

**CURRENT TOPICS IN HUMAN BRAIN AND BEHAVIOUR**  
**PSYD66 LEC01**  
**Tentative Course Outline Winter 2021**

**Instructor:** Dr. Janelle C. LeBoutillier  
Janelle.leboutillier@utoronto.ca  
Office Hours: Wed 12 to 1 by appointment

**Lecture:** Online Synchronous Tuesday 2-4 pm

**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

Overall, PSYD66 provides training in reading and understanding scientific articles, oral and written scientific communication, critical thinking, and writing a review paper

**Grading Scheme Overview:**

|     |                           |
|-----|---------------------------|
| 15% | Class Participation       |
| 20% | Oral Presentation         |
| 5%  | Literature Review Outline |

- 30% 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 in each group presentation and lecture classes. Students are expected to attend weekly classes. In addition, during the term students will be assigned to provide feedback on 2 group presentations. This feedback is to be uploaded to Quercus under the group number no later than 9 pm on the day of the presentation. A rubric will be discussed before the first 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. Specific details will be discussed in lecture. In the week of your assigned presentation, a near complete version of the presentation must be submitted by a designated group member to me no later than 9 am 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. Your final paper must include a title page, abstract and references within the 20 page limit. Papers should be prepared according to the Publication Manual for the American Psychological Association.

A one to two page outline of your paper is due on January 26, 2021. The outline will be reviewed by the instructor and feedback will be provided during a scheduled meeting. This assignment should be submitted online through Quercus. This assignment must include a tentative title, the purpose of your review summarized in a short paragraph and a tentative list of headings that will be used in your final paper. Articles that you have reviewed to date that you plan to include in a specific section should be listed under the section heading. In addition, a list of papers reviewed to date that will be included in your final paper should be included at the end of your outline following APA format.

The final paper is due no later than Feb 9, 2021 at 2 pm and should be submitted electronically to TURNITIN through Quercus. The time stamp on TURNITIN will be used and you should include your name or student number on this copy. In addition, you should submit the same final paper without your name and student ID on Quercus to the grade column marked "Literature Review for Peers". You may find it helpful to review the "peer review checklist" documents posted to Quercus again before submitting your final paper.

### **Critique of Literature Review:**

Each student will receive 2 review papers on 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 each and are due March 16, 2021 at the start of the lecture. You will be evaluated by the instructor on your critique of the assigned literature reviews. Your evaluation will be provided to the author of the paper.

### **Response to Reviewers Comments:**

A formal response addressing the concerns of the reviewers is due on Mar 30, 2021 at the start of lecture. This should be a maximum of 2 pages.

### **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.

## **Psychology Department Missed Term Work Policy, WINTER 2021**

For missed term work (assignments and term tests) due to illness, emergency, or other mitigating circumstances, please follow the procedures outlined below.

Notes:

- The following reasons are not considered sufficient for missed term work: travel for leisure, weddings, personal commitments, work commitments, human error.
- Missed Final Exams are handled by the Registrar's Office and should be declared on eService: <http://www.utoronto.ca/registrar/missing-examination>
- 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>

### **Accommodations for Illness or Emergency:**

For missed work due to ILLNESS OR EMERGENCY, please complete the following **two-step** process:

1. Complete the **Request for Missed Term Work Accommodations Form** (<http://uoft.me/PSY-MTW>) and email it to Keely Hicks at [keely.hicks@utoronto.ca](mailto:keely.hicks@utoronto.ca),  
\*and\*
2. **Declare your absence** on [ACORN](#) (Profile & Settings > Absence Declaration)

**Deadline:** You must complete the above steps **within 3 business days** of the missed work.

*Note: For this semester, we do not require any additional supporting documentation (ex. medical notes) to support your missed term work accommodation request.*

### **Accommodations for Academic Conflicts:**

For missed term work due to an ACADEMIC CONFLICT (i.e. two quizzes or tests scheduled at the same time), please complete the following process:

1. Complete the **Request for Missed Term Work Accommodations Form** (<http://uoft.me/PSY-MTW>), choosing “Other” as your reason for missed work and explaining the conflict in the space provided.
2. Take screenshots of your course homepages that demonstrate the conflict.
3. Email the form and screenshots to Keely Hicks ([keely.hicks@utoronto.ca](mailto:keely.hicks@utoronto.ca)).

**Deadline:** You should report the conflict to Keely Hicks ([keely.hicks@utoronto.ca](mailto:keely.hicks@utoronto.ca)) **at least two weeks (10 business days) before the date of the activity**, or as soon as possible if it was not possible to identify the conflict earlier.

