

**CURRENT TOPICS IN HUMAN BRAIN AND BEHAVIOUR**  
**PSYD66 LEC01**  
**Tentative Course Outline Winter 2020**

**Instructor:** Dr. Janelle C. LeBoutillier  
Room S557A  
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Office Hours: Wed 12 to 1

**Lecture:** Tues: 2-4 in BV 355

**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 Mon before the lecture.

**Literature Review:**

Students will write a review paper on a specified topic which will be a maximum of 20 pages. A one page outline of your paper is **due on January 28, 2020**. The outline will be reviewed by the instructor and feedback will be provided. You are required to bring a printed copy of this to your individual meeting and this assignment should not be submitted to Turnitin.

Students are required to submit an electronic and printed copy of their final paper. The final paper is **due no later than Feb 24, 2020 at 10 am** and should be submitted electronically to TURNITIN. The time stamp on TURNITIN will be used and you should not include your name or student number on this copy. You may bring a printed hard copy to the class on Feb 25, 2020 and this copy should include your name and student number. Your final paper must include a title page, abstract and references. 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 still be double spaced.

**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 17, 2020** 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 Mar 31, 2020**, 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.
- Note: If an end date of "ongoing" is specified, the medical note will be assumed to cover a period of two weeks. If no end date / an "unknown" end date is specified, the note will be assumed to cover a period of three business days (starting from illness start date.)

For missed **TERM TESTS** due to **ACCESSABILITY REASONS**:

- Meet with your **AccessAbility consultant** and have them email Keely ([keely.hicks@utoronto.ca](mailto:keely.hicks@utoronto.ca)) detailing the accommodations 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 **ASSIGNMENTS** due to **ACCESSABILITY REASONS**:

- If your desired accommodation is **within the scope** of your Accommodation Letter (ex. your letter includes "extensions of up to 7 days" and you need 3 days), submit the Request for Missed Term Work Accommodations form (<http://uoft.me/PSY-MTW>) and attach a copy of your letter. **Specify how many days extension you are requesting** on the request form.
- If your desired accommodation is **outside the scope** of your Accommodation Letter (ex. your letter includes "extensions of up to 7 days" but you need more time than that) you will need to meet with your **AccessAbility consultant** and have them email Keely ([keely.hicks@utoronto.ca](mailto:keely.hicks@utoronto.ca)) detailing the accommodations required.

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.
- For U of T varsity-level or professional **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.
  - For circumstances **outside of these guidelines**, please email Keely ([keely.hicks@utoronto.ca](mailto:keely.hicks@utoronto.ca)) on or before the date of the test / assignment deadline to describe your circumstances and ask what documentation would be appropriate
- 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. (Slide forms under door if out of office.)

After submitting your documentation, within approximately one to five business days, you will receive a 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.**

You should continue to work on your assignments to the best of your ability, as extension accommodations may be as short as one business day, depending on the nature of the illness/emergency.

If an accommodation has been granted but you are unable to meet the conditions of the accommodation (ex. you need a longer extension, or you missed a make-up test), you will need to repeat the missed term work procedure and submit additional forms to request further accommodation. Note that in the case of a missed make-up test, an opportunity to write a second make-up test may not be provided.

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.

**Missed Accommodations**

If an accommodation is granted but a continued illness/emergency prevents you from meeting the requirements of your accommodation, you must repeat the missed term work procedure to request additional accommodations.

(E.g.) If you miss a make-up midterm, you would need to submit another Request for Missed Term Work Accommodations form. If your original medical note / documentation included the date of the make-up midterm, then only the Request form is required. If the date of the make-up midterm fell outside of the dates indicated on your original medical note/other documentation, then a new medical note/other appropriate documentation must also be submitted.

**Importance of Three Business Day window:**

If you are unable to submit your documents in-person within the three business day window, **you must email Keely ([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. Exceptions to the documentation deadline will only be made under **exceptional circumstances**. Attach scans of your documentation, and be prepared to bring your documents to Keely in-person as soon as you are well. Late documents may not be accepted.

**NOTE: Assignments due at end of term**

Instructors cannot accept term work any later than five business days after the last day of class. Beyond this date, you would need to file a petition with the Registrar's Office (<https://www.utoronto.ca/registrar/term-work>).

**NOTE: Final Exams**

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 we will consider in selecting class topics:**

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. Neurorehabilitation
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 | 7  | Course introduction<br>Topic choices for written and oral presentation to be emailed to me no later than<br>Fri Jan 10 at noon.  |
|     | 14 | Introduction to Writing and Researching a Review Paper<br>Assigned readings posted on Quercus  |
|     | 21 | Empirical articles (2 or 3) on your oral topic to be brought to class<br>Oral presentation format discussed<br>Individual appointments scheduled for literature outlines due next week |
|     | 28 | Literature Outline due and discussed   |
| Feb | 4  | Presentation 1   |
| Feb | 11 | No class, work on paper  |
|     | 18 | READING WEEK   |
|     | 24 | Literature review due Monday by 10 am.   |
| Feb | 25 | Presentation 2   |
| Mar | 3  | Introduction to Responding to Reviewer Comments  |
| Mar | 10 | Presentation 3   |
|     | 17 | Critique of Literature Review due<br>Presentation 4  |
|     | 24 | Presentation 5   |
|     | 31 | Response to Reviewers Comments due<br>Presentation 6   |