

PSYC10H3 Y

Judgment and Decision Making

Summer 2024 Syllabus

Course Meetings

PSYC10H3 Y

Section	Day & Time	Delivery Mode & Location
LEC01	Tuesday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM	In Person: SW 128

Refer to ACORN for the most up-to-date information about the location of the course meetings.

Course Contacts

Instructor: Dr. Steph Schwartz

Email: stephanie.schwartz@mail.utoronto.ca

Office Hours and Location: Tuesdays Noon to 2:00 PM, SW569

Course Overview

This course examines the psychology of judgment and decision making, incorporating perspectives from social psychology, cognitive psychology, and behavioral economics. Understanding these topics will allow students to identify errors and systematic biases in their own decisions and improve their ability to predict and influence the behavior of others.

Course Learning Outcomes

This course has two objectives. The first is to improve the quality of students' decisions. Students will learn to be aware of and to avoid common inferential errors and systematic biases in their own decision making. The second objective is to improve students' ability to predict and influence the behavior of others. By understanding how other people decide and behave, students will be better able to motivate desired behavior in others.

This course accomplishes this by expanding the toolbox provided by standard economics (incentives and education) to include tools of influence prescribed by a realistic understanding of human behavior. We will cover classic and contemporary theories and empirical findings in judgment and decision-making, including perspectives from social and cognitive psychology, behavioral economics, decision analysis, and other fields.

Prerequisites: [PSYB10H3 or PSYB57H3 or PSYC57H3] and [PSYB07H3 or STAB22H3 or STAB23H3] and PSYB70H3

Course Materials

There is no textbook for this course. Instead, there is a list of required readings, which are posted on Quercus according to their due dates. Whenever possible, I have chosen readings that are well-written, accessible, and apply the core concepts of this course to real-world issues.

Marking Scheme

Assessment	Percent	Details	Due Date
Midterm	25%	The midterm and final exam will each count for 25% of your grade. The midterm covers the material (readings and lectures) from weeks 1-5, and the final covers weeks 6-10 (i.e., the final is not cumulative). Exams may include short answers, essays, and multiple-choice questions. The midterm will be held in class on June 11th.	2024-06-11
Data Collection and Survey Completion Tasks	15%		No Specific Date

Assessment	Percent	Details	Due Date
Reading Quizzes	10%	<p>Starting in Week 2 there will be a 50% chance of a short quiz that tests your knowledge of the readings assigned that day. Whether or not you have a quiz will be determined by a coin flip, which means that having a quiz one week is not predictive of whether you will have a quiz the next week (i.e., don't fall prey to the gambler's fallacy!). These quizzes are designed to test whether you have carefully read all that you have been assigned to.</p> <p>As long as you read carefully and retain the most important information, you should not have to study for these quizzes. Most of the quizzes will require you to summarize one (or more) of the readings, but other quiz formats (e.g., multiple choice; short answer) are possible. Each quiz will be graded on a scale ranging from 0 to 1. You will receive a score of zero if you are absent or late for a quiz. However, your lowest quiz grade will be dropped, so you can miss one without penalty. Note: if you would like to see your quiz after it's been graded, you have a week after grades are posted to contact the TA who graded it. After this time, I may not be able to accommodate requests to see past quizzes.</p>	
Short Paper	25%	I will ask you to write a short (2-page) paper applying what you have learned. This assignment will be described in more detail later in the semester.	2024-08-07
Final Exam	25%	<p>The midterm and final exam will each count for 25% of your grade. The midterm covers the material (readings and lectures) from weeks 1-5, and the final covers weeks 6-10 (i.e., the final is not cumulative). Exams may include short answers, essays, and multiple-choice questions. The final exam will be scheduled by the registrar.</p>	Final Exam Period

Late Assessment Submissions Policy

Late assignments will be docked 10% per day after their original due dates and will not be accepted after 1 week past the due date.

I cannot accept assignments after the last day of the course, this is university policy!

