

PSYD33: Current Topics in Clinical Psychology: Psychotic Disorders
Fall 2020

Course Instructor

Mike Best

Email: m.best@utoronto.ca

Office Hours: By appointment

Class Location & Times

Wednesday 1:00pm – 3:00pm

Objectives

The objective of PSYD33 is to provide students with an in-depth understanding of research in psychotic disorders such as schizophrenia and schizoaffective disorder. Topics will include symptoms of psychotic disorders, neurocognitive dysfunction and its relationship to community functioning, pharmacological and psychological treatment, and the assessment of symptoms across the lifespan. Emphasis is placed on readings, critical review of original research articles, and conceptualizing directions for future study.

Course Format

The format of this course will be largely focused on class discussion and small group activities, with brief didactic lectures from the professor and guest lecturers. All classes will take place through virtual delivery.

Virtual Delivery

All aspects of this course will be delivered virtually through the video conferencing platform Zoom. The following link can be used to log in to the Zoom class:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89298072611?pwd=ZkNEZkZSa29PcFYxYncwZUxTNHo4dz09>

Meeting ID: 892 9807 2611

Passcode: 3k9KPB

Zoom Etiquette

Although this class is delivered virtually, it is expected that you keep your video on throughout the class unless you have prior approval from Dr. Best. It is important to keep your video on so that the instructor and other students receive visual feedback just like in a normal classroom. Additionally, we will be having several guest speakers join the class throughout the term and it is very challenging for guest speakers to speak to a class with no facial feedback. If you have extenuating circumstances that prevent you from keeping your

video turned on during class, please contact Dr. Best as soon as possible for permission.

In the interest of maintaining structure during class discussion it is expected that you keep your microphone turned off unless you are called on to make a point. Instead of jumping into conversation, please use the “Raise Hand” function in Zoom and wait until the instructor calls on you before speaking. Although it is generally expected that you will raise your hand and then verbally contribute to the discussion, there may be some instances in which it is appropriate to use the chat function. If there is a situation in which using the chat function is required, please make sure you send your comment to the entire class. The instructor will provide a Zoom overview during the first class.

Required Readings

There is no textbook for this class.

You will be assigned required readings and are expected to have read them by the start of the assigned class.

Evaluation

1. Class Presentations

(a) Topic Presentation (30%)

In teams of 5-6 students, prepare a 30-minute presentation. The presentation will be followed by 15 minutes of questions from students and the professor. Each team member should contribute equally to the development and delivery of the presentation.

Students should develop slides and/or other props for their presentation. The professor will provide the possible topic areas and specific articles for review.

Grading will be based on the comprehensiveness (7.5%) and synthesis (7.5%) of the content, clarity of the presentation (5%), ability to pose important new research questions (5%) and ability to answer questions succinctly and accurately (5%).

All students should be prepared to ask questions of their peers, which will contribute to their credit toward class participation.

(b) Examining Original Data from Popular Media Reports (20%)

In groups of approximately five, students will identify a popular press article that cites a scientific report on psychosis.

The team will retrieve the original data article that was cited and discuss in class the degree to which the media representation of the issue is supported by the data in the paper.

These class presentations will be approximately 10-15 minutes with approximately 5 minutes of discussion by the whole class.

Grading will be based on the critique of the article (10%) and a re-interpretation of the findings (10%) based on a more accurate interpretation of the data, each during the oral presentation.

2. Class Participation and Activities (20%)

(a) Discussion of Readings and Class Topic:

Students are expected to read the assigned articles prior to class. Discussion of the articles will be led by the instructor and each student is expected to provide critical comments. Students should be able to contribute to the discussion by speaking about the background and importance of the work, critique the methods chosen, and discuss the implications of the results. (10%)

(b) Participation in class debates and activities

An informal debate and a variety of other class activities will be held during the term. (10%)

3. Writing Assignments (30%)

Three writing assignments (10% each) will be assigned throughout the term. These tasks will require you to briefly (usually one to two pages double spaced) respond to specific questions from the instructor. The writing assignments will be assigned at least two weeks ahead of time.

Accessibility:

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.

AccessAbility Services staff (located in Rm AA142, Arts and Administration Building) 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.

Intellectual Property

Recording or photographing any aspect of a university course - lecture, tutorial, seminar, lab, studio, practice session, field trip etc. – without prior approval of all involved and with written approval from the instructor is not permitted. For further information on University policies, please refer to the following links for details.

<http://www.provost.utoronto.ca/Assets/Provost+Digital+Assets/Provost/Provost+Digital+Assets/Provost/fippa.pdf>

Academic Integrity

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 in papers and assignments include 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 cheating includes using or possessing unauthorized aids, looking at someone else's answers during an exam or test, misrepresenting your identity, or falsifying or altering any documentation required by the University, including (but not limited to) doctor's notes.

Time Zone conflicts

If you are physically in a different time zone and a quiz or midterm is scheduled outside of 7:00am to midnight in your local time, you may use the following form to request special arrangements. Note that the form is only for term work. [Final exam conflicts](#) are handled by the Registrar's Office.

The form must be submitted **at least ten (10) business days before the activity.**

Form: <https://uoft.me/PSY-TimeZone>

Submit via email to: Keely Hicks, Departmental Assistant, keely.hicks@utoronto.ca

Missed Term Work due to Medical Illness or Other Emergency

If you do not submit documentation in support of late or missed term work you will receive a grade of 0% in the case of missed term work (e.g. presentation) or a penalty of 10% per day an assignment is late (e.g. written assignments).

