PSYC*6910, Course Outline: Winter 2019

General Information

Course Title: Critical Approaches to Applied Social Psychology

Course Description:
The purpose of this course is to introduce students to theoretical and methodological resources for doing critical research in applied social psychology. The course will require students to reflect on what is meant by the term "critical," and to bring their own observations and insights into dialogue with theoretical perspectives that question the nature of social and psychological reality. Though the course will cover approaches that are "applied" in the traditional sense, it will also focus on the potential role for critique in eliciting social change through such means as stimulating public debate, and informing substantive policy development.

Credit Weight: 0.5

Academic Department (or campus): Psychology

Semester Offering: W19

Class Schedule and Location: ROZH 108

Instructor Information

Instructor Name: Kieran O'Doherty
Instructor Email: kieran.odoherty@uoguelph.ca
Office location and office hours: MACK 3014, Wednesday 1-2pm and Fridays 2:30-3:30pm

GTA Information

n/a

Course Content

Specific Learning Outcomes:

The successful student, upon completion of this course will be able to:

1. develop an understanding of critical scholarship in social psychology as it has been applied to social issues and specific problems;
2. be able to use critical scholarship as a foundation for an analysis of research and practice in at least one domain of applied social psychology;

3. be able to select and argue for the value of a particular theoretical approach for social issues related to their own research programs;
4. be able to analyse the politics of psychological expertise and intervention;
5. develop reflexive awareness of their own role as psychological experts and its implications for efforts to "apply" psychological knowledge to social issues.

Lecture Content:

We will cover the following topics:

- What do we mean by "critical"?
- The role of theory
- Critical theoretical perspectives, including:
    o Feminism
    o Marxism and Critical theory
    o Post-structuralism
    o Post-colonialism
- Social issues (not exhaustive)
    o Poverty and precarity
    o Gender and sexuality
    o Health, disability and technology
    o Racism and colonialism
    o Politics

Labs:
n/a
Seminars:
n/a

Course Assignments and Tests:

Assignment or Test	Due Date	Contribution to Final Mark (%)	Learning Outcomes Assessed
In class participation	n/a	20%	1-5
Reader response essays x 4	See below	20%	1-5
Oral presentation	See below	20%	1-5
Major research paper	8/4/2019, 5pm	40%	1-5

Additional Notes (if required):

In class Participation   20%

This will be based on quality of meaningful engagement in class discussions based on course readings. It is expected that students have read all required readings and are able to discuss them with colleagues. If a student has not contributed sufficiently for a grade to be allocated, they may be called upon to give an oral presentation in class. Students are expected to attend every class, except in the case of emergencies, and to come prepared to discuss the assigned readings.

Reader response essays   20%

These (~1000 word) essays should provide a tightly argued response to the readings for that week. They should rely on a close reading of the texts. At the start of term, students will sign up for their four weeks to submit a response essay. Essays will be due via email to the instructor 48 hrs before class.

Major research paper   40%

The purpose of this assignment will be to write a proposal/essay of 12 – 15 pages on a particular social issue in which you select a theoretical approach, formulate a plan to study/intervene in it, and explain the research and rationale that informs it. The paper should include the following:
   1. a detailed description of the issue/problem;
   2. a discussion of the research, theory and personal experience that pertains to it;
   3. a description of your proposed study/intervention and the rationale for it;
   4. a conclusion in which you critically reflect on your proposal and your learning.

Your proposal/essay will be assessed on the extent to which it addresses the following questions (which relate directly to particular course objectives):
   1. what core values underlie your proposed intervention?
   2. what particular theoretical approaches inform your proposed intervention?
   3. what are the roles of the psychologist(s) in your proposed intervention?
   4. how has the proposed intervention been affected by your own assumptions about communities, Canadian/global society, yourself, or people in general?

Oral presentation   20%

In the last two weeks of class, you will give a 20 minute presentation based on your research, reading, and thinking about your proposal/essay. This will be an opportunity to try out your ideas, stimulate discussion and debate, and get feedback from the class. You should also prepare some questions for the class to help them think through the issues with you (roughly 10 - 15 minute discussion).

