

PSYC*3000, Course Outline: Winter 2019

General Information

Course Title: Historical and Critical Perspectives on Psychology

Course 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 universality and scientific status, the assumptions embedded in psychological theory and research methodology, the history of madness and psychotherapy, and the relations between psychology, power, ethics, and politics.

Credit Weight: 0.50

Academic Department (or campus): Department of Psychology

Semester Offering: Winter 2018

Class Schedule and Location: Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:00am - 11:20am in MacDonald Hall Room 149

Course website: Please regularly visit the course website at <http://courselink.uoguelph.ca> to obtain important information and materials for this course, including instructions for assignments, readings, and lecture slides.

Instructor Information

Instructor Name: Thomas Sasso

Instructor Email: tsasso@uoguelph.ca

Office location: MacDonald Hall 217

Office hours: Tuesdays 1:00pm – 2:00pm

GTA Information

GTA Name: TBA

GTA Email: TBA

GTA office location and office hours: By appointment

Course Content

Specific Learning Outcomes:

Students who successfully complete this course are expected to:

1. Identify key theoretical and methodological assumptions underlying psychological research and practice, and explain how these assumptions shape and constrain psychological knowledge.
2. Understand how knowledge of psychology's history can help to make sense of its assumptions, limitations and strengths.
3. Analyze, evaluate, and reflect on these issues in relation to your own interests in psychology.
4. Express your ideas effectively through participating in class/seminar discussions and written responses to readings and lecture material.
5. Demonstrate appropriate academic independence, personal organization, and time management in completing assigned course tasks.

Lecture Content:

- Why history and critique?
- Decolonization, reconciliation, and Indigenous ways of knowing
- The origins of psychology; Is psychology universal?
- "Schools" of psychology (behaviourism, gestalt, cognitive)
- Psychology and war; Internationalization of psychology
- Psychology, agency, and free will
- Culture, mental health, and psychotherapy
- Psychology, gender, queer studies, and feminism
- Psychology, race, and racism
- Intersectionality
- Biological and brain psychology
- Epistemology and social constructionism
- Methods and variables
- Language and qualitative approaches

To genuinely benefit from this course you need to do the readings prior to attending weekly lectures. Otherwise your experience will be mixed and your grade poor. The readings from the textbook will be supplemented with other required material. The course reading list will be posted on the course website with associated dates.

Lectures and discussions are designed to both complement and supplement the readings. Substantial material not covered in the readings will be presented during class. Lectures and discussions are also designed to present links between the different topics we will be covering. This integration of the material is meant to help you create a more unified (and easier to remember) story for the course and to think more critically about psychological research.

Course Assignments and Tests:

Assignment or Test	Due Date	Contribution to Final Mark (%)	Learning Outcomes Assessed
Reflection papers (8 x 10%)	Mondays by 8pm (specific dates provided on CourseLink)	80%	All
Participation in class discussions	N/A	20%	1, 2, 3, 4

Additional Notes:

Participation in Discussion: This will be based on quality of meaningful engagement in class discussions. 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 cases of emergencies, and to come prepared to discuss the assigned readings.

Class discussions are the main component of this course. Their main purpose is to provide an opportunity to explore ideas and to clarify your understanding of course material. For this reason it is to be expected that you will change your mind, perhaps several time, on topics and issues in the course. Your discussion grade is not based on whether you agree or disagree with the course readings or with others in your class, but on the ways in which you are able to do so respectfully, critically, coherently, and reflexively. Specific details regarding discussions will be provided on the course website in supplementary documentation.

Reflection Papers: The main aim of the reflection papers is to provide you with a written means of engaging with the week's readings and class discussions. You will be graded on 8 out of the 10 assigned papers, randomly chosen by your TAs and the instructor.

There is no strict rule for how to write your papers, as long as they reflect an attempt to critically and creatively engage with, and make sense of, the ideas and topics raised for the week. For example, you can write about links between history, theoretical ideas, and personal life experiences; you can reflect on connections between course content and ideas in other disciplines; or you can engage with course material on its own terms, using theory and philosophical concepts from the readings and other parts of the course. If your opinion about

an issue changes during the course, you can write about this in a reflection paper. In later papers, you may also want to use them to explore broader themes that appear to link the course topics together.

The reflection papers are meant to be part of an ongoing reflection on new and sometimes complex ideas, and you can expect that your ideas about things will change as the course progresses. This means that your papers can be exploratory. Be aware, however, that your TAs and I will look for evidence that you have actually read the course material when grading your papers. Reflection papers must link back to the readings, but should not be a summary. Grading of reflection papers will adhere to the University of Guelph's Grading Procedures outlined in the [Undergraduate Calendar](#) under Resolution 1.

