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Psychology 650A	Research Seminar in Clinical Psychology	Fall 2018
<b>Instructor:</b>	Dr. Joshua Madsen	<b>Lecture Location:</b> SS 117
<b>Phone:</b>	403-210-7994	<b>Lecture Days/Time:</b> Alternate Wednesdays, 12:00-1:50, beginning September 12 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Email:</b>	jmadson@ucalgary.ca	
<b>Office:</b>	EDC 281M	
<b>Office Hours:</b>	By Appointment	

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**Course Description and Goals:**

The course is required in years 1 and 2 of the M.Sc. program and has rotation content. This course has two objectives. The first objective is to assist students with their professional development, and to provide them with information and advice for success as a clinical psychology trainee. The second objective is to help students develop their clinical research skills, including their grasp of issues related to research design and methodology. Specific course objectives include: (1) allowing students to share and develop their own research ideas and plans, (2) developing and enhancing skills in critical thinking and integrating research findings, (3) developing oral and visual presentation skills, and (4) providing exposure to selected research-related professional issues. Students are required to present their own research at the formulation and design stages and to provide constructive feedback to their peers regarding their research proposals.

This seminar includes lectures, student presentations, article critiques, and discussion. Your active involvement and participation are central to the success of this course. Lively, thoughtful discussions will make the class more interesting and enjoyable for all so your efforts to participate will pay off.

**Required Text:**

Kazdin, A.E. (2016). *Research design in clinical psychology* (5<sup>th</sup> ed.). Boston: Pearson. This text is available in the bookstore. Other readings will be assigned.

**Evaluation:**

This year-long course meets for two hours biweekly. The grading breakdown and criteria are as follows:

- Article critique exercise – December 5<sup>th</sup> (25%) – essay format, content from text/readings/lecture
- Research presentation – (25%)

- Attendance and class participation - (50%)

Attendance at each class, participation in discussion, and acceptable completion of presentations and assignments are mandatory to receive credit for this course. Students must make every effort to attend all sessions, and must confer with the instructor in advance if they find they must miss a class.

*Article critique.* Periodically students will work in class in small groups to critique an article on theoretical, methodological, and statistical grounds, suggesting alternative strategies where possible to improve the research. The course readings will help you build your research evaluation skills. In particular, articles should be read with reference to Kazdin (2016) and the CONSORT and TREND guidelines. Ask yourself, does this article meet the “gold standard” for clinical research as outlined in these sources. Keep in mind that it is important to note strengths as well as weaknesses of the research. Students may be asked to present their critiques in class. On December 5<sup>th</sup>, students will be given an article to critique as an in-class exercise. This is similar to what is required for the Candidacy Exam and is intended to provide students with that experience prior to writing the exam. Students will submit these via e-mail to the instructor at the end of the class session. Late submissions will not be accepted.

*Research presentation.* Students will each make a 45-minute presentation on their thesis research, following the outline that appears at the end of this document. Class members who are not presenting in a given class are expected to ask questions and provide constructive feedback on the project. Exact presentation dates will be established during the first 2 class sessions.

**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-).

**Important dates**

**[Fall 2018]**

Date	
R Sep 6	Lecture begins.
R Sep 13	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.

F Sep 14	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.
Nov 11-17	Reading Days. No lectures.
M Nov 12	Remembrance Day (Observed). University Closed (except Taylor Family Digital Library, Law, Medical, Gallagher and Business Libraries). No lectures.
F Dec 7	Fall Term Lectures End. Last day to withdraw with permission from Fall Term half courses.