Final examination date and time:
n/a

Final exam weighting:
n/a

Course Resources

Required Texts:

O'Doherty, K. C., & Hodgetts, D. (2019). The SAGE Handbook of Applied Social Psychology. London: Sage. ISBN: 9781473969261

Recommended Texts:
n/a

Lab Manual:
n/a

Other Resources:
Additional readings will be provided via CourseLink.

Field Trips:
n/a

Additional Costs:
n/a

Course Policies

Grading Policies
10% subtracted for each day late up to a maximum of 3 days (after that assignments receive an automatic zero

[Graduate Grade interpretation](#)

Course Policy on Group Work:

Course Policy regarding use of electronic devices and recording of lectures:

Electronic recording of classes is expressly forbidden without consent of the instructor. When recordings are permitted they are solely for the use of the authorized student and may not be reproduced, or transmitted to others, without the express written consent of the instructor.

University Policies

Academic Consideration

When you find yourself unable to meet an in-course requirement because of illness or compassionate reasons, please advise the course instructor in writing, with your name, id#, and e-mail contact. See the academic calendar for information on regulations and procedures for

Academic Consideration:
[Grounds for Academic Consideration](#)

Academic Misconduct

The University of Guelph is committed to upholding the highest standards of academic integrity and it is the responsibility of all members of the University community, faculty, staff, and students to be aware of what constitutes academic misconduct and to do as much as possible to prevent academic offences from occurring.

University of Guelph students have the responsibility of abiding by the University's policy on academic misconduct regardless of their location of study; faculty, staff and students have the responsibility of supporting an environment that discourages misconduct. Students need to remain aware that instructors have access to and the right to use electronic and other means of detection. Please note: Whether or not a student intended to commit academic misconduct is not relevant for a finding of guilt. Hurried or careless submission of assignments does not excuse students from responsibility for verifying the academic integrity of their work before submitting it. Students who are in any doubt as to whether an action on their part could be construed as an academic offence should consult with a faculty member or faculty advisor.

The Academic Misconduct Policy is detailed in the [Graduate Calendar](#):

Accessibility

The University of Guelph is committed to creating a barrier-free environment. Providing services for students is a shared responsibility among students, faculty and administrators. This relationship is based on respect of individual rights, the dignity of the individual and the University community's shared commitment to an open and supportive learning environment.

Students requiring service or accommodation, whether due to an identified, ongoing disability or a short-term disability should contact Student Accessibility Services as soon as possible.

For more information, contact SAS at 519-824-4120 ext. 54335 or email accessibility@uoguelph.ca or the Student Accessibility Services Website

Course Evaluation Information

Please refer to the Course and Instructor Evaluation Website .

Drop date

The last date to drop one-semester courses, without academic penalty, is March 8, 2019. For regulations and procedures for Dropping Courses, see the Current Graduate Calendar

Additional Course Information

Course instructors are allowed to use software to help in detecting plagiarism or unauthorized copying of student assignments. Plagiarism is one of the most common types of academic misconduct on our campus. Plagiarism involves students using the work, ideas and/or the exact wording of other people or sources without giving proper credit to others for the work, ideas and/or words in their papers. Students can unintentionally commit misconduct because they do not know how to reference outside sources properly or because they don't check their work carefully enough before handing it in. Whether or not a student intended to commit academic misconduct is not relevant for a finding of guilt. Hurried or careless submission of assignments does not excuse students from responsibility for verifying the academic integrity of their work before submitting it. Students who are in any doubt as to whether an action on their part could be construed as an academic offence should consult with a faculty member or faculty advisor.

In this course, your instructor will be using Turnitin.com to detect possible plagiarism, unauthorized collaboration or copying as part of the ongoing efforts to prevent plagiarism in the College of Social and Applied Human Sciences.

A major benefit of using Turnitin is that students will be able to educate and empower themselves in preventing misconduct. In this course, you may screen your own assignments through Turnitin as many times as you wish before the due date. You will be able to see and print reports that show you exactly where you have properly and improperly referenced the outside sources and materials in your assignment.