Format for submissions:

- APA referencing required when you are citing materials
- 600 – 900 words (2-3 double spaced pages)
- Quality is more important than quantity
- Submissions need to be electronic via the CourseLink Dropbox (please double check that your file has uploaded)
- File formats must be .doc or .docx (Pages and PDF formats are unacceptable)

Other:

- If you miss class for legitimate reasons (e.g., illness) you will still need to submit a reflection paper. Late submissions will be penalized 10% per day.

Final examination date and time: None

Final exam weighting: Not applicable

Course Resources

Required Texts:

Richards, G. (2010). *Putting psychology in its place: Critical historical perspectives*, (2nd Ed.). New York, Routledge.

Other Resources:

Additional readings (e.g., journal articles, reports, news articles, etc.) will be posted on CourseLink throughout the semester for course readings. Please regularly visit the course website at <http://courselink.uoguelph.ca> to obtain important information and materials for this course, including instructions for assignments, readings, lecture slides.

Course Policies

Grading Policies

The procedure for grading along with other important grading information is available in the supplementary instructions posted on the course website.

The time and date for submitting assignments are noted in supplementary documents. The procedure to submit the report is indicated in the instructions that will be posted on CourseLink. Late submissions for reflection papers will be penalized 10% of the marking grade per day (e.g., if the paper is out of 20, that is 2 marks deducted per day late regardless of the grade earned) up to a maximum of 3 days (after that assignments receive an automatic zero). Please note that technology issues (e.g., hard drive crashing--make sure to have backups) and leisure travel are not valid reasons for extensions.

Please also note that work submitted for grades will be **screened electronically for academic misconduct**, including breaches of academic integrity and plagiarism. In this course, your instructor will be using Turnitin, integrated with the CourseLink Dropbox tool, to detect possible plagiarism, unauthorized collaboration or copying as part of the ongoing efforts to maintain academic integrity at the University of Guelph.

All submitted assignments will be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of such papers. Use of the Turnitin.com service is subject to the Usage Policy posted on the Turnitin.com site.

A major benefit of using Turnitin is that students will be able to educate and empower themselves in preventing academic misconduct. In this course, you may screen your own assignments through Turnitin 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.

The last date to submit any materials for evaluation for this course is the last day before the final exam period starts, *April 5th at 5pm.*

Please note that there will be no supplemental evaluation/examination for this course.

Course Policy on Group Work:

You are responsible for fulfilling your duties to any groups you are assigned in this course. At a minimum, this includes: accurately completing and handing in your Student Information sheet, checking and responding to your email/texts from group members daily; promptly attending all group meetings, including those with the TA and professor; conducting your work diligently; having open conversations about group dynamics and individual performance; honestly, fairly, and promptly completing your peer evaluation.

Policy on missed classes and exams

All of the information related to the logistical and administrative components of this course will be communicated during class time. If you miss a class, it is your responsibility to make contact with a fellow student and catch up on what you missed, regardless of whether the absence was justified or not.

If you miss an evaluation (e.g., exam, due date for an assignment) you may wish to seek academic consideration for your absence (e.g., if you believe your absence qualifies for medical or compassionate reasons). Please contact the course instructor as soon as possible if you miss an exam or a due date or if you have an ongoing personal or health issue that will affect your ability to meet any due date or deadline.

Any documentation provided (e.g., doctor's notes) may be verified by different means, including calling the doctor's office for confirmation. See the undergraduate calendar for detailed information on regulations and procedures for Academic Consideration.

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.

Policy regarding materials provided by instructor and his designates

The material shared by the course instructor or by his designate (e.g., TA) as part of this course, including copies of the lecture slides, are solely for the personal use of the authorized student and may NOT be reproduced, or transmitted to others, whether it is in their original format or a modified version, without the express written consent of the course instructor.

Policy on emails

Only questions that can be answered simply, for example by yes or no or with a short sentence, will be answered by email. For longer answers you will most likely receive an email asking you to come and see the instructor.

Emails will usually be answered within 24 to 48 hours during weekdays. It is possible that some emails that are not from a university address (e.g., @hotmail.com) may be treated as spam. So do not hesitate to come and see one of us if your email was not answered. The university expects you to check your U of Guelph email account regularly, and us to use it to communicate with you.

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:

[Academic Consideration, Appeals and Petitions](#)

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 Undergraduate Calendar:

[Academic Misconduct Policy](#)

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. 56208 or email accessibility@uoguelph.ca or see the website: [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 the fortieth class day. For regulations and procedures for Dropping Courses, see the Academic Calendar:

[Current Undergraduate Calendar](#)