by exploring atypical patterns in psychology, including psychological disorders and the treatment of them.

We think that there is something for everyone in this course. Even if you don't think that you have thought deeply about psychology before, we in fact are all amateur psychological scientists, constantly pondering and analyzing our own psychological states and those of others around us. We hope that you will find aspects of this course to be applicable to and enriching of your daily lives.

After you finish the PSYA01 and PSYA02 sequence of courses, you'll be prepared to dive further into psychological science at the B-level. We hope that, after this experience, you'll be motivated to do so!

Lectures

We present the lectures for this course using what we call the **WebOption** approach. The WebOption approach combines traditional and web-based presentation of lectures in an effort to provide students with additional flexibility in terms of how and when they watch lectures. In the winter of each year, PSYA02 is offered both in a traditional classroom setting (L01) and an online section (L60). As the lectures are given in the traditional section they are taped, then made available to the online section via streaming video, usually on the same day.

The only real difference between the traditional and web-based sections of this course is with respect to the lecture itself. Whereas the traditional approach requires you to be in class at a certain time, the web-based approach gives you far more flexibility in where and when you view the lectures. It also allows you to pause lectures (if taking notes, or if you need a washroom break perhaps) and you can also rewind if you missed part of a lecture. Given these features, many students prefer the web-based approach.

An important note about the relationship between the textbook and the lectures: although my lectures will be informed by the textbook, I will emphasize certain aspects of the textbook more than others. I will also introduce some information that may **not** be in the textbook. mTuner quizzes and the final exam will consist of questions from **both** the lecture and the textbook, in roughly equal proportions. It is thus **essential** that you watch each lecture carefully and read each chapter of the textbook (preferably at least twice).
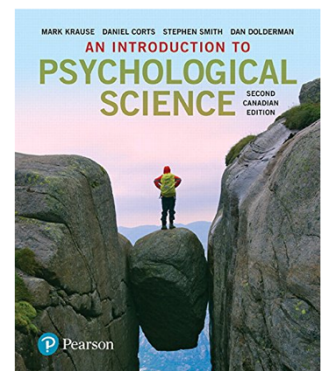
Textbook

The textbook we will be using for this course is called Psychological Science (2nd **Canadian** Edition) and is authored by Krause, Smith, Corts & Dolderman.

In PSYA02 we will cover **Chapters 9 through 16** of the text, but **not in the exact order that they appear! Please see the lecture schedule for details.**

Make sure you have the Canadian edition, not the American one!

If you have access to REVEL, the online text, the course URL is:

https://console.pearson.com/enrollment/b6ug9x

Evaluation

With the exception of the final exam, all assessments will be performed **online**. A traditional in-person "sit down" final exam will occur during the exam period at end of term. Due dates for each of these assignments can be found in the **Course Deadlines** document on the Portal.

Grading Scheme:

5%   mTuner 1

7%   mTuner 2

9%   mTuner 3

11%   mTuner 4

12%   peerScholar writing assignment

3%   Online surveys

3%   Experimental participation (SONA)

50%   Cumulative final exam

IMPORTANT NOTE: You must pass the final exam to pass the course. If you do not pass the final exam but would have otherwise passed the course, you will receive a 45% grade in the course.

The deadlines for all course activities will be posted on the course page on the Portal. **The deadlines are not flexible, and missing a deadline will result in a "0" on the assignment in question.**

mTuner

mTuner activities are enhanced, online multiple-choice tests that you will complete after every two chapters we cover in PSYA02. Each mTuner activity will contain **25 questions**, and will cover the following chapters and their corresponding lectures:

mTuner 1:   10 and 12

mTuner 2:   mostly 9 and 11, but some content from 10 and 12

mTuner 3:   mostly 13 and 14, but some content from 9 – 12

mTuner 4:   mostly 15 and 16, but some content from 9 – 14

Detailed information on the dates for the mTuner activities and how to complete them will be available on the Portal.

peerScholar

peerScholar is an online tool that helps develop your critical thinking skills. There are three phases:

1) You will write a short composition that presents an "argument" related to some issue specified by Kyle (details will be available on the Portal).
2) You will be randomly assigned to anonymously evaluate assignments submitted by six of your peers. At the same time, six peers will be anonymously evaluating your work.
3) You will revise your composition in light of the feedback you received, and course TAs will grade you on the final composition, the quality of the comments you gave to your peers, and the appropriateness of your revisions.

