

PSYC 431 Lec 01	Current Issues in Psychopathology	Fall 2017
Instructor:	Dr. Sally During	Lecture Location: SA 235
Phone:	403-630-7043	Lecture Days/Time: MWF 9:00-9:50 a.m
Email:	sduring@shaw.ca	
Office:	Sessional Office	
Office Hours:	By appointment	

Course Description and Goals

Discussion of current developments and controversies in the assessment, etiology, and treatment of psychopathology. Emphasis will be on teaching students how to strengthen their critical thinking skills using controversial issues in the field of abnormal and clinical psychology as a basis for discussion and debate.

Course Learning Outcomes

The Department of Psychology is committed to student knowledge and skill development. The table below lists the key learning outcomes for this course, the program-learning outcomes they facilitate (see psyc.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate/program-learning-outcomes), and the expected level of achievement.

Course Learning Outcomes	Assessment Methods	PLO(s)	Level(s)
Recognize different perspectives that can be applied to ethical dilemmas: Re-examine beliefs	Midterm exams	6	A
Assess and critically evaluate information, ideas, and assumptions comprehensively and from a variety of perspectives	Paper	1, 2	A
Use relevant sources of scientific knowledge to identify, frame, and generate novel solutions to problems or issues	Group presentations, Paper	1, 2, 4	A
Transfer learning and psychological knowledge in regards to Psychopathology	Midterm exams, Paper	7	A
Give presentations to increase knowledge, foster understanding, and impact the target audience	Group presentation	1, 2, 4	A
Understand and explain key messages and concepts clearly and credibly	Short answer and Midterm Exams	1, 2, 4	A
Demonstrate an ability to communicate effectively through written communication and peer interaction	Group presentations, Paper	4	A

Notes. PLOs = Program-Learning Outcomes: 1 = demonstrate knowledge of psychological sciences, 2 = think critically and solve problems, 3 = conduct research and analyze data, 4 = communicate effectively, 5 = demonstrate information literacy, 6 = understand and implement ethical principles, 7 = apply psychological knowledge and skills. Level of PLO achievement facilitated by this course: I = introductory, C = competency, A = advanced.

Prerequisites

Psyc 312 - Experimental Design and Quantitative Methods for Psychology
Psyc 385 – Abnormal Psychology

Required Text

Halgin, R.P. (2015). Taking Sides: Clashing Views In Abnormal Psychology (8th Edition). MacGraw-Hill. Available in the University Bookstore (8th Edition required). **Note:** Previous editions of the text are not suitable for the course because the examined issues differ from the current edition.

Assessment Methods

Students are expected to attend class regularly and to participate in classroom activities. There will be two noncumulative examinations in the course. Exams will most likely consist of multiple choice, short answer and essay questions from the text, class discussions and lectures.

1. 30% of your mark will be based on a multiple choice and short answer Midterm Exam No. 1 on **October 16, 2017** scheduled during class time. Midterm Exam No. 1 will consist of material from Topics 1 -7
2. 30% of your mark is based on a position paper. You can write your own paper independently or work in a group of 2 people to create a paper on a contentious issue in clinical psychology. The paper must follow APA format, with the main body of the paper being 12-13 pages in length. You will need to identify the central issue/debate, justify why the issue is contentious (i.e. the history of the issue, relevant research in the area, differing views/positions), discuss the role of psychology in relation to the issue, create a summary/discussion, and speak of which “side” you are taking and why. A position paper must be submitted during class time on **November 3, 2017**. An electronic version must also be submitted on **November 3, 2017**. **Please note that you cannot hand in a paper or parts of a paper that you have previously handed in for another course (either for a mark or for review)**
3. 30% of your mark will be based on a multiple choice and short answer Midterm Exam No. 2 on **November 24, 2017** scheduled during class time. Midterm Exam No. 2 will consist of material from Topics 8-14
4. 10% of your mark will be based on a group presentation on a controversial area of Psychopathology during the last three classes of the term (**December 4, 6, and 8th, 2017**)
4. No study aids (such as open textbook or class notes) will be permitted during the Midterm Exams.
5. Calculators and computers, or any electronic devices cannot be used during any exam.

