



PSYD33 Current Topics in Abnormal Psychology Winter 2022

Contact Information

Instructor: Dr. Taryn Grieder, M.Ed., Ph.D.

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Office hours: By appointment – video conference or phone appointments available

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 biopsychosocial 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

Discussion posts - 10%: Jan 19, Jan 26, Feb 2, Feb 9, Feb 16, Mar 2

Group-led seminar presentation - 15% (including peer and self-evaluation): (One of) Jan 26, Feb 2, Feb 9, Feb 16, or Mar 2

Commentary paper - 20%: March 9

Individual presentation - 15%: (One of) March 16, 23, 30, or April 6

Applied learning activity - 10%: March 9

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

Review paper - 25%: April 6

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 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.

Ouriginal

Normally, students will be required to submit their course assignments to Ouriginal 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 Ouriginal 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 Ouriginal service are described on the Ouriginal website.

Academic Resources

Accessibility Needs:

Students with diverse learning styles and needs are welcome in this course. If you have an acute or ongoing disability issue or accommodation need, you should register with Accessibility Services (AS) (www.accessibility.utoronto.ca) at the beginning of the academic year. Without registration, you will not be able to verify your situation with your instructors, and instructors will not be advised about your accommodation needs. AS will assess your medical situation, develop an accommodation plan with you, and support you in requesting accommodation for your course work. Remember that the process of accommodation is private: AS will not share details of your condition with any instructor, and your instructors will not reveal that you are registered with AS.

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:

All students, faculty and staff are expected to follow the University's guidelines and policies on academic integrity. For students, this means following the standards of academic honesty when writing assignments, collaborating with fellow students, and writing tests and exams. Ensure

that the work you submit for grading represents your own honest efforts. Plagiarism - representing someone else's work as your own or submitting work that you have previously submitted for marks in another class or program - is a serious offence that can result in sanctions. Speak to me or your TA for advice on anything that you find unclear. To learn more about how to cite and use source material appropriately and for other writing support, see the U of T writing support website at www.writing.utoronto.ca/ . Consult the Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters for a complete outline of the University's policy and expectations. For more information, please see <http://www.artsci.utoronto.ca/osai> and <http://academicintegrity.utoronto.ca/>

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 and on COVID restrictions. Any changes will be announced in class and on Quercus.

Date	Topic	Assessments
January 12	Introductions & Overview	
January 19	Stress and Neuroplasticity	Discussion 1
January 26	Addictive Behaviours	Discussion 2; Group-led Seminar Presentation
February 2	Anxiety Disorders	Discussion 3; Group-led Seminar Presentation
February 9	Personality Disorders	Discussion 4; Group-led Seminar Presentation
February 16	Mood Disorders	Discussion 5; Group-led Seminar Presentation
March 2	Somatic & Dissociative Disorders	Discussion 6; Group-led Seminar Presentation
March 9	Applied Learning Activity (ALA)	ALA; Commentary Paper due
March 16	Developmental & Neurocognitive Disorders	Individual Presentations
March 23	Eating Disorders & Sexual Disorders	Individual Presentations
March 30	Sleep & Wake Disorders	Individual Presentations
April 6	Wrap up	Individual Presentations; Review paper due

Details on Assessments

Weekly discussion posts will demonstrate a student's understanding of the weekly assigned readings and are due prior to class. These will be completed on Quercus. There will be no opportunity to make up for missed discussion posts, so students are encouraged to complete the readings and their discussion post well in advance of the due date.

Group-led Seminar Presentations will involve facilitating discussion of readings assigned by the group to the class. Group members will give a 40-minute presentation and seminar on the week's topic. Peer evaluation and self-evaluation will account for part of each student's mark.

Commentary paper: Students will choose a recent, original research article that is relevant to the course and write a 5-page commentary paper on it. The major points should be highlighted and potential implications and significance commented on. This paper will be submitted to Ouriginal for plagiarism detection. Further details are available in the commentary assignment outline on Quercus and will be discussed in class.

Individual presentation: Students will give a 5-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 and answering questions on them. This assessment will be timed and completed on Quercus.

Review paper: Students will focus on course-related topic (ie. the relationship of stress and/or trauma to the development of a psychological disorder) and write a comprehensive review paper on it. The review should be approximately 10 double-spaced pages, not including title page and references. This paper will be submitted to Ouriginal for plagiarism detection. Further details are available in the assignment outline on Quercus and will be discussed in class.

Participation will be assessed throughout the term. Students are expected to participate during group and individual presentations in a respectful manner, and to attend all course meetings.

UTSC Psychology Department Missed Term Work Policy, Winter 2022

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

- 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, complete the following **three-step** process:

1. Complete the [Request for Missed Term Work Accommodations Form](#)
2. **Declare your absence** on [ACORN](#) (Profile & Settings > Absence Declaration)
3. **Email both the Request for Missed Term Work Accommodations Form AND a screenshot of your Self-Declared Absence on [ACORN](#)** to your instructor (taryn.grieder@utoronto.ca) **WITHIN 2 BUSINESS DAYS** of the missed work.

Note: If you are unable to submit your documents within 2-business days, **you must still email your instructor within the 2-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: For this semester, we do not require any additional supporting documentation (e.g. 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 midterms scheduled at the same time), please complete the following process:

1. Complete the [Request for Missed Term Work Accommodations Form](#), choosing “Other” 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 your course instructor **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 will not 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](#), choosing “Other” and noting “Religious conflict” in the space provided.
2. Email the form to your course instructor (taryn.grieder@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 your instructor detailing accommodations required.

For missed **ASSIGNMENTS** due to ACCESSABILITY REASONS:

- If your desired accommodation is **within the scope** of your Accommodation Letter (e.g. your letter includes “extensions of up to 7 days” and you need 3 days):
 1. Complete the [Request for Missed Term Work Accommodations Form](#).
 2. Email the form and your **Accommodation Letter** to your instructor, specifying how many days extension you are requesting.

- If your desired accommodation is **outside the scope** of your Accommodation Letter (e.g. 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 your instructor detailing the accommodations required.

Accommodation Procedure:

After submitting your documentation, you will receive a response from your instructor. This form does not guarantee that you will be accommodated. 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. **You are responsible for checking your official U of T email and Quercus course announcements daily**, as accommodations may be time-critical.

For missed assignments, **do not wait for an instructor response to resume work on your assignment**. Extension accommodations may be as short as one business day, depending on the nature of the illness/emergency. You should complete your assignment as soon as you are able and email it your instructor.

For an anticipated event (e.g. scheduled surgery or an illness with a prolonged recovery period), submit a [Verification of Illness Form](#) completed by your doctor, AND this form to your instructor if you would like to request accommodations in advance of the assignment deadline or midterm date. **Declare your future absence on [ACORN](#) (absences can be declared up to 14 days in the future).**

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. **Please make it clear in your subject line that you are requesting a second accommodation**. For example, if you are given an extension but are still sick and need more time, or if you miss a make-up midterm, you must submit another request 'Missed Term Work Accommodations' form and declare your extended absence on ACORN.

***Note: In the case of a missed make-up test, an opportunity to write a second make-up test may not be provided.