Detailed information on the dates for the peerScholar activity and how to complete it will be available on the Portal.

Online Surveys

Once or twice **per chapter**, lecture will include a link to an online survey or questionnaire for you to complete. The survey will pertain to the material that we are discussing in that lecture. Then, during the following lecture, we will discuss the results of the survey responses together. This technique will allow us to illustrate some of the basic concepts in psychological science by collecting real data from among you and your classmates!

It is **your responsibility** to check the lecture slides each day and to complete the online surveys **before the next scheduled lecture**. For example, **if there is an online survey posted for a Monday lecture**, you will need to complete the survey **before Wednesday's class begins at 9:00am EST**.

The surveys are all **anonymous** and all questions will have a "choose not to respond" option. However, you must complete the surveys in their entirety and input your student ID number in order to receive credit. Each survey will count equally toward the 3% of your mark for this component of the course.

Experimental Participation (SONA)

With respect to experimental participation, many senior undergraduates, graduate students and faculty conduct research aimed at better understanding psychological processes. You will read about such research throughout the course, but to make what you read more concrete, another component of the class involves you serving as a participant in ongoing research. Being a participant will give you the chance to interact directly with a researcher in the context of some specific experiment, and our hope is that you will come to a better understanding of psychological research through this experience. **You earn 0.5 credits for every 30 minutes of participation, up to a maximum of 3 credits (6 hours).**

To find and schedule experiments, you will use a system called SONA. New experiments will be posted regularly. You earn your credits over the term as suitable experiments (i.e. ones that you want to do and that fit your schedule) become available.   **Detailed information will be posted to the Portal once SONA has been opened for the term** (usually starting the third week of class).

Some notes:

- If you sign up for an experiment but fail to show up for it, you will receive a **0.5 credit deduction** from your SONA grade. If you need to cancel an appointment, you must inform the researcher at least **48 hours** in advance.
- Similarly, if a researcher needs to cancel your appointment, they must inform you 48 hours in advance. If you have signed up for an experiment and the researcher fails to show up, you will still receive your credit.
- You must complete your experimental participation by the last day of classes for the term.

An **alternative assignment** will be made available during the last few weeks of class, for those who prefer not to participate in research studies, or who did not find any suitable experiments to participate in. The due date for the alternative assignment will be the same as the last day to participate in research. **Detailed information on the SONA alternative assignment will be posted to Blackboard.**

Cumulative Final Exam

The final exam for PSYA02 is **cumulative**, meaning that you will be tested on all of Chapters 9 through 16. The final exam is **in-person** on the Scarborough campus, and will be scheduled by the Registrar's office about halfway through the term. We will post the date, time, and place information as soon as we have it. **It is very important** that you not make travel plans for April prior to knowing the date of the final exam.

The questions on the final exam will all be multiple-choice and will be similar in format to the mTuner questions. They will test material that was covered in lecture and in the textbook, with the primary focus being on questions that were covered in **both modalities.**

Note: **You must pass the final exam to pass the course.** If you do not pass the final exam but would have passed the course otherwise, you will receive a 45% grade in the course.

Missed Term Work

Everything described above is considered a required part of the class. We believe the evaluation is most fair when all students complete all components with no special consideration being applied.

If you miss a course activity, **we do not offer extensions or make-up assignments.** That said, sometimes things happen. If you can provide documentation that proves you were incapable of completing an activity for a legitimate reason (legitimacy to be determined by the professor and course coordinator) then we may be able to **transfer the weight** of that activity to the final exam. Note that the final exam marks tend to be lowest of all the marks in the course, so it is not in your best interest to have more weight transferred to your final exam. You should avoid this option if at all possible.

YOU MUST FOLLOW THE PROCEDURE OUTLINED BELOW IN ORDER TO BE CONSIDERED FOR ACCOMMODATIONS FOR MISSED TERM WORK.

Missed Term Work due to Medical Illness or Emergency Policy:

All students citing a documented reason for missed term work must bring their documentation to the Psychology Course Coordinator, Priya Sivathason, **within three (3) business days** of the assignment due date.

