

CRITICAL ANALYSIS IN SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY
PsyD16F
COURSE OUTLINE
FALL 2024

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Class time: Wednesday 3:00 – 5:00 pm in AC332.

Office Hours: Wednesday 1:00-2:00 and Thursday 11:00-12:00

Text: van Manen, M. (1997). *Researching Lived Experience: Human Science for an Action Sensitive Pedagogy* (2nd ed.). Routledge.
<https://doi-org.myaccess.library.utoronto.ca/10.4324/9781315421056>

Additional weekly readings will be available through the library.

Goals of the Course

The course is designed to help students understand the difference between psychology as a *discipline* and as a *profession*. This is equivalent to mastering *skills* in a particular area and learning how to develop a *career*. The course will help students develop *critical* skills that can be applied both in academic and practical settings. One way to do this is to examine historical trends and issues in social psychology. Students will be assigned a different reading each week that will be discussed in detail. Assigned readings will be available on course reserves through the library. The purpose of the textbook will be to help students understand the theoretical foundations of their term paper.

Outcomes

Learn to appreciate the positive and negative aspects of “criticism.”
Learn to evaluate concepts and operations critically and place them in a historical context.
Learn to distinguish the Discipline of psychology from the Profession of psychology.
The Discipline encompasses phenomena, theory, and method.
The Profession is a social system and gatekeeper, for better or worse.
Learn about ecological validity through interviewing people about lived-experiences.

Learn about incorporating one's own emotional and empathic processes in interviews.
Learning to evaluate insights about lived-experiences in relation to mainstream ideas.

Evaluation

Your final grade is based on: Midterm (1/3), Final Exam (1/3), and Term Paper (1/3).

Students must take both the Midterm test and Final exam, and complete the term paper, to receive a grade in the course.

1. **Midterm Test:** The midterm test covers lecture materials up to the date of the test as well as Chapters 1-4 in the textbook and any additional readings. Students will be given two questions and *two hours* to answer them. One question pertains to the lecture materials and the other to the readings.

Midterm date: October 16th in class.

2. **Final Exam:** The Final exams covers all lecture materials delivered after the midterm as well as Chapters 5-7 in the textbook and any additional readings. The format will be the same as the midterm except students will have *three hours* to answer the questions.
3. **Term Paper:** The term paper (minimum 30 pages) will explore a phenomenon from everyday life that is of interest to you. Working with the professor, students will define the problem and then interview *four* people to obtain information about real episodes or events which the respondent experienced. These episodes will form the basis for the development of a theory to account for the phenomenon. In addition, students will search the literature for relevant concepts after the episode data are collected and interpreted. They will then compare their ideas with those in the literature and reflect on the overall process in an Epilogue.
Detailed instructions and a consent form will be uploaded to Quercus in due course.

Your term paper will be due (uploaded to Quercus) on the last day of the term (December 3rd) by midnight in electronic format. Please keep all preliminary notes and materials that you used for the term paper.

Late Term Papers: 2% will be deducted from the term paper grade for each day that it is late by midnight (up to 5 days).

Quercus Usage:

Midterm grades will be posted in the Grade Book.

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.

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.utscc@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 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 [<course email>](#) 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 |

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| 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 | <u>10 BUSINESS DAYS IN ADVANCE</u> 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. | | <u>PREFERABLY IN ADVANCE OF THE MISSED WORK, OR AS SOON AS POSSIBLE</u> |
| Academic Conflict (e.g. two midterms at the same time) | Screenshot from Quercus demonstrating the conflict. | <u>10 BUSINESS DAYS IN ADVANCE</u> 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