
PSYC*3000 - Historical and Critical Perspectives on Psychology

Fall 2025 Course Outline

Section: 02

Credits: 0.50

Calendar Description

The purpose of this course is to help students understand the socio-historical and theoretical context of modern psychological research and practice. This includes: 1) evaluating basic assumptions underlying modern psychology by drawing on historical, theoretical and philosophical perspectives, and 2) investigating historical and current controversies within psychology. Topics may include the question of psychology's scientific status, the assumptions embedded in psychological theory and research methodology, social constructionism, free will/agency, and the relations between psychology, power, ethics, and politics.

Prerequisite(s): PSYC*2070, PSYC*2360, (3 of PSYC*2020, PSYC*2310, PSYC*2330, PSYC*2390, PSYC*2410, PSYC*2450, PSYC*2650, PSYC*2740)

Restriction(s): Restricted to BAH.PSYC, BAH.PSYC:C, BAG.PSYC

Department(s): Department of Psychology

Course Description

In this course, you will develop your own unique view on the status of our discipline. Your view will be informed by learning about the history of our discipline and various critical perspectives on our discipline. In a typical class, the instructor will make prefatory remarks and then there will be small group discussion. You will be evaluated on the quality of your contributions to group discussions and your performance on two in-class written exams (essay style questions). This course involves A LOT OF READING and PREPARATION.

Lecture Schedule

TuTh 10am-11:20am in MAC*149 (9/4 to 12/12)

Instructor Information

Ian Newby-Clark, PhD

Professor

Email: inewby@uoguelph.ca

Office: MCKNEXT 3008

Office Hours:

By Appointment

Office Phone: x53517

Teaching Assistants

Here are your Teaching Assistants for this course:

Ms. Anastasia Bolgova <abolgova@uoguelph.ca>

Ms. Shruti Chandrashekhar Nadkarni <snadkarn@uoguelph.ca>

Ms. Laureen Owaga <lowaga@uoguelph.ca>

Ms. Riya Sharma <rsharm32@uoguelph.ca>

The TAs are available to meet with you By Appointment.

Learning Resources

Required Resources

The CourseLink site for this course is the place to go for readings, reading references, updates, and all other pertinent information. Visit it OFTEN.

Campus Resources

If you are concerned about any aspect of your academic program: Make an appointment with a Program Counsellor (<https://www.uoguelph.ca/uaic/programcounsellors/>) in your degree program. If you are struggling to succeed academically: There are numerous academic resources offered by the Learning Commons (<https://www.lib.uoguelph.ca/using-library/spaces/learning-commons/>) including, Supported Learning Groups for a variety of courses, workshops related to time management, taking multiple choice exams, and general study skills.

Cost of Textbooks and Learning Resources

All references for readings for the course, and many of the readings themselves, are available through the CourseLink website. Any readings not available on the CourseLink website are available through the library system.

Course Learning Outcomes

A Note on Schedule of Topics

The Schedule of Topics is subject to change.

Schedule of Topics and Assignments

Day	Date:	Topic	Activities	Due
Thu	9/4	Welcome to the Course!		
Tue	9/9	Scientific Racism in Psychology		
Thu	9/11	Scientific Racism in Psychology		
Tue	9/16	Levels of Analysis in Psychology		
Thu	9/18	Levels of Analysis in Psychology		
Tue	9/23	Psychology and War		
Thu	9/25	Psychology and War		
Tue	9/30	Psychology and Colonization		
Thu	10/2	Psychology and Colonization		
Tue	10/7	Preparation for In-Class Exam #1		
Thu	10/9	No Class		
Tue	10/14	Fall Study Break		
Thu	10/16	In-Class Exam #1		
Tue	10/21	Scientific Sexism in Psychology		
Thu	10/23	Scientific Sexism in Psychology		
Tue	10/28	The Replication Crisis		
Thu	10/30	The Replication Crisis		
Tue	11/4	Is Our Psychology Universal?		
Thu	11/6	Is Our Psychology Universal?		
Tue	11/11	Where Did the Person Go?		
Thu	11/13	Where Did the Person Go?		
Tue	11/18	TBA		
Thu	11/20	TBA		
Tue	11/25	Preparation for In-Class Exam #2		
Thu	11/27	In-Class Exam #2		
Tue	12/2	No Class		

Thu	12/4	No Class
Tue	12/9	No Class
Thu	12/11	No Class

Assessment Breakdown

Each class, except for the first class and the two in-class exam days, there will be new readings to be discussed. Those readings, or references for them, will be posted on CourseLink at least a week in advance, and they will be common to all students. READ and RE-READ those readings. You will be expected to know them in-depth. In addition, you are REQUIRED to bring to class ONE ADDITIONAL READING, related to that day's topic, which you find particularly interesting and insightful. The small group discussions will be enriched by students sharing what they found with their fellow group members.

The quality of participation in small group discussions will be assessed in the following way:

0% = Did Not Contribute in a Meaningful Way

100% = Contributed in a Meaningful Way

110% = Contributed in an Extraordinary Way

125% = Consistently Contributed in an Extraordinary Way

The instructor and teaching assistants will make notes on the quality of your contributions throughout the semester. Please keep in mind that quality of contribution is not the same as frequency of contribution. In addition, giving space for your fellow group members to contribute, and asking good questions of them, is as important as what you say. Formal feedback will be given halfway through the semester. Occasional absences will not affect your mark. A chronic pattern of absences could affect your mark. In such cases, please contact the instructor to discuss your particular situation.