*Note: Multiple assignments due on the same day are not considered conflicts. Accommodations may only be possible in the case of quizzes and tests that are both scheduled during the same discrete period. Back-to-back tests/quizzes are not considered conflicts.*

*Note: Students are responsible for keeping their course timetables conflict-free. Students who choose to register in two synchronous courses with overlapping lecture/tutorial/lab schedules may not necessarily be accommodated.*

#### **Accommodations for Religious Conflicts:**

For missed term work due to a RELIGIOUS CONFLICT, please complete the following process:

1. Complete the **Request for Missed Term Work Accommodations Form** (<http://uoft.me/PSY-MTW>), choosing “Other” as your reason for missed work and noting “Religious conflict” in the space provided.
2. Email the form to Keely Hicks ([keely.hicks@utoronto.ca](mailto:keely.hicks@utoronto.ca)).

**Deadline:** You should report the conflict to Keely Hicks ([keely.hicks@utoronto.ca](mailto:keely.hicks@utoronto.ca)) **at least two weeks (10 business days) before the date of the activity**, or as soon as possible if it was not possible to identify the conflict earlier.

#### **Accommodations for 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, please complete the following process:

1. Complete the **Time Zone Conflict Form** (<https://uoft.me/PSY-TimeZone>), and
2. Email the form to Keely Hicks ([keely.hicks@utoronto.ca](mailto:keely.hicks@utoronto.ca))

**Deadline:** You should report the conflict to Keely Hicks ([keely.hicks@utoronto.ca](mailto:keely.hicks@utoronto.ca)) **at least two weeks (10 business days) before the date of the activity**, or as soon as possible, if it was not possible to identify the conflict earlier.

## **Accommodations for Students Registered with [AccessAbility Services](#):**

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

- **Contact your AccessAbility consultant** and have them email Keely ([keely.hicks@utoronto.ca](mailto: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 3 days):
  1. Complete the **Request for Missed Term Work Accommodations Form** (<http://uoft.me/PSY-MTW>).
  2. Email the form and your **Accommodation Letter** to Keely Hicks ([keely.hicks@utoronto.ca](mailto:keely.hicks@utoronto.ca)).
- 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):
  1. **Contact your AccessAbility consultant** and have them email Keely Hicks ([keely.hicks@utoronto.ca](mailto:keely.hicks@utoronto.ca)) detailing the accommodations required.

### **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 and declare your extended absence on ACORN.

### **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](mailto: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**.

### **Questions?**

If you have any questions about this Missed Term Work policy, please contact Keely Hicks ([keely.hicks@utoronto.ca](mailto:keely.hicks@utoronto.ca)) **well before** the date of the test / assignment deadline to describe your circumstances and inquire about procedures.

**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. Covid Impacts
2. Stress and the brain
3. Healthy brain aging
4. Sleep and dreaming
5. Sleep-wake disorders
6. Biorhythms: Individual variations in sleep patterns
7. The maternal brain and behavior
8. Sexual orientation
9. Healthy and disordered eating
10. Hemi-neglect
11. Face recognition
12. Narcolepsy
13. Lateralization and handedness

14. Exercise and Cognition
15. Autism
16. Pet therapy and psychology
17. Enhanced learning, is there a smart pill?
18. Mild cognitive impairment
19. Diet, health and cognition
20. Neurorehabilitation
21. The male brain/female brain
22. Music and emotion
23. 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 | 12 | Course introduction<br>Topic choices for written and oral presentation to be submitted to me no later than Fri Jan 15 at noon.<br>Introduction to Writing and Researching a Review Paper Part 1 |
|     | 19 | Introduction to Writing and Researching a Review Paper Part 2<br>Assigned readings posted on Quercus<br>Individual Appointments scheduled for literature outlines due next week.                |
|     | 26 | Literature Outline due and discussed during individual appointments   |
| Feb | 2  | Empirical articles (3 or 4) on your oral topic to be brought to class<br>Oral presentation format discussed<br>Resubmission of Literature outline if required due at start of lecture           |
| Feb | 9  | Literature review due at the start of class.<br>Group oral presentation summary reviewed. Due no later than Feb 16 at 5 pm.<br>Presentation dates assigned                                      |
|     | 16 | READING WEEK  |
| Feb | 23 | Presentation 1  |
| Mar | 2  | Introduction to Responding to Reviewer Comments   |
| Mar | 9  | Presentation 2  |
|     | 16 | Presentation 3<br>Critique of Literature Review due   |
|     | 23 | Presentation 4  |
|     | 30 | Presentation 5<br>Response to Reviewers Comments due  |
| Apr | 6  | Presentation 6  |