

PSYD33: Current Topics in Clinical Psychology: Psychotic Disorders
Winter 2023

Course Instructor

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Email: m.best@utoronto.ca
Office Hours: By appointment

Class Location & Times

Wednesday 1:00pm – 3:00pm
SW 316

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.

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.

Quercus

This course uses the University's learning management system, Quercus, to post information about the course. This includes posting readings and other materials required to complete class activities and course assignments, as well as sharing important announcements and updates. The site is dynamic and new information and resources will be posted regularly as we move through the term, so please make it a habit to log in to the site on a regular, even daily, basis. To access the course website, go to the U of T Quercus log-in page at <https://q.utoronto.ca>. Once you have logged in to Quercus using your UTORid and password, you should see the link or "card" for PSYD33. You may need to scroll through other cards to find this. Click on the PSYD33 link to open our course area, view the latest announcements and access your course resources. There are Quercus help guides for students that you can access by clicking on the "?" icon in the left side column.

SPECIAL NOTE ABOUT GRADES POSTED ONLINE: Please also note that any grades posted are for your information only, so you can view and track your progress through the course. No grades are considered official, including any posted in Quercus at any point in the term, until they have been formally approved and posted on ACORN at the end of the course. Please contact me as soon as possible if you think there is an error in any grade posted on Quercus.

Department of Psychology Missed Term Work Policy

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

Note:

- 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.
- Instructors cannot accept term work any later than five business days after the last day of class. Beyond this date, accommodations are only possible via the Registrar's Office [petition process](#).

The email address to submit missed term work accommodation requests in **PSYD33** is:
m.best@utoronto.ca

ILLNESS OR EMERGENCY accommodations:

For missed work due to ILLNESS OR EMERGENCY, complete the following process:

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

Note:

- *If you are unable to submit your request within 2 business days, you must still email your instructor within the 2 business day window to explain the nature of the delay. Exceptions to the 2 business day deadline will only be made under exceptional circumstances.*
- *If your absence is declared on ACORN, we do not require any additional supporting documentation (e.g. medical notes) to support your missed term work accommodation request.*

ACADEMIC CONFLICT accommodations:

For missed term work due to an ACADEMIC CONFLICT (e.g. two midterms at the same time):

1. Complete the [Request for Missed Term Work Accommodations Form](#).
2. Take screenshots of your course Quercus pages that demonstrate the conflict.
3. Email the form and screenshots to the course email **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. Requests sent after the activity deadline may not be accommodated.

Note:

- *Multiple assignments due on the same day are not considered conflicts. Students are expected to manage their time effectively to meet assignment deadlines.*
- *Back-to-back tests/quizzes are not considered conflicts. Only overlapping activities are conflicts.*
- *Students are responsible for keeping their course timetables conflict-free. Students who register in two courses with overlapping lecture/tutorial/lab schedules will not be accommodated.*

RELIGIOUS CONFLICT accommodations:

For missed term work due to a RELIGIOUS CONFLICT:

1. Complete the [Request for Missed Term Work Accommodations Form](#).
2. Email the form to the course **email 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. Requests sent after the activity deadline may not be accommodated.

ACCESSABILITY SERVICES accommodations:

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

- **Contact your AccessAbility consultant** and have them email the course email 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 the course email 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 the course email detailing the accommodations required.

Accommodation Procedure:

After submitting your documentation, you will receive a response from your instructor or TA. 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. **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 the instructor's response to resume work on your assignment**. Extensions may be as short as one business day, depending on the nature of the illness/emergency. Complete your assignment as soon as you're able, and email it to your instructor.

For an **anticipated absence** (e.g. a scheduled surgery or an illness with a prolonged recovery period), if you would like to request accommodations in advance, submit a [Verification of Illness Form](#) completed by your doctor AND the [Request for Missed Term Work Accommodations Form](#) to the course email. Absences can be declared up to 14 days into the future on ACORN.

Missed Accommodations

If an accommodation is granted but a continued illness/emergency prevents you from meeting its requirements, 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**. E.g. If you are given an extension but are still sick and need more time, or if you miss a make-up term test, you must submit *another* [Request for 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 necessarily be provided.

Disability-Related Accommodations

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 (<http://www.utsc.utoronto.ca/ability/>) 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. Please contact 416-287-7560 (tel/TTY) or email ability.utsc@utoronto.ca for more information. The sooner you let us know your needs the quicker we can assist you in achieving your learning goals in this course.

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.

Religious Accommodations

The University has a commitment concerning accommodation for religious observances. I will make every reasonable effort to avoid scheduling tests, examinations, or other compulsory activities on religious holy days not captured by statutory holidays. According to University Policy, if you anticipate being absent from class or missing a major course activity (like a test, or in-class assignment) due to a religious observance, please let me know as early in the course as possible, and with sufficient notice (at least two to three weeks), so that we can work together to make alternate arrangements.

Equity, Diversity, Inclusion

The University of Toronto is committed to equity, human rights and respect for diversity. All members of the learning environment in this course should strive to create an atmosphere of mutual respect where all members of our community can express themselves, engage with each other, and respect one another's differences. U of T does not condone discrimination or harassment against any persons or communities.

Masks in the Classroom

While the mask mandate has been paused as of 1 July 2022, the use of medical masks continues to be strongly encouraged at U of T Scarborough in indoor settings where physical distancing is not possible. We ask everyone to respect each other's decisions, comfort levels, and health needs. Masks are available at all building entrances at U of T Scarborough and in all classrooms.

Class Schedule

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

Date	Topic	Readings and Assignments
Jan 11	Psychosis: Introduction and History	
Jan 18	Positive Symptoms	1. Tandon et al. (2009) <i>Writing Assignment 1a Due</i>
Jan 25	Negative and Neurocognitive Symptoms	1. Strauss & Cohen (2017) 2. Lepage et al. (2014)
Feb 1	Etiology	1. Insel (2010) 2. Lewis & Levitt (2002)
Feb 8	Hospitalization	1. Szasz, (1970) 2. Chodoff (1984) <i>Debate</i>
Feb 15	Biological Treatments	1. Krebs et al. (2006) 2. Harrow et al. (2012) <i>Writing Assignment 2 Due</i>
Feb 22	READING WEEK	
Mar 1	Psychosocial Treatments	1. Dixon et al. (2010) 2. Norman et al. (2017)
Mar 8	Psychosis in the Media Class Presentations	<i>Media Presentations</i>
Mar 15	Course of Illness and Outcomes	1. Robinson et al., (2004) <u>Supplemental Readings</u> 1. Andreasen et al., (2005)

	<hr/> <p>The Psychosis Prodrome and Ultra-High Risk</p>	<p>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>
Mar 22	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>
Mar 29	<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> <p>Team Presentations 4 & 5 Writing Assignment 1b Due</p>

Apr 5	Phenomenology of Psychosis and Recovery	1. Davidson (2016) 2. Longden (2010) Writing Assignment 3 Due
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