The In-Class Exams will be written exams in essay style. You can write them on CourseLink with your browser locked down or you can write them by hand.

Description	Weighting (%)	Due Date
Quality of Participation in Small Group Discussions #1	20	~ Oct 16
In-Class Exam #1	20	Oct 16
Quality of Participation in Small Group Discussions #2	30	~ Nov 27
In-Class Exam #2	30	Nov 27

Last Day to Drop Course

The final day to drop Fall 2025 courses without academic penalty is the last day of classes: November 28

After this date, a mark will be recorded, whether course work is completed or not (a zero is assigned for missed tests/assignments). This mark will show on the student's transcript and will be calculated into their average.

CSAHS Academic Misconduct Policy

The *Academic Misconduct Policy* is detailed in the Undergraduate Calendar. 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.

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.

Instructors **shall not** determine if academic misconduct has occurred. This is up to the Associate Dean Academic's office. Instructors shall not assign a grade of zero even if they believe that the student has committed some form of academic misconduct (e.g., copied material from a website like CourseHero) on an assignment or exam.

Instructors **can** determine if a student has poorly paraphrased and/or improperly cited material and can provide a grade accordingly as long as this is clearly identified as part of the assessment criteria via a rubric or other assessment tools.

For more information about Academic Integrity resources and how to prevent Academic Misconduct.

Standard Statements for Undergraduate Courses

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The Academic Misconduct Policy (<https://calendar.uoguelph.ca/undergraduate-calendar/undergraduate-degree-regulations-procedures/academic-misconduct/>) is outlined in the Undergraduate Calendar.

Accessibility

The University promotes the full participation of students who experience disabilities in their academic programs. To that end, the provision of academic accommodation is a shared responsibility between the University and the student.

When accommodations are needed, the student is required to first register with Student Accessibility Services (SAS). Documentation to substantiate the existence of a disability is required; however, interim accommodations may be possible while that process is underway.

Accommodations are available for both permanent and temporary disabilities. It should be noted that common illnesses such as a cold or the flu do not constitute a disability. Use of the SAS Exam Centre requires students to make a booking at least 10 days in advance, and no later than the first business day in November, March or July as appropriate for the semester. Similarly, new or changed accommodations for online quizzes, tests and exams must be approved at least a week ahead of time. For students at the Guelph campus, information can be found on the SAS website. (<https://www.uoguelph.ca/sas/>)

Accommodation of Religious Obligations

If you are unable to meet an in-course requirement due to religious obligations, please email the course instructor within two weeks of the start of the semester to make alternate arrangements.

See the Academic calendar for information on regulations and procedures for Academic Accommodations of Religious Obligations (<https://calendar.uoguelph.ca/undergraduate-calendar/undergraduate-degree-regulations-procedures/academic-accommodation-religious-obligations/>).

Copies of Out-of-class Assignments

Keep paper and/or other reliable back-up copies of all out-of-class assignments: you may be asked to resubmit work at any time.

Drop Date

Students will have until the last day of classes to drop courses without academic penalty. The deadline to drop two-semester courses will be the last day of classes in the second semester. This applies to all undergraduate students except for Doctor of Veterinary Medicine and Associate Diploma in Veterinary Technology (conventional and alternative delivery) students. The regulations and procedures for course registration are available in the Undergraduate Calendar - Dropping Courses (<https://calendar.uoguelph.ca/undergraduate-calendar/undergraduate-degree-regulations-procedures/dropping-courses/>).

Email Communication

As per university regulations, all students are required to check their <uoguelph.ca> e-mail account regularly: e-mail is the official route of communication between the University and its students.

Health and Wellbeing

The University of Guelph provides a wide range of health and wellbeing services at the Vaccarino Centre for Student Wellness (<https://wellness.uoguelph.ca/>). If you are concerned about your mental health and not sure where to start, connect with a Student Wellness Navigator (<https://wellness.uoguelph.ca/navigators/>) who can help develop a plan to manage and support your mental health or check out our mental wellbeing resources (<https://wellness.uoguelph.ca/shine-this-year/>). The Student Wellness team are here to help and welcome the opportunity to connect with you.

Illness

Medical notes will not normally be required for singular instances of academic consideration, although students may be required to provide supporting documentation for multiple missed assessments or when involving a large part of a course (e.g., final exam or major assignment).

Recording of Materials

Presentations that are made in relation to course work—including lectures—cannot be recorded or copied without the permission of the presenter, whether the instructor, a student, or guest lecturer. Material recorded with permission is restricted to use for that course unless further permission is granted.

Resources

The Academic Calendars (<http://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/?index>) are the source of information about the University of Guelph's procedures, policies and regulations which apply to undergraduate, graduate and diploma programs.

When You Cannot Meet a Course Requirement

When you find yourself unable to meet an in-course requirement because of illness or compassionate reasons please advise the course instructor (or designated person, such as a teaching assistant) in writing, with your name, id#, and e-mail contact. See the Undergraduate Calendar for information on regulations and procedures for Academic Consideration. (<https://calendar.uoguelph.ca/undergraduate-calendar/undergraduate-degree-regulations-procedures/academic-consideration-appeals-petitions/>)