

**CURRENT TOPICS IN HUMAN BRAIN AND BEHAVIOUR**  
**PSYD66 LEC01**  
**Tentative Course Outline Winter 2019**

**Instructor:** Dr. Janelle C. LeBoutillier  
Room S557A  
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Office Hours: Wed 11 to 1

**Lecture:** Tues: 2-4 in SW 316

**Textbook:** There is no textbook for this course. You will make use of the library and internet to access primary source readings.

**Course Description:**

The aim of this course is to conduct an intensive examination of a cross-section of selected topics and research problems in human brain and behaviour. Topics may include, but are not limited to, the neural bases of mental functions such as language, learning, memory, emotion, stress, motivation and sleep.

You may find that the seminar nature of this course is unlike many of the courses you have taken to date. In fact, the format of this course is similar to the type of learning experience you would gain in graduate school. As a result of the small class sizes of our D level courses at UTSC, there is a greater opportunity for independent learning. You are expected to read and discuss current empirical research in this field during our seminars.

**Learning Outcomes:**

By the end of the course you will:

1. Increase your confidence in effective oral scientific communication of course content with both experts and lay persons
2. Develop and write a review paper on an assigned topic
3. Assess current topics in brain and behaviour through in-class discussion and written assignments
4. Critique and evaluate a current literature review on a topic you are familiar with
5. Articulate your personal response to feedback on your review paper

**Grading Scheme Overview:**

15%	Class Participation
20%	Oral Presentation
3%	Literature Review Outline
32%	Literature Review
20%	Critique of Literature Review
10%	Response to Reviewer Comments

**Class Participation:**

Participation will be based on punctuality, facilitating discussion, paying careful attention to classmates' presentations, showing respect for others' contributions, and offering constructive feedback, critical questions, and comments after each group presentation.

**Oral Presentation:**

Each student will give one oral power point presentation during the term. Students will present in groups of 3 or 4. Following a brief overview of the subject area each student in the group will discuss in-depth one or 2 empirical papers. Topics to be presented will be assigned following the first week of classes. A brief one page summary of the group presentation must be approved by the instructor. In the week of your assigned presentation a near complete version of the presentation must be submitted to me no later than noon on the Tues before the lecture.

**Literature Review:**

Students will write a review paper on a specified topic which will be a maximum of 20 pages. Papers must include a title page, abstract and references. A one page outline of your paper is due on January 29, 2019. The outline will be reviewed by the instructor and feedback will be provided. For the final paper you are required to submit **one copy electronically** using TURNITIN without your name and student number and **1 printed copy** with your name and student number. Papers should be prepared according to the Publication Manual for the American Psychological Association. An exception to the APA format is the printed copy of your paper may be submitted with double sided printing but the paper must be double spaced. This assignment should be submitted electronically to TURNITIN no later than February 25, 2019 at 10 am. You may bring the printed hard copy to the class on Feb 26.

**Critique of Literature Review:**

Each student will receive 2 review papers on similar topics through Quercus. You will be required to read these papers and provide a critique of each manuscript. These critiques will be a maximum of 2 pages due March 19, 2019 at the start of the lecture. Students are required to turn in two printed copies of each of these evaluations, one with their name and student number and the other without their name and student number. You will be evaluated by the instructor on your critique of the assigned literature reviews. A copy of your evaluation (with no identification) will be provided to the author of the paper.

**Response to Reviewers Comments:**

A printed formal response addressing the concerns of the reviewers is due on Apr 2, 2019, ie the last day of our class. This should be a maximum of 2 pages and can be printed double sided.

**Late Assignments:**

A penalty of 10% per day will be given for all late assignments. All assignments are due at the start of the lecture unless noted otherwise.

## **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>).

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

### **Turnitin:**

First, some background information on this program. Turnitin.com is a tool that assists in detecting textual similarities between compared works i.e.: it is an electronic resource that assists in the detection and deterrence of plagiarism. The terms that apply to the University's use of the Turnitin.com service are described on the Turnitin.com web site.

*“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”*

Students will submit their final paper to turnitin on the quercus course page.

### **Examples of Topic Choices we will consider:**

1. Stress and the brain
2. Healthy brain aging
3. Sleep and dreaming

4. Sleep-wake disorders
5. Biorhythms: Individual variations in sleep patterns
6. The maternal brain and behavior
7. Sexual orientation
8. Healthy and disordered eating
9. Hemi-neglect
10. Face recognition
11. Narcolepsy
12. Lateralization and handedness
13. Exercise and Cognition
14. Autism
15. Pet therapy and psychology
16. Enhanced learning, is there a smart pill?
17. Mild cognitive impairment
18. Diet, health and cognition
19. Animal models of cognitive disorders
20. The male brain/female brain
21. Music and emotion
22. Others TBA

### **General Information which you should be aware of:**

The University of Toronto is dedicated to fostering an academic community in which the learning and scholarship of every member may flourish, with vigilant protection for individual human rights, and a resolute commitment to the principles of equal opportunity, equity and justice.

#### **ACCESSABILITY STATEMENT**

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 Office as soon as possible. I will work with you and AccessAbility Services to ensure you can achieve your learning goals in this course. Enquiries are confidential. The UTSC AccessAbility Services staff (located in S302) are available by appointment to assess specific needs, provide referrals and arrange appropriate accommodations (416) 287-7560 or [ability@utsc.utoronto.ca](mailto:ability@utsc.utoronto.ca).

#### **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY STATEMENT**

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 (<http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/behaveac.htm>) 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.

**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. 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 on-line institutional resources.

Also 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.

## Tentative Course Outline

Jan	8	Course introduction Topic choices for written and oral presentation to be emailed to me no later than Fri Jan 11 at 5 pm
	15	Introduction to Writing and Researching a Review Paper Assigned readings posted to Quercus
	22	Empirical articles (2 or 3) on your oral topic to be brought to class Oral presentation format discussed Individual appointments scheduled for literature outlines due next week
	29	Literature Outline due and discussed
Feb	5	Presentation 1
Feb	12	No class, work on paper
	19	READING WEEK
	25	Literature review due Monday by 10 am.
Feb	26	Presentation 2
Mar	5	Introduction to Responding to Reviewer Comments
Mar	12	Presentation 3
	19	Critique of Literature Review due Presentation 4
	26	Presentation 5
Apr	2	Response to Reviewers Comments due Presentation 6