Points will be deducted for position papers handed in late. Late papers must be turned in to the Psychology main office, 255 Administration Building and receive a date stamp from office staff. Late papers will be subjected to a 20% penalty per day, including weekends. Late emailed papers or assignments slipped under office doors or left on desks will NOT be accepted.

Department of Psychology Criteria for Letter Grades

Psychology professors use the following criteria when assigning letter grades:

A+ grade: *Exceptional Performance*. An A+ grade indicates near perfect performance on multiple choice and short answer exams. For research papers/essays/course projects/presentations, an A+ grade is awarded for exceptional work deserving of special recognition and is therefore not a common grade.

A, A- Range: *Excellent Performance*. Superior understanding of course material. Written work is very strong in terms of critical and original thinking, content, organization, and the expression of ideas, and demonstrates student's thorough knowledge of subject matter.

B Range: *Good Performance*. Above average understanding of course material. Written work shows evidence of critical thinking and attention to organization and editing but could be improved in form and/or content.

C Range: *Satisfactory Performance*. Adequate understanding of course material. Knowledge of basic concepts and terminology is demonstrated. Written work is satisfactory and meets essential requirements but could be improved significantly in form and content. Note: All prerequisites for courses offered by the Faculty of Arts must be met with a minimum grade of C-.

D range: *Marginally meets standards*. Minimal understanding of subject matter. Written work is marginally acceptable and meets basic requirements but requires substantial improvements in form and content. Student has not mastered course material at a level sufficient for advancement into more senior courses in the same or related subjects.

F grade: *Course standards not met*. Inadequate understanding of subject matter. Written work does not meet basic requirements. Student has not demonstrated knowledge of course material at a level sufficient for course credit.

Grading Scale

A+	96-100%	B+	80-84%	C+	67-71%	D+	54-58%
A	90-95%	B	76-79%	C	63-66%	D	50-53%
A-	85-89%	B-	72-75%	C-	59-62%	F	0-49%

As stated in the University Calendar, it is at the instructor's discretion to round off either upward or downward to determine a final grade when the average of term work and final examinations is between two letter grades.

To determine final letter grades, final percentage grades will be rounded up or down to the nearest whole percentage (e.g., 89.5% will be rounded up to 90% = A but 89.4% will be rounded down to 89% = A-).

Tentative Lecture Schedule

Date		
M Sep 11	<i>University Lectures begin</i> . Is Mental Illness a Myth?	Topic 1
W Sep 13	Is Mental Illness a Myth? cont.	
F Sep 15	Is Pornography Harmful?	Topic 2
M Sep 18	Is Pornography Harmful? cont.	