** All requests must be accompanied by the Request for Missed Term Work form ** (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** will be accepted (http://uoft.me/UTSC-Verification-Of-Illness-Form). 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 **medical emergency**, an original copy of the record of visitation to a hospital emergency room should be provided.

In the case of a **death of a family member**, a copy of a death certificate should be provided.

In the case of a **disability-related** concern, an email communication should be sent directly to the Course Coordinator (psya02@utsc.utoronto.ca) from your Disability Consultant at AccessAbility Services. The course instructor should also be copied.

For U of T **Varsity athletic commitments**, an email communication should be sent directly to the Course Coordinator (psya02@utsc.utoronto.ca) from a coach or varsity administrator should be submitted, **in advance** of the missed work.

Documents covering the following situations are **NOT acceptable**: medical prescriptions, anything related to personal travel, weddings/personal/work commitments.

Your request form and medical/other documents must be submitted in person **within 3 business days** of the missed test or assignment. Forms should be submitted to **SW427C between 9 AM - 4 PM**, Monday through Friday. You will receive an email response from the Course Coordinator detailing the accommodations to be made (if any). You are responsible for checking your official U of T email daily, as accommodations may be time-critical. The Course Instructor reserves the right to decide what accommodations (if any) will be made for the missed work.

Note that this policy applies only to missed term work (assignments and midterms). Missed final exams are handled 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.

TECHNICAL ISSUES:

- If there is a system-wide issue with any of our course activities, we will post an announcement.
- If you are personally experiencing a technical issue with one of our systems, we recommend trying a try a different browser or a different computer. If it is still not working, you are expected to come to campus and use one of the machines here. The computer labs on campus work reliably with our software so **we do not accept the excuse that your personal computer was not working, or you were experiencing issues with your internet connection.**
- If you have tried all this and are still experiencing issues, you need to document it. Take screenshots or videos and email the course account right away (BEFORE the assignment deadline).
- You are expected to **back up your written assignments as you work on them**. We do not accept the excuse that one of our systems failed to save your work. Submit your assignments at least an hour before they are due, to avoid slow connections at the last minute.
- **Technical issues need be reported BEFORE an activity is due**. Any problems reported after a deadline will not be accommodated.

INVALID EXCUSES:

Some examples of invalid reasons for missing an activity:

- issues with your personal computer/connection (you are expected to use a UTSC computer if this occurs)
- personal travel
- confusion about deadlines or instructions
- slow connections at the last minute (submit your assignments at least an hour before they are due)
- technical issues reported *after* the deadline for an activity

Note: If you are experiencing an ongoing health issue that is affecting your ability to complete your schoolwork, you should consider visiting AccessAbility Services to explore your options.

Issues with missed final exams are dealt with by the Registrar's Office, not the course instructors / administrators. Details are available here: http://www.utsc.utoronto.ca/~registrar/current_students/deferred_exams

Other Notes

Academic Integrity

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 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; and
- When you knew or ought to have known you were doing it.

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; and
- When you knew or ought to have known you were doing so.

All suspected cases of academic dishonesty will be investigated following procedures outlined in the Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters. If students have questions or concerns about what constitutes appropriate academic behaviour or appropriate research and citation methods, they are expected to seek out additional information on academic integrity from their instructors or from other institutional resources.

Students are highly encouraged to read the guide on How Not to Plagiarize and to take advantage of writing resources on campus.   The keyword here is respect – a good educational context is one in which all parties respect one another's perspective and opinions.

Note:

You may see advertisements for services offering grammar help, essay editing and proof-reading. Be very careful. If these services take a draft of your work and significantly change the content and/or language, you may be committing an academic offence (unauthorized assistance) under the *Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters.*

It is much better and safer to take your draft to the Writing Centre as early as you can. They will give you guidance you can trust. Students for whom English is not their first language should go to the English Language Development Centre.

If you decide to use these services in spite of this caution, you must keep a draft of your work and any notes you made before you got help and be prepared to give it to your instructor on request.

TurnItIn.com:

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.

AccessAbility:

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 as soon as possible.

AccessAbility Services staff (located in Rm SW302, Science Wing) are available by appointment to assess specific needs, provide referrals and arrange appropriate accommodations 416-287-7560 or email ability@utsc.utoronto.ca. The sooner you let us know your needs the quicker we can assist you in achieving your learning goals in this course.