Date	Topic	
W Sep 12	<b>This week is for M.Sc. 1 students only.</b> Introduction to the course What you need to know to achieve success in graduate school Preparing your CV	
W Sept 26	Preparing and evaluating research reports Article critiques <u>Guest Speaker: Dr. Candace Konnert</u>	Kazdin Ch. 1-3  APA (2010). <i>Preparing manuscripts for publication in psychology journals</i> . Washington D.C.: American Psychological Association. <a href="https://www.apa.org/pubs/authors/new-author-guide.pdf">https://www.apa.org/pubs/authors/new-author-guide.pdf</a>
W Oct 10	Preparing and evaluating research reports Article critiques	Kazdin Ch. 4-6  Boutron, I, Mohor, D., Altman, D. G., Schulz, K., Ravaud, P., for the CONSORT group. (2008). Extending the CONSORT Statement to randomized trials of nonpharmacologic treatment: explanation and elaboration. <i>Annals of Internal Medicine</i> , 148, 295-309. <a href="http://www.consort-statement.org/index.aspx?o=1417">http://www.consort-statement.org/index.aspx?o=1417</a>  Boutron, I, Altman, D.G., Moher, D., Schulz, K. Ravaud, P., for the CONSORT NPT Group. (2017). CONSORT Statement for randomized trials of nonpharmacologic treatments: a 2017 update and a CONSORT extension for nonpharmacologic trial abstracts. <i>Annals of Internal Medicine</i> , 167, 40-47.
W Oct 24	Preparing and evaluating research reports Article critiques	Kazdin Ch. 7-9

		Des Jarais, D. C., Lyles, C., Crepaz, N., and the TREND group. (2004). Improving the reporting quality of nonrandomized evaluations of behavioral and public health interventions: The TREND statement. <i>Am J Public Health</i> , 94, 361-366. ( <a href="http://www.cdc.gov/trendstatement/Index.html">http://www.cdc.gov/trendstatement/Index.html</a> )
W Nov 7	Behavioural Trial Design: Steps and Considerations  <u>Guest Speaker: Dr. Lianne Tomfohr-Madsen</u>	Kazdin Ch. 10-12  Czajkowski, S.M. et al. (2015). From ideas to efficacy: the ORBIT model for developing behavioral treatments for chronic diseases. <i>Health Psychology</i> , 34, 971-982.
Nov 11-17	<i>Reading Days. No lectures.</i>	
W Nov 21	Program evaluation	Kazdin Ch. 13-15
W Dec 5	Article critique exercise (in class)	Kazdin Ch. 16-19
W Jan 16	Research presentations – M.Sc. II (2)	
W Jan 30	Research presentations – M.Sc. II (2)	
W Feb 13	Research presentations – M.Sc. II (3)	
W Feb 27	Research presentations – M.Sc. I (2)	
W Mar 13	Research presentations – M.Sc. I (2)	
W Mar 27	Research presentations – M.Sc. I (2)	
W Apr 10	Research presentations – M.Sc. I (2)	

**Note:** How to read Kazdin (2016). The goal is not to remember every detail provided in the text. You need to be able to use the information provided in the text to design your own research, and to critically evaluate the research of others.

### 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 Accommodation**

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations. If you are a student with a documented disability who may require academic accommodation and have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre, please contact their office at 403-220-8237. Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre are not eligible for formal academic accommodation. You are also required to discuss your needs with your instructor no later than 14 days after the start of this course.

### **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 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](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 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](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, or will be made available only for viewing during exam review sessions scheduled by the Department. 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. The Department of Psychology would also like to acknowledge the traditional territories of the people of the Treaty 7 region in southern Alberta. The City of Calgary is also home to Métis Nation of Alberta, Region III.

### **Wellness and Mental Health Resources**

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/>).

### **Evacuation Assembly Point**

In case of an emergency evacuation during class, students must gather at the designated assembly point nearest to the classroom. The list of assembly points is found at

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>

Please check this website and note the nearest assembly point for this course.

### **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 [suypaca@ucalgary.ca](mailto:suypaca@ucalgary.ca)  
**Student Union Faculty Rep.:** [arts1@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto: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](mailto:ombuds@ucalgary.ca) (<http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds>)

### **Safewalk**

The safewalk program provides volunteers to walk students safely to their destination anywhere on campus. This service is free and available 24 hrs/day, 365 days a year.  
Call 403-220-5333.