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.

Submit via email to: Keely Hicks, Departmental Assistant, keely.hicks@utoronto.ca

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 **ASSIGNMENTS or TERM TESTS** due to **FLU-LIKE SYMPTOMS or SELF-ISOLATION REQUIREMENTS:**

- Email the Request for Missed Term Work Accommodations form (uoft.me/PSY-MTW) to Keely (keely.hicks@utoronto.ca), and
- **Declare** your absence on **ACORN** (Profile & Settings > Absence Declaration)

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

- Email the Request for Missed Term Work Accommodations form (uoft.me/PSY-MTW) to Keely (keely.hicks@utoronto.ca), along with the Self-Declaration of Student Illness Form (uoft.me/PSY-self-declare-form).

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

- Email the Request for Missed Term Work Accommodations form (uoft.me/PSY-MTW) to Keely (keely.hicks@utoronto.ca), along with a scan/photo of the **original** copy of the official UTSC Verification of Illness Form (uoft.me/UTSC-Verification-Of-Illness-Form) or an **original** copy of the record of visitation to a hospital ER.
- Forms are to be completed in full, clearly indicating the start date, anticipated end date, and severity of illness. The physician's registration # 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) detailing accommodations required.

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 1-7 more days), email the Request for Missed Term Work Accommodations form (uoft.me/PSY-MTW) to Keely (keely.hicks@utoronto.ca), and attach a **copy of your letter**. Specify how many days extension you are requesting in your email.
- 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) detailing the accommodations required.

For missed **ASSIGNMENTS** or **TERM TESTS** in **OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES**:

Email the Request for Missed Term Work Accommodations form (<http://uoft.me/PSY-MTW>) form to Keely (keely.hicks@utoronto.ca), along with:

- For the **death of a family member/friend**, provide a copy of the 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 (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 (keely.hicks@utoronto.ca) **well in advance** of the missed work.
- For circumstances **outside of these guidelines**, please email Keely (keely.hicks@utoronto.ca) **on or before the date of the test / assignment deadline** to describe your circumstances and determine appropriate documentation.

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

As stated above, your documents must be submitted **within three (3) business days** of the deadline for the missed work.

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 within the three business day window, **you must email Keely** (keely.hicks@utoronto.ca) **within the three business day window** to explain the nature of the delay, and when you will be able to provide your documents. Exceptions to the documentation deadline will only be made under exceptional circumstances.

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>).

Class Schedule

Note: The following schedule is subject to change. Students will be notified of any scheduling changes.

Date	Topic	Readings and Assignments
Sept 9	Psychosis: Introduction and History	
Sept 16	Positive Symptoms	1. Tandon et al. (2009) <i>Writing Assignment 1a Due</i>
Sept 23	Negative and Neurocognitive Symptoms	1. Strauss & Cohen (2017) 2. Lepage et al. (2014)
Sept 30	Etiology	1. Insel (2010) 2. Lewis & Levitt (2002)
Oct 7	Hallucinations and Delusions as Cognitive Dysfunctions	1. Lepage et al. (2007) 2. Laroi et al. (2007)
Oct 14	Hospitalization	1. Szasz, (1970) 2. Chodoff (1984) <i>Debate</i>
Oct 21	Biological Treatments	1. Krebs et al. (2006) 2. Harrow et al. (2012) <i>Writing Assignment 2 Due</i>
Oct 28	Psychosocial Treatments	1. Dixon et al. (2010) 2. Norman et al. (2017)
Nov 4	Psychosis in the Media Class Presentations	<i>Media Presentations</i>

Nov 11	<p>Course of Illness and Outcomes</p> <hr/> <p>The Psychosis Prodrome and Ultra-High Risk</p>	<p>1. Robinson et al., (2004) <u>Supplemental Readings</u> 1. Andreasen et al., (2005) 2. Jaaskelainen., (2012) 3. Harrow et al., (2014)</p> <hr/> <p>1. McGorry et al., (2009) 2. Fusar-Poli et al., (2012) <u>Supplemental Readings</u> 1. de Koning et al., (2009) 2. Malla et al. (2016)</p> <p>Team Presentations 1 & 2</p>
Nov 18	Stigma	<p>1. Link & Phelan, (2001) <u>Supplemental Readings</u> 1. Pescosolido et al., (2011) 2. Park et al., (2012)</p> <p>Team Presentation 3</p>
Nov 25	<p>Cultural Factors in Psychosis</p> <hr/> <p>Criminality & Violence</p>	<p>1. Isaac et al., (2007) <u>Supplemental Readings</u> 1. Abbo et al., (2009) 2. Morgan et al., (2010) 3. Bauer et al., (2011)</p> <hr/> <p>1. Fazel et al., (2009) <u>Supplemental Readings</u> 1. Buchanan et al. (2019) 2. Swanson et al., (2004) 3. Quinn & Kolla (2017)</p>

		Team Presentations 4 & 5 Writing Assignment 1b Due
Dec 2	Phenomenology of Psychosis and Recovery	1. Davidson (2016) 2. Longden (2010) Writing Assignment 3 Due