

Contact Information

Course Instructor

Professor Kyle Danielson



Office Hours

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 11:00am-12:30pm

- Because this is an online course, Kyle's regular office hours will be held online this term
- Please see details in the section below about how to access Virtual Office Hours, or see info on Quercus
- If you would like to meet with Kyle in person, please feel free to email him to set up an appointment!

IMPORTANT NOTE: Kyle's virtual 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



Office Hours

Weekdays, 10:00am-12:00pm in SW427C

- Please email if you would like to set up an appointment at a different time.

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 virtual office hours.

Priya is also able to answer questions related to the Psychology, Mental Health Studies, and Neuroscience programs.

Notes about Email

Email about Course Policies, Assignments, and Other Administrative Concerns

The most effective way to reach us is using email. Please adhere to the following guidelines when emailing us:

If you are emailing about course policies, due dates, missed work, technical problems, or other administrative concerns:

- Send an email to psya02@utsc.utoronto.ca
- Include a short, polite subject in the subject line along with the course code (PSYA02)
- Include your student number in the subject line **and** in the body of the email
- Compose a concise, polite email to Priya outlining your request

Please note that PSYA02 is a HUGE course. Because of the volume of email we receive, we can only respond to emails that adhere closely to these guidelines. If you send an email and do not receive a response within 2-3 working days, it is likely because your email did not adhere to these guidelines. Please try again while adhering to the guidelines.

Email about Course Content (Psychology), Career Questions, and Professional Development

ONLY if you are emailing about course content (questions about psychology), career or program advice, or other questions about your academic or professional development, you may email Kyle directly at k.danielson@utoronto.ca. Please follow the same guidelines as above when emailing Kyle.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Any emails sent directly to Kyle's email address about administrative issues will be automatically forwarded to the course email address (psya02@utsc.utoronto.ca). Emailing Kyle about administrative issues is no faster or more effective than emailing the course address.

Kyle aims to respond to email very quickly, usually within 48 business hours. If you have followed the guidelines above, and you don't receive a response from him within 48 business hours (e.g., you email on a Friday afternoon and do not hear back before Tuesday afternoon), feel free to email him again.

Exceptions:

- If you email Kyle's address about administrative issues, those emails will be forwarded to the course address. Do not expect a response from Kyle about administrative issues.
- If you email Kyle about grade changes, those emails will be deleted. Kyle will never respond to emails about changes to your grades. Please see "Grade Changes" at the end of this syllabus document.

Checking Your Own Email

It is essential that you check your University of Toronto email on a **daily basis** while enrolled in this course. All correspondence will be sent to that email address. Announcements posted on Quercus will also be forwarded to that address. Failure to check your email **will not** be considered a valid excuse for missing deadlines or time-sensitive information in this course. Again, make sure that it is your *official* U of T email address that you are checking!

Discussion Boards

Quercus comes with built-in discussion boards. There are three of these for this course, and you are encouraged to make use of them to discuss course-related issues with your classmates:

- Questions about psychology
- Questions about course policies and assignments
- Study strategies, study meet-ups, etc.

Keep in mind that the discussion boards are only occasionally checked by Kyle and Priya, so email is still the best way to reach them. Also keep in mind that you are **not** anonymous on the discussion boards! Please be respectful and write your comments knowing that they are public to everyone in the class, including Kyle and Priya.

Kyle's Virtual Office Hours

Because this is an online course, Kyle's office hours will be held virtually this term. Office hours are scheduled on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 11:00am-12:30pm Toronto time, unless an exception is posted on Quercus.

To access office hours, navigate to this link: <https://zoom.us/j/834488790>

Once you navigate to the link, you will immediately be prompted to download an app (zoom.us). This app is the best and easiest way to join office hours, so you are encouraged to download it. Once you download and install the app, you can easily launch the app and join office hours using only your name (no sign-up or email address required).

