

# PSYA02H3 LEC01 & LEC02

## University of Toronto Scarborough

Introduction to Clinical, Developmental, Personality and Social Psychology

Thursdays 2:00-5:00 pm SY110

### General Course Information

This course is the second part of Introduction to Psychology. Along with PSYA01, this course provides students with an overview of the foundational aspects of psychological science. In PSYA02, we will continue covering some of the **basic building blocks** of psychology, such as **intelligence, emotion, social psychology, and personality**. We'll also spend some time discussing **developmental change** across the lifespan. Finally, we'll finish the term by exploring **atypical patterns** in psychology, including psychological disorders and the treatment of them.

We think that there is something for everyone in this course. Even if you don't think that you have thought deeply about psychology before, we in fact are all amateur psychological scientists, constantly pondering and analyzing our own psychological states and those of others around us. We hope that you will find aspects of this course to be applicable to and enriching of your daily lives.

After you finish the PSYA01 and PSYA02 sequence of courses, you'll be prepared to dive further into psychological science at the B-level. We hope that, after this experience, you'll be motivated to do so! **Important note:** Although PSYA01 and PSYA02 share a textbook and many students take them in the same year, they are entirely separate courses. You do not need to have taken PSYA01 before taking PSYA02. Many of the assignments, structures, and policies in PSYA02 are **different** from PSYA01, so be sure to read through the syllabus carefully.

### Learning Objectives

By the time you finish this course, you should...

- ...have a **basic understanding** of the major concepts, findings, and theories in personality, developmental, social, health, and clinical psychology
- ...be comfortable **critiquing** a product of pop science using empirical data and theories from psychological science
- ...have practice **applying** concepts, findings, and theories from psychological science to real-world scenarios
- ...be able to **think critically** about competing theoretical claims in psychology
- ...have practice **critiquing peers' written work** and **incorporating** such feedback into your own written work
- ...have **thought deeply** about what place the study of psychological science will have in the rest of your university career and beyond

## Contact Information

### Course Instructor

Professor Vignash Tharmaratnam

Email: psya02.utoronto@utoronto.ca

Office Hours: Online on Zoom Wednesdays from 2-3 pm

### Course Staff

Alyssa Rai

Course Coordinator

Ainsley Lawson

Undergraduate Program Administrator

Email: psya02.utoronto@utoronto.ca

Questions: Zoom appointments can be arranged, if necessary, but most questions will be addressed over email.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** The course coordinator is able to answer administrative questions (assignment instructions, deadlines, accommodations, issues with SONA, etc.). For content questions, please visit Vignash's office hours. The course coordinator is also able to answer questions related to the Psychology, Mental Health Studies, and Neuroscience programs.

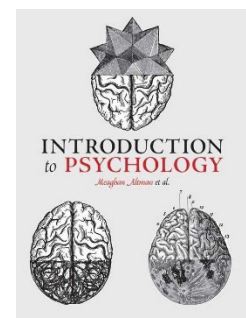
## Lectures

During most weeks, there will be one three-hour lecture for PSYA02. Please see the course calendar for a list of lecture dates. These lectures will be held in person in SY110. After the lecture ends, a video recording will be posted on Quercus by the end of the day. You are encouraged to attend lecture in whichever modality suits your learning style best (in person or by video), and you may switch back and forth throughout the term.

## Textbook and Top Hat

The textbook for PSYA02 is ***Introduction to Psychology: A Top Hat Interactive Text*** by Meaghan Altman and colleagues. The text is only accessible online. Along with the textbook, we will be using **Top Hat**, an interactive classroom tool designed to increase students' active learning and keep you on track throughout the semester.

Access to Top Hat and the textbook are purchased **online**. You may do so through the University of Toronto Bookstore (<http://uoftbookstore.com>) by selecting this course (UTSC PSYA02). **If you have already purchased these items last semester and your subscription is still valid, you do not need to do so again.**



Once you have access to Top Hat and the textbook, you must enrol in our Top Hat course (at <http://www.tophat.com>) using our course code: **867526**. Note that the course code for PSYA02 is **NOT** the same as the course code for PSYA01.

