



## PSYD33 Current Topics in Abnormal Psychology

Thursdays 10 am - 12 pm BV359

### Contact Information

**Instructor: Dr. Taryn Grieder**

**Contact:** taryn.grieder@utoronto.ca

**Office:** CCBR 1106 (UTSG)

**Office Hours:** Thursdays 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 Quercus.

### Course Evaluation/Marking Scheme

**Quizzes** - 10% (best 5 of 6): Jan 17, Jan 24, Jan 31, Feb 7, Feb 14, Feb 28

**Group presentation** - 15% (including peer and self-evaluation): (One of) Jan 24, Jan 31, Feb 7, Feb 14, or Feb 28

**Commentary paper** - 15%: March 14

**Individual presentation** - 15%: (One of) March 7, 14, 21, 28, or April 4

**Applied learning activity** - 10%: March 7

**Participation** - 5% (includes self-reflection): Ongoing

**Review paper** - 30%: April 4

There will not be a final exam for this course.

---

## Course Webpage/Quercus

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

**Note:** In order to access course material, monitor course information, and view your grades you must log into Quercus. If you have any general questions regarding Quercus, please visit the help site.

---

## 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 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](http://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](http://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](http://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 is 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 Quercus. However, the assignment dates are fixed.

Date	Topic	Assignments
<b>January 10</b>	Introductions & Overview	
<b>January 17</b>	Stress and Neuroplasticity	Quiz 1
<b>January 24</b>	Addictive Behaviours	Quiz 2; Group Presentation
<b>January 31</b>	Anxiety Disorders	Quiz 3; Group Presentation
<b>February 7</b>	Personality Disorders	Quiz 4; Group Presentation
<b>February 14</b>	Mood Disorders	Quiz 5; Group Presentation
<b>February 28</b>	Somatic & Dissociative Disorders	Quiz 6; Group Presentation
<b>March 7</b>	Developmental Disorders	Applied Learning Activity; Individual Presentations
<b>March 14</b>	Sexual Disorders	Commentary paper due; Individual Presentations
<b>March 21</b>	Eating Disorders	Individual Presentations
<b>March 28</b>	Sleep & Wake Disorders	Individual Presentations
<b>April 4</b>	Wrap up	Individual Presentations; 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 60-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 Quercus.

Individual presentation: Students will give a 10-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.

Applied learning activity: Students will demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of the course material by evaluating case studies. This assessment is done in class, and students may use any notes that they have made on course 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 assignment outline on Quercus.

---

## UTSC Policy on Missed Term Work

### Missed Term Work due to Medical Illness or Other Emergency:

All students citing a documented reason for missed term work must submit their request for accommodations **within three (3) business days** of the deadline for the missed work.

Students must submit **BOTH** of the following:

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

### Appropriate documentation:

For missed **TERM TESTS** due to **ILLNESS**:

- Submit the Request for Missed Term Work Accommodations form (<http://uoft.me/PSY-MTW>), along with an **original** copy of the official UTSC Verification of Illness Form ([uoft.me/UTSC-Verification-Of-Illness-Form](http://uoft.me/UTSC-Verification-Of-Illness-Form)) or an **original** copy of the record of visitation to a hospital emergency room. 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.

For missed **ASSIGNMENTS** due to **ILLNESS**:

- Submit the Request for Missed Term Work Accommodations form (<http://uoft.me/PSY-MTW>), along with a **hardcopy** of the Self-Declaration of Student Illness Form ([uoft.me/PSY-self-declare-form](http://uoft.me/PSY-self-declare-form)).

For missed term tests or assignments in **OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES**:

Submit the Request for Missed Term Work Accommodations form (<http://uoft.me/PSY-MTW>), along with:

- In the case of a **death of a family member or friend**, please provide a copy of a death certificate.
- In the case of a **disability-related concern**, if your desired accommodation is within the scope of your Accommodation Letter, please attach a copy of your letter. If your desired accommodation is outside the scope of your Accommodation Letter (ex. if your letter says “extensions of up to 7 days” but you need more time than that) you will need to meet with your consultant at AccessAbility Services and have them email Keely Hicks ([keely.hicks@utoronto.ca](mailto:keely.hicks@utoronto.ca)) detailing the accommodations required.
- For U of T Varsity **athletic commitments**, an email from your coach or varsity administrator should be sent directly to Keely Hicks ([keely.hicks@utoronto.ca](mailto:keely.hicks@utoronto.ca)) **well in advance** of the missed work, detailing the dates and nature of the commitment.
- For **religious accommodations**, please email ([keely.hicks@utoronto.ca](mailto:keely.hicks@utoronto.ca)) **well in advance** of the missed work.

Documents covering the following situations are NOT acceptable: medical prescriptions, personal travel, weddings/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:** Keely Hicks, Room SW420B, Monday – Friday, 9 AM – 4 PM

Exceptions to the documentation deadline will only be made under exceptional circumstances. If you are unable to meet this deadline, you must email Keely Hicks ([keely.hicks@utoronto.ca](mailto:keely.hicks@utoronto.ca)) **within the three business day window** to explain when you will be able to bring your documents in person. Attach scans of your documentation.

Within approximately one week, you will receive an email response from your instructor 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.

**Instructors cannot accept term work after April 12, 2019.** Beyond this date, you would need to file a petition with the Registrar’s Office to have your term work accepted (<https://www.utoronto.ca/registrar/term-work>).

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