A few important notes:

- When you join the office hours meeting, you will be placed in a queue. If no one else is waiting to join the office hours, you will be let in immediately.
- If you are waiting, it is probably because someone else is already meeting with Kyle. Please be patient!
- You are not required to enable your webcam if you do not want to. But you are free to enable it to have a face-to-face meeting.
- Please make sure that your audio is not muted when you join.

If you do not wish to download the app, you may click **cancel** and you may join office hours using your web browser. **However**, you should note the following:

- The app is the best, least problematic way of joining office hours.
- The browser version only works with some web browsers. If it doesn't work for yours, try another one.
- There is no video capability in the browser.
- Some browsers will not allow you to join the meeting using your computer's microphone. If that is the case, you will be given a Toronto local phone number to call from your phone in order to join the meeting.

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 **WebOption**.

Very important note: The lectures for the Summer version of PSYA02 are recorded during the previous winter term. That means that there are some **crucial** differences to pay attention to when watching these lectures. Please **carefully** read the bullet points below:

- There may be some information in the pre-recorded lectures that does not apply to the summer term. If you hear something in one of the lectures that seems confusing to you based on your knowledge of the summer course policies, that is probably why. Feel free to email the course address (psya02@utsc.utoronto.ca) to clarify.
- For example, in the summer term:
 - The peerScholar topic (see below) differs from the peerScholar topic in the winter term. You may hear Kyle mention some things about personality inventories, which is **not** the Summer peerScholar topic. All information about the Summer peerScholar topic will be posted clearly on Quercus.
 - There are **no** online surveys for the Summer term. You may hear Kyle mention online surveys, but you may ignore these.
 - Kyle may make bad jokes about how horrible the weather was this winter. You can ignore these, too.

Textbook

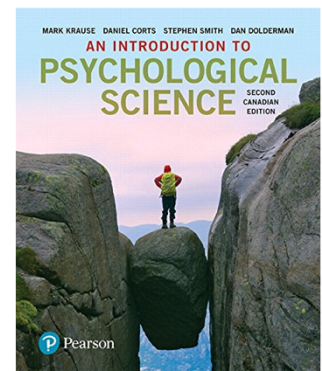
The textbook we will be using for this course is called Psychological Science (2nd **Canadian** Edition) and is authored by Krause, Smith, Corts & Dolderman.

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/kjyb47>



An important note about the relationship between the textbook and the lectures: although the lectures will be informed by the textbook, certain aspects of the textbook will be emphasized more than others. Some information may also be introduced 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). Simply reading the textbook alone or watching the lectures alone is NOT sufficient!

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 Quercus.

Grading Scheme:

5%	mTuner 1
7%	mTuner 2
9%	mTuner 3
11%	mTuner 4
15%	peerScholar writing assignment
3%	Experimental participation (SONA)
50%	Cumulative final exam

VERY 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 final exam is the only assessment in the course that guarantees independent work, so you must pass it to pass the class.

AGAIN, YOU MUST PASS THE FINAL EXAM IN ORDER TO PASS THE COURSE. THERE WILL BE NO EXCEPTIONS TO THIS POLICY.

The deadlines for all course activities will be posted on the course page on Quercus. **The deadlines are not flexible, under any circumstances, 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 Quercus.

The mTuners are meant to help you PRACTICE and to stay up to speed with the lectures. They are NOT designed to mimic the final exam. Although the question format on the mTuners and on the final exam are similar, do NOT mistake high performance on the mTuners as a guarantee of high performance on the final exam. mTuner scores are typically in the 80-90% range, because they are open-book quizzes. The final exam typically has a mean score around 60%.

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 Quercus during the second week of classes in May).
- 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 Quercus during the second week of classes.

IMPORTANT NOTE: In order to ensure that everyone gets the peer feedback to which they are entitled, leaving peer feedback is REQUIRED. That means that failing to provide peer feedback for six classmates will result in a 0 on the entire peerScholar assignment.

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 Quercus once SONA has been opened for the term** (usually starting the third week of class).

AGAIN, SONA does not open until approximately the third week of classes in May. Please do not email us asking when SONA is open. We will post an announcement on Quercus as soon as it opens.

