

Psyc 431	Current Issues in Psychopathology	Winter 2018
-----------------	--	--------------------

Instructor:	Guy Pelletier, Ph.D.	Lecture Location:	SA 147
Phone:	403-355-3212	Lecture Days/Time:	T 18:00- 20:45
Email:	gpelleti@ucalgary.ca		
Office:	A 157		
Office Hours:	T 16:30 – 18:00; 20:45-21:15		

Course Description

The course will consist of discussions 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 fields of abnormal and clinical psychology as a basis for discussion and debate. Course format will be lectures with a strong expectation for student involvement in class discussions. Students will be expected to engage in a formal presentation/debate for this course.

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)
Identify recent advances and the limits of psychological knowledge	Mid-term exams, paper, debate	1, 4	A
Use relevant sources of scientific knowledge to identify, frame, and generate novel solutions to