W Sep 20	Does Attention Deficit Disorder Exist?	Topic 3
F Sep 22	Does Attention Deficit Disorder Exist? cont.	
F Sep 22	Last day to drop full courses (Multi-term) and Fall Term half courses. No refunds for full courses (Multi-term) or Fall Term half courses after this date.	
M Sep 25	Last day to add or swap full courses (Multi-term) and Fall Term half courses. Last day for change of registration from audit to credit or credit to audit.	
M Sep 25	Is Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) Overdiagnosed and Overtreated?	Topic 4
W Sep 27	Is Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) Overdiagnosed and Overtreated? cont	
F Sep 29	Fee payment deadline for Fall Term full and half courses.	
F Sep 29	Can Positive Psychology Make Us Happier?	Topic 5
M Oct 2	Can Positive Psychology Make Us Happier? Cont.	
W Oct 4	Do We Still Need Psychiatrists?	Topic 6
F Oct 6	Do We Still Need Psychiatrists? Cont.	
M Oct 9	<i>Thanksgiving Day, University closed (except Taylor Family Digital Library, Law, Medical, Gallagher and Business Libraries). No lectures.</i>	
W Oct 11	Should "Smart Drugs" be used to enhance Cognitive Functioning?	Topic 7
F Oct 13	Should "Smart Drugs" be used to enhance Cognitive Functioning? Cont.	
M Oct 16	MIDTERM EXAM No. 1	
W Oct 18	Should Memory Dampening Drugs be used to Prevent and Treat Trauma in Combat Soldiers?	Topic 8
F Oct 20	Should Memory Dampening Drugs be used to Prevent and Treat Trauma in Combat Soldiers? Cont.	
M Oct 23	Is Addiction a Brain Disease? Must one have Abstinence?	Topic 9
W Oct 25	Is Addiction a Brain Disease? Must one have Abstinence? Cont.	
F Oct 27	Is Excessive use of Social Media a form of Narcissism?	Topic 10
M Oct 30	Is Excessive use of Social Media a form of Narcissism? Cont.	
W Nov 1	Should Medical Marijuana be Prescribed for the Treatment of Emotional Disorders?	Topic 11
F Nov 3	Should Medical Marijuana be Prescribed for the Treatment of Emotional Disorders? Cont.	

F Nov 3	PAPER DUE	
M Nov 6	Does Research Confirm that Violent Video Games Are Harmful to Minors?	Topic 12
W Nov 8	Does Research Confirm that Violent Video Games Are Harmful to Minors? Cont.	
Nov 9-12	<i>Reading Days. No lectures.</i>	
M Nov 13	<i>Remembrance Day (Observed). University Closed (except Taylor Family Digital Library, Law, Medical, Gallagher and Business Libraries). No lectures.</i>	
W Nov 15	Must mentally ill murderers have a rational understanding of why they are being sentenced to death?	Topic 13
F Nov 17	Must mentally ill murderers have a rational understanding of why they are being sentenced to death? Cont.	
M Nov 20	Does Research Confirm That Abortion is a Psychologically Benign Experience?	Topic 14
W Nov 22	Does Research Confirm That Abortion is a Psychologically Benign Experience? Cont.	
F Nov 24	MIDTERM EXAM No. 2	
M Nov 27	Are Energy Drinks with Alcohol Dangerous Enough to Ban?	Topic 15
W Nov 29	Are Energy Drinks with Alcohol Dangerous Enough to Ban? Cont.	
F Dec 1	Group Presentation Review	
M Dec 4	Group Presentations	
W Dec 6	Group Presentations	
F Dec 8	Group Presentations	
F Dec 8	<i>Fall Term Lectures End. Last day to withdraw with permission from Fall Term half courses.</i>	
Dec 11-21	<i>Fall Term Exam Period.</i>	

Reappraisal of Grades

A student who feels that a piece of graded term work (e.g., term paper, essay, test) has been unfairly graded, may have the work re-graded as follows. The student shall discuss the work with the instructor within 15 days of being notified about the mark or of the item's return to the class; no reappraisal of term work is permitted after the 15 days. If not satisfied, the student shall immediately take the matter to the Head of the department offering the course, who will arrange for a reassessment of the work within the next 15 days. The reappraisal of term work may cause the grade to be raised, lowered, or to remain the same. If the student is not satisfied with the decision and wishes to appeal, the student shall address a letter of appeal to the Dean of the faculty offering the course within 15 days of the unfavourable decision. In the letter, the student must clearly and fully state the decision being appealed, the grounds for appeal,

and the remedies being sought, along with any special circumstances that warrant an appeal of the reappraisal. The student should include as much written documentation as possible.

Plagiarism and Other Academic Misconduct

Intellectual honesty is the cornerstone of the development and acquisition of knowledge and requires that the contribution of others be acknowledged. Consequently, plagiarism or cheating on any assignment is regarded as an extremely serious academic offense. Plagiarism involves submitting or presenting work in a course as if it were the student's own work done expressly for that particular course when, in fact, it is not. Students should examine sections of the University Calendar that present a Statement of Intellectual honesty and definitions and penalties associated with Plagiarism/Cheating/Other Academic Misconduct.