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 in August, 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 August 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 under any circumstances.** However, 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 Other Emergency:

All students citing a documented reason for missed term work must bring their documentation to the Psychology Course Coordinator in SW427C within three (3) business days of the assignment due date. You must bring the following:

- (1.) A completed Request for Missed Term Work form (<http://uoft.me/PSY-MTW>), and
- (2.) Appropriate documentation to verify your illness or emergency, as described below.

Appropriate Documentation:

For missed assignments due to ILLNESS:

- Submit both (1.) a hardcopy of the Self-Declaration of Student Illness Form (<http://uoft.me/PSY-self-declare-form>), and (2.) the web-based departmental declaration form (<http://uoft.me/PSY-self-declare-web>).

For assignments in OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES:

- 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 from your Disability Consultant at AccessAbility Services should be sent directly to both the Course Coordinator (psychology-undergraduate@utsc.utoronto.ca) and your instructor, detailing the accommodations required.
- For U of T Varsity athletic commitments, an email from your coach or varsity administrator should be sent directly to the Course Coordinator (psychology-undergraduate@utsc.utoronto.ca), detailing the dates and nature of the commitment. The email should be sent well in advance of the missed work.

Documents covering the following situations are NOT acceptable: personal travel, weddings, or personal/work commitments.

Procedure:

Submit your (1.) [request form](#) and (2.) [medical/self-declaration](#)/other documents in person WITHIN 3 BUSINESS DAYS of the missed term test or assignment.

Submit to: Course Coordinator, Room SW427C, Monday – Friday, 9 AM – 4 PM

If you are unable to meet this deadline for some reason, you must contact the Course Coordinator via email (psychology-undergraduate@utsc.utoronto.ca) within the three business day window. Exceptions to the documentation deadline will only be made under exceptional circumstances.

Within approximately one week, you will receive an email response from the Course Instructor / Course Coordinator detailing the accommodations to be made (if any). You are responsible for checking your official U of T email and Quercus course announcements daily, as accommodations may be time-critical.

Completion of this form does NOT guarantee that accommodations will be made. The course instructor reserves the right to decide what accommodations (if any) will be made. Failure to adhere to any aspect of this policy may result in a denial of your request for accommodation.

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

IMPORTANT NOTE ABOUT PEERSCHOLAR: Phase 2 of peerScholar is required. If you are granted an accommodation for missing Phase 2 (Assess) of peerScholar, the weight of your ENTIRE peerScholar assignment (15%) will be transferred to the final exam. That means that your final exam will be worth 65%. This is not in your best interests!

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.

Other Important Notes

Department of Psychology position on Grade Norms

The Department of Psychology at UTSC is committed to providing fair, consistent, and uniform delivery of its courses from year to year. As part of this commitment, the Department mandates that all A-level courses' final course averages fall between 65% and 68%. That ensures that PSYA02 is not graded harshly in one term and leniently in another term. **Typically**, the average for PSYA02 falls below 65%, and the instructor then **adds** points to everyone's mark. However, the opposite is also theoretically possible, where the course average falls above 68%, and points have to be subtracted. This has never happened before, but the course instructor reserves the right to modify marks across the board (for all students) to conform to these averages.

Grade Changes

Under **no circumstances** will the instructor of this course change a grade for an assignment, an exam, or for the course mark. There is **no circumstance** (not a health issue, or death in the family, or impending graduation prevented by failing this course) that is compelling enough for the instructor to do so. The **only changes** made to the course marks will be the ones provided to everyone, as detailed above in the section on Grade Norms. That is the only method that ensures fairness for everyone. **Again, there are no exceptions here.** Every semester Kyle has to tell students "no", even when they present compelling and often heart-wrenching excuses. Please do not put Kyle in the awkward position of telling you "no" when you ask for a grade change. It will absolutely, under no circumstances, ever happen. You may, as always, petition the Registrar's Office if you believe that your mark has been calculated incorrectly.

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.

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.