### **Important Dates**

The last day to drop this course with no "W" notation and **still receive a tuition fee refund** is **September 13, 2018**. Last day for registration/change of registration is **September 14, 2018**. The last day to withdraw from this course is **December 7, 2018**.

## Outline for Student Research Presentations

When you present the design of your thesis research, include a discussion of each the following areas, in roughly the order presented. The basic idea is that you will lead the audience logically through the planning of your thesis and its proposed execution. Depending at what point in the semester you are presenting, it's understood that you may not have every detail of your study determined. You may also have some unresolved issues for which you would welcome some discussion and constructive input. If so, it is good practice to begin your presentation with a brief summary of your questions so that the audience can reflect on them as you speak. Presentations should be 45 minutes in length, with time at the end for discussion. Please leave some time (5-10 minutes) for questions at the end. Students are expected to ask questions and provide constructive feedback on the project. Note that I have reserved a pc and data projector for each class.

### Outline for Student Research Presentations

1. **Title of project; supervisor; committee members; date of pro-seminar**
2. **Background**—What research, published or unpublished, led up to this project? What concepts do we need to know to understand what you are studying?
3. **Study question/key hypotheses**
4. **Rationale**—Why is this study important? Why should we care about it? How does this study extend theory and/or our knowledge base?
5. **Methods**—Sample size, description; how is sample being ascertained? Procedure? Data analytic approach?
6. **Status of the research project**—If you have not already, when do you anticipate starting and completing data collection?
7. **Results and conclusions**—Preliminary or final.
8. **Methodological challenges**—What weaknesses or limitations of this study can you identify? To what extent does it or does it not meet the “gold standard?”
9. **What are some things you have learned** in designing this study? What might you do similarly and differently in designing and implementing your next project?
10. **Pending successful completion of this study, what direction should this research take?**
11. **Knowledge translation strategies** (see <http://www.cihr.ca/e/29418.html>)

**The criteria for marking your presentation are as follows (weight of each criterion will depend on the stage of your research):**

- Organization and clarity of content
- Knowledge of the extant literature and your study as an extension of this line of research
- Your ability to demonstrate the significance of the research and the rationale for your study
- Critical evaluation of your methodology (strengths and weaknesses) and suggestions for improvement (in an ideal world with vast resources of time and money)!
- Your ideas for future research and knowledge translation strategies
- Your ability to address questions and comments



## **Tips for Making Effective PowerPoint Presentations**

1. Use the slide master feature to create a consistent and simple design template. It is fine to vary the content presentation (i.e. bulleted list, 2-column text, text & image), but be consistent with other elements such as font, colors, and background.
2. Simplify and limit the number of words on each screen. Use key phrases and include only essential information.
3. Limit punctuation and avoid putting words in all capital letters. Empty space on the slide will enhance readability.
4. Use contrasting colors for text and background. Dark text on a light background is best. Patterned backgrounds can reduce readability of text.
5. Avoid the use of flashy transitions such as text fly-ins. These features may seem impressive at first, but are distracting and get old quickly.
6. Overuse of special effects such as animation and sounds may make your presentation "cutesy" and could negatively impact your credibility.
7. Use good quality images that reinforce and complement your message. Ensure that your images maintain their impact and resolution when projected on a larger screen.
8. Limit the number of slides. Presenters who constantly "flip" to the next slide are likely to lose their audience. A good rule of thumb is one slide per minute.
9. Know how to and practice moving forward AND backward within your presentation. Audiences often ask to see the previous screen again.
10. If possible, view your slides on the screen you'll be using for your presentation. Make sure they are readable from the back row seats. Text and graphics should be large enough to read, but not so large as to appear "loud."
11. Do not read from your slides. The content of your slides is for the audience, not for the presenter.
12. Do not speak to your slides. Many presenters face the direction of their presentation rather than their audience.
13. Do not apologize for anything in your presentation. If you believe something will be hard to read or understand, don't use it.
14. When possible, run your presentation from the hard disk rather than a flash drive.

These tips and suggestions came from Susan Allison, Communication Technologies Branch, Office of Communications, National Cancer Institute