Course Schedule

Week	Topic and Readings
Week 1 May 7th	Introduction and Experimental Methods 1. Thinking About Thinking (Watts) <u>Complete survey 1 by May 12th @ 11:59 PM</u>
Week 2 May 14th	Thinking About Data 2. Fairness and Justice (Watts) 3. The Odds of That (Belkin) 4. How Little We Know (Rosenzweig)
Week 3 May 21st	Think About Data II : Heuristics and Biases 5. Going Viral (Lewis) 6. The Triumph of Mediocrity <u>Complete Survey 2 by May 19 @ 11:59 PM</u>
Week 4 May 28th	Egocentric Biases 7. Vote for me (Haidt) 8. Connecting the Dots (Gladwell) 9. Why Good Accountants do Bad Audits <u>Data Collection Assignment Due May 29th @ 11:59 PM</u>
Week 5 June 4th	Intuitive vs. Statistical Decision-Making 10. Big and Bad (Gladwell) 11. Who's on First? (Thaler) 12. The No-Stats All Star (Lewis) <u>Complete Survey 3 by June 2nd @ 11:59 PM</u>
Week 6 June 11	In Class Midterm
Week 7 June 18th	No Class: Reading Week

Week 8 June 25th	Aggregating Opinions 13. The Wisdom of Crowds (Surowiecki) 14. Prediction Markets: When do they Work? (Zvi) <u>Complete Survey 4 by June 23 @ 11:59 PM</u>
Week 9 July 2nd	Value Construction I 15. Reversals (Kahneman) 16. Bernoulli's Errors (Kahneman)
Week 10 July 9th	Value Construction II 17. Prospect Theory (Kahneman) 18. Risk Policies (Kahneman)
Week 11 July 16	Nudges 19. Nudge, pgs 1 - 14 (Thaler) 20. You Need Hands (Underhill) 21. When Doctors Make Mistakes (Gawande)
Week 12 July 23	Fairness 22. What Seems Fair (Thaler) 23. Fairness Games (Thaler) <u>Short Paper Due August 7th @ 11:59 PM</u>
Week 13 July 30th	Optional Final Exam Review Session and Graduate School Q & A

UTSC POLICIES

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 web site (<https://uoft.me/pdt-faq>).

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.

Equity, Diversity and 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.

The University of Toronto is a richly diverse community and as such is committed to providing an environment free of any form of harassment, misconduct, or discrimination. In this course, I seek to foster a civil, respectful, and open-minded climate in which we can all work together to develop a better understanding of key questions and debates through meaningful dialogue. As such, I expect all involved with this course to refrain from actions or behaviours that intimidate, humiliate, or demean persons or groups or that undermine their security or self-esteem based on traits related to race, religion, ancestry, place of origin, colour, ethnic origin, citizenship, creed, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, marital status, family status, disability, receipt of public assistance or record of offences.

University Land Acknowledgement

I wish to acknowledge this land on which the University of Toronto operates. For thousands of years, it has been the traditional land of the Huron-Wendat, the Seneca, and the Mississaugas of the Credit. Today, this meeting place is still the home to many Indigenous people from across Turtle Island and we are grateful to have the opportunity to work on this land.

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 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.

Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence Tools

Students may use artificial intelligence tools, including generative AI, in this course as learning aids or to help produce assignments. However, students are ultimately accountable for the work they submit.

Students may not use artificial intelligence tools for taking tests, writing research papers, creating computer code, or completing major course assignments. However, these tools may be useful when gathering information from across sources and assimilating it for understanding.

The knowing use of generative artificial intelligence tools, including ChatGPT and other AI writing and coding assistants, for the completion of, or to support the completion of, an examination, term test, assignment, or any other form of academic assessment, may be considered an academic offense in this course.

Recording of Classroom Material by Students

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.

DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY POLICIES

Missed Term Work Policy

Using the Missed Term Work policy below is **optional**. You may prefer to develop your own system (ex. you could create your own online form instead of using our MTW form,) but you must account for the following:

- If there are legitimate, documented reasons beyond a student's control for missed work, they should be accommodated **without academic penalty** (as per the [Academic Handbook](#), 6.6)
- Students who miss a term test for an acceptable reason (e.g. illness or bereavement) **should be offered a make-up test**. For some courses it may be appropriate to allocate the value of the missed test to another test, or other piece(s) of term work, but this is **strongly discouraged** (as per the [Academic Handbook](#), 7.3)
- For a **first absence** in a course, students may simply **declare their absence on ACORN**. They can declare absence only once per term, for a period of up to 7 days. ACORN absence declarations should be considered sufficient documentation for missed work.
- If a student is **away more than once** in the term, they cannot declare additional absences on ACORN. In these cases, you have the **option to request proof** of their second+ absence, for example:
 - o A University approved Verification of Illness (VOI) form
 - o A death certificate, funeral announcement, or other supporting document for bereavement
 - o A note from a university staff member (advisor, coach, residence staff, etc.) who can substantiate the student's claims, sent directly to the instructor by email

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 procedure outlined below.

Procedure:

1. Complete the [Request for Missed Term Work Accommodations Form](#) ("MTW Form").
2. Email **BOTH** your MTW Form and Supporting Documentation to stephanie.schwartz@mail.utoronto.ca according to the instructions specified below.

Supporting Documentation Requirements and Deadlines:

Reason for Missed Work	Documentation required for a first absence in the term	Documentation required for subsequent absences in the term	Deadline for submitting MTW form and supporting documentation
Illness or Injury	ACORN Absence Declaration	UofT Verification of Illness Form	WITHIN 2 BUSINESS DAYS of the missed work
Bereavement	ACORN Absence Declaration	A death certificate or funeral announcement	WITHIN 2 BUSINESS DAYS of the missed work

University-sponsored athletic or artistic obligation at the varsity/provincial/national level	ACORN Absence Declaration	A note from a university staff member (advisor, coach, residence staff, etc.) who can substantiate the obligation, sent directly to the course email	10 BUSINESS DAYS IN ADVANCE of the missed deadline
Disability-related reasons for students registered with AccessAbility Services	<p>For missed TERM TESTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Contact your AccessAbility consultant and have them write to the course email detailing the accommodations needed. <p>For missed ASSIGNMENTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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), send your Accommodation Letter to the course email and specify 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), contact your AccessAbility consultant and have them write to the course email detailing the accommodations needed. 		PREFERABLY IN ADVANCE OF THE MISSED WORK, OR AS SOON AS POSSIBLE
Academic Conflict (e.g. two midterms at the same time)	Screenshot from Quercus demonstrating the conflict.		10 BUSINESS DAYS IN ADVANCE of the missed work
Religious Conflict	None required		

Notes:

- The following reasons are not considered sufficient for missed term work: social activities, recreational travel, technological issues, avoidance of assessments or deadlines, work commitments
- [Missed Final Exams](#) are handled by the Registrar’s Office and should be declared on eService.
- For ACORN absence declarations, the date you declare the absence is required to fall within the seven-day declaration period (i.e.) the absence cannot be submitted proactively or retroactively.
- 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](#).
- If you are unable to submit your request within the specified number of business days, you must still email your instructor within that window to explain the nature of the delay. Exceptions to the deadlines are made only under exceptional circumstances.
- Multiple assignments due on the same day are not considered academic conflicts. Students are expected to manage their time effectively to meet assignment deadlines.
- Back-to-back tests/quizzes are not considered academic 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.

Next Steps:

After submitting your documentation, you will receive a response from your instructor or TA. The course instructor reserves the right to decide what accommodations 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.

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.

Examples: If you were granted an extension for a paper but are still unable to meet the new deadline, or if you miss a make-up term test, you must submit *another* MTW form and supply documentation according to the "subsequent absences" column in the chart above. *Note: In the case of a missed make-up test, an opportunity to write a second make-up test may not necessarily be provided.