There are two types of Top Hat activity that you must complete throughout the semester:

**1. Interactive textbook activities.** These are embedded within the chapters of the textbook. You should complete these activities as you read. They will be assigned as “homework” within Top Hat, and will have due dates throughout the term to keep you on track with your readings. Textbook questions are worth ¼ point each.

**2. Lecture activities.** These are embedded within the lecture slides for the course. You should complete these activities as you attend lecture or watch the lecture videos. These too will be assigned as “homework”, and will have the same due dates as the textbook activities to keep you on track with watching or attending lectures. Lecture activity questions are worth one point each.

**An important note about the relationship between the textbook and the lectures:** although the lectures will be informed by the textbook, certain aspects of the textbook will be emphasized more than others. Some information may also be introduced that may **not** be in the textbook. The midterm test and final exam will consist of questions from **both** the lecture and the textbook. It is thus **essential** that you watch each lecture carefully and read each chapter of the textbook (preferably at least twice). Simply reading the textbook alone or watching the lectures alone is **NOT** sufficient!

## Course Mark Breakdown

All assessments **except for the midterm and final exam** will be performed **online**. Due dates for each of these assignments can be found in the **Course Deadlines** document on Quercus. Please see further below in this document for information about missed deadlines.

### Grading Scheme:

15%	peerScholar writing activity
4%	Experimental participation (SONA)
6%	Top Hat textbook and lecture exercises
30%	Midterm Test (in person – covering material from the first half of the course)
45%	Final Exam (in person – cumulative, with a focus on material from the second half of the course)
5%	Riipen experiential learning activity (optional) – if completed, will reduce the weight of the final to 40%

## peerScholar

peerScholar is an online tool that helps develop your critical thinking skills. There are three phases:

1. You will write a short composition. The topic of the composition will be released shortly after the term begins.
2. You will be randomly assigned to anonymously evaluate assignments submitted by approximately six of your peers. At the same time, approximately six peers will be anonymously evaluating your work.
3. You will revise your composition in light of the feedback you received, and course TAs will grade you on the final composition, the quality of the comments you gave to your peers, and the appropriateness of your revisions.

**Detailed information on the dates for the peerScholar activity and how to complete it will be available on Quercus after classes begin in May.**

## Riipen

Riipen is an online tool that connects university students with companies, government agencies, and non-profit organizations to work on a collaborative project within the students' area of study. This semester, each student will be using Riipen to create a small multimedia product for the organization with which we partner. We will then use peerScholar again to narrow down the projects to the top 10 finalists, whose work will be passed along to the organization. Riipen provides a chance for you to gain some experience working in the "real world" with an organization that might provide you with employment or volunteer opportunities in the future.

Details of the Riipen project will be released on Quercus shortly after the term begins. It will consist of two phases:

1. You will submit your project to peerScholar.
2. You will be randomly assigned to anonymously evaluate projects submitted by approximately six of your peers. You will assign each of these peers' projects a numeric score (1-10) for their work.

The top 10 finalists from that process will be invited to revise their work and to submit it to the organization for review, feedback, and discussion.

The grade for the Riipen project will be complete/incomplete. Most students who complete the project will receive a grade of "complete" and earn the full 5%. However, the TAs in the course will be evaluating all of the work to ensure that students put in effort when designing their projects. Incomplete drafts, work that doesn't follow instructions, or work that clearly did not involve a good faith effort to complete the project will receive marks of 0.

**Completion of Riipen is optional. If you choose not to complete it, the weight of the final will be 45% of the final grade instead of 40%. However, since grades on Riipen are usually so high, you are encouraged to complete it!**

## Experimental Participation (SONA)

Many advanced undergraduates, graduate students and faculty conduct research aimed at better understanding psychological processes. You will read about such research throughout the course, but to make what you read more concrete, another component of the class involves you serving as a participant in ongoing research. Being a participant will give you the chance to interact directly with researchers in the context of a few specific experiments, with the hope that you will come to a better understanding of psychological research through this experience. You will earn 0.5 credits for every 30 minutes of participation, up to a maximum of 4 credits (4 hours). During Winter 2023, some studies will be conducted online and others will be conducted in person. Be sure to check the location of a study when you sign up.

To find and schedule experiments, you will use a system called SONA. New experiments will be posted regularly. You earn your credits over the term as suitable experiments (i.e. ones that you want to do and that fit your schedule) become available. Detailed information will be posted to Quercus once SONA has

been opened for the term (starting approximately the third week of class).

[Again, SONA does not open until approximately the third week of classes \(end of May\). Please do not email us asking when SONA is open. We will post an announcement on Quercus as soon as it opens.](#)

Some notes:

- If you sign up for an experiment but fail to complete it, you will receive a 0.5 credit deduction from your SONA grade. If you need to cancel an appointment, you must do so using the SONA system at least 48 hours before the online study is due.
- Similarly, if a researcher needs to cancel your appointment, they must inform you 48 hours in advance.
- You must complete your experimental participation by the last day of classes for the term.

An alternative assignment will be made available during the last few weeks of class, for those who prefer not to participate in research studies, or who did not find any suitable experiments to participate in. The due date for the alternative assignment will be the same as the last day to participate in research. Detailed information on the SONA alternative assignment will be posted to Quercus.

## Midterm Test

The midterm test will take place in-person and will most likely take place after Reading Week. The exact date and time will be scheduled by the Registrar shortly after classes begin. As such, please be prepared to write the midterm test any time after Reading Week, including in the evenings and on Saturdays.

The midterm test will consist of multiple-choice questions (with answer choices A through E). It will cover material from Modules 4, 10, 11, and 12, as well as any lectures on those chapters.

The exam covers material from both the textbook and lecture, and questions may appear on the test that only appeared in one of those two modalities.

## Final Exam

The final exam will have the exact same format as the midterm exam, and will take place in person during August exam period. The Registrar will not schedule the final exam until late February or early March, so it is essential to plan to write the exam at any point during the exam period, including evenings and weekends.

Most material on the final exam will come from Modules 13-17 of the textbook. However, there will be a few questions from Modules 4, 10, 11, and 12 as well.

## COURSE POLICIES

*Please read this section in its entirety and very carefully. There are no exceptions to these policies.*

### Email about Course Policies, Assignments, and Other Administrative Concerns

The most effective way to reach us is using email. Consider reading this (somewhat tongue-in-cheek) article about writing academic emails. While the post (and particularly its title) is somewhat satirical, the advice is sound. <https://bit.ly/2v2Ethk>

If you are concerned about how to address your instructional team, you can consider the following:

- Address Vignash as “Vignash”, “Mr. Tharmaratnam”, or “Professor Tharmaratnam”, whichever you are most comfortable with.
- Address the course coordinator by their first name or by Mr./Ms. [Last Name].
- Address your TAs by their first name.

#### To contact us:

- Send an email to [psya02.uts@utoronto.ca](mailto:psya02.uts@utoronto.ca)
- Include a short, polite subject in the subject line along with the course code (PSYA02)
- Include your student number in the subject line **and** in the body of the email
- Compose a concise, polite email outlining your request.
- The course coordinator will be the first person to see these emails. If necessary, they will forward it along to the Psychology undergraduate program administrator, to Vignash, or to one of the TAs.

**Please note that PSYA02 is a very large course. Because of the volume of email we receive, we can only respond to emails that adhere closely to these guidelines. If you send an email and do not receive a response within 2-3 working days, it is likely because your email did not adhere to these guidelines. Please try again while adhering to the guidelines.**

### Your Own Email

It is essential that you check your University of Toronto email and course announcements on a **daily basis** while enrolled in this course. All correspondence will be sent to that email address, including announcements posted on Quercus (provided you have this feature turned on in Quercus.) Failure to check your email **will not** be considered a valid excuse for missing deadlines or time-sensitive information in this course. Again, make sure that it is your *official* U of T email address that you are checking!

When signing up for technological services related to this course (e.g., Top Hat, Riipen), it is essential that you use this University of Toronto email address. You also must make sure that your email in ACORN is your official University of Toronto email address, because this is how we will match your email to your student number. Please do not use your personal, non-U of T email address, or we will not be

able to trace your work to you, which may cause inaccuracies in computing your marks. The course staff is not responsible for tracking down your work if you have used an email address other than your U of T email address, and you may receive no credit for work completed using a personal, non-University address.

## Missed Term Work

Everything described above is considered a required part of the class, unless it is explicitly noted to be optional. We believe the evaluation is most fair when all students complete all components with no special consideration being applied.

If you miss a course activity, **we do not offer make-up assignments**. However, if you can provide documentation that proves you were incapable of completing an activity for a legitimate reason (legitimacy to be determined by the professor and course coordinator) then we may be able **transfer the weight** of that activity to the midterm or to final exam, or make other accommodations at our discretion. **Note that the midterm and final exam marks tend to be lowest of all the marks in the course**, so it is not in your best interest to have weight transferred to your exams. **You should avoid missing assignments if at all possible.**

For missed term work, including any assignments or tests, **please carefully follow the procedures below.**

### Psychology Department Missed Term Work Policy Summer 2023

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 **PSYA02** is:

#### **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:
  - a. the [Request for Missed Term Work Accommodations Form](#)

**\*AND\***

*b. 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.

## Technical Issues

The following policies apply with regard to technical issues. If there is a system-wide issue with any of our course activities, we will post an announcement.

- You must back up your written assignments as you work on them.
  - We do not accept the excuse that one of our systems failed to save your work. If you encounter any technical issues, you must be prepared to email us the backed-up version of your work before the activity deadline.
  - You should compose your written assignments in a Google Doc before copying them into our system (peerScholar, etc.) for submission. Google Docs will auto-save your work as you go, and will show timestamps of all changes made. This allows you to prove that you completed your work before the deadline if you encounter submission problems.
- Technical issues need be reported (by email to the course account) BEFORE an activity is due.
  - Any problems reported after a deadline **will not** be accommodated.
  - You should submit your assignments at least an hour before they are due to avoid slow connections at the last minute, and to allow time to double check that everything submitted properly.

- If you have tried different computers/browsers are still experiencing problems, you need to prove to us that (1.) something went wrong, and (2.) the work was completed before the deadline, as follows:

**To report a technical issue**, email the course account ([psya02.uts@utoronto.ca](mailto:psya02.uts@utoronto.ca)) **BEFORE** the assignment deadline with:

- your name and student number,
- a brief description of the problem,
- **a copy of your work** (i.e. attach the essay or other work you are trying to submit), and
- **screenshots/videos** of the issue to the course email account. Screenshots/videos must show the date and time on your computer.

**Invalid Excuses for Missed Work include:**

- personal travel
- confusion about deadlines or instructions
- failing to check your email or course announcements
- technical issues reported *\*after\** the deadline for an activity

Note: If you are experiencing an ongoing health issue that is affecting your ability to complete your schoolwork, you should consider visiting [AccessAbility Services](#) to explore your options.

## Other Important Notes

### University's Plagiarism Detection Tool

Normally, students will be required to submit their course essays to the University's plagiarism detection tool 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 tool's reference database, where they will be used solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism. The terms that apply to the University's use of this tool are described on the Centre for Teaching Support & Innovation website (<https://uoft.me/pdt-faq>).

### 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 PSYA02. You may need to scroll through other cards to find this. Click on the PSYA02 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.

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 position on Grade Norms

The Department of Psychology at UTSC is committed to providing fair, consistent, and uniform delivery of its courses from year to year. As part of this commitment, the Department mandates that all A-level courses' final course averages fall between 65% and 68%. That ensures that PSYA02 is not graded harshly in one term and leniently in another term. The course instructor reserves the right to modify marks across the board (for all students) to conform to these averages.

### Grade Changes

Under no circumstances will the instructor of this course change a grade for an assignment, an exam, or for the course mark. There is no circumstance (e.g., a health issue, death in the family, impending graduation prevented by failing this course) that will result in a grade change. The only changes made to the course marks will be the ones provided to everyone, as detailed above in the section on Grade Norms. That is the only method that ensures fairness for everyone. Again, there are no exceptions here. You may, as always, petition the Registrar's Office if you believe that your mark has been calculated incorrectly.

### 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.

**Very important note about academic integrity on exams:** Every semester, a few students post answers to the exam questions online using Facebook, Google Drive, or other services. **This is a contravention of the University's policy on academic integrity.** Every term that this occurs, we are made aware of the files by other students. If you are found to have published **or are a member in any group that has published** such answers, your case will be referred to the University's Academic Integrity Office, and sanctions may be applied to your grade. Previous academic sanctions in this course have ranged from a reduction of an assignment grade, to a zero in the entire course plus suspension from the University.

### 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](mailto: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.

### 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.