Academic Accommodations

The student accommodation policy can be found at: ucalgary.ca/access/accommodations/policy. Students needing an Accommodation because of a Disability or medical condition should communicate this need to Student Accessibility Services in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy. Students needing an Accommodation based on a Protected Ground other than Disability, should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to the instructor.

Absence From A Test/Exam

Makeup tests/exams are **NOT** an option without an official University medical excuse (see the University Calendar). A completed Physician/Counselor Statement will be required to confirm absence from a test/exam for health reasons; the student will be required to pay any cost associated with this Statement. Students who miss a test/exam have up to 48 hours to contact the instructor and to schedule a makeup test/exam. Students who do not schedule a makeup test/exam with the instructor within this 48-hour period forfeit the right to a makeup test/exam. At the instructor's discretion, a makeup test/exam may differ significantly (in form and/or content) from a regularly scheduled test/exam. **Except in extenuating circumstances (documented by an official University medical excuse), a makeup test/exam must be written within 2 weeks of the missed test/exam during exam make-up hours provided by the department <http://psychology.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate/exam-and-course-information#mues>. If a student cannot make write their final exam on the date assigned by the Registrar's Office, they need to apply for a deferred exam http://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/exams/deferred_final. Under no circumstances will this be accommodated by the department.**

Travel During Exams

Consistent with University regulations, students are expected to be available to write scheduled exams at any time during the official December and April examination periods. Requests to write a make-up exam because of conflicting travel plans (e.g., flight bookings) will NOT be considered by the department. Students are advised to wait until the final examination schedule is posted before making any travel

arrangements. If a student cannot make write their final exam on the date assigned by the Registrar's Office, they need to apply for a deferred exam http://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/exams/deferred_final. Under no circumstances will this be accommodated by the department.

Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act

The FOIP legislation disallows the practice of having student's retrieve tests and assignments from a public place. Therefore, tests and assignments may be returned to students during class/lab, or during office hours. Tests and assignments will be shredded after one year. Instructors should take care to not link students' names with their grades, UCIDs, or other FOIP-sensitive information.

Acknowledgments and Respect for Diversity

Our classrooms view diversity of identity as a strength and resource. Your experiences and different perspectives are encouraged and add to a rich learning environment that fosters critical thought through respectful discussion and inclusion.

Campus Mental Health Strategy

The University of Calgary recognizes the pivotal role that student mental health plays in physical health, social connectedness and academic success, and aspires to create a caring and supportive campus community where individuals can freely talk about mental health and receive supports when needed. We encourage you to explore the excellent mental health resources available throughout the university community, such as counselling, self-help resources, peer support or skills-building available through the SU Wellness Centre (Room 370, MacEwan Student Centre, <https://www.ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/services/mental-health-services>) and the Campus Mental Health Strategy website (<http://www.ucalgary.ca/mentalhealth/>).

Student Organizations

Psychology students may wish to join the Psychology Undergraduate Students' Association (PSYCHS). They are located in Administration 130 and may be contacted at 403-220-5567.

Student Union VP Academic: Phone: 403-220-3911 suvpaca@ucalgary.ca
Student Union Faculty Rep.: arts1@su.ucalgary.ca

Student Ombudsman's Office

The Office of the Student Ombudsmen provides independent, impartial and confidential support for students who require assistance and advice in addressing issues and concerns related to their academic careers. The office can be reached at 403-220-6420 or ombuds@ucalgary.ca (<http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds>)

Important Dates

The last day to drop this course with no "W" notation and **still receive a tuition fee refund** is **September 22, 2017**. Last day for registration/change of registration is **September 25, 2017**. The last day to withdraw from this course is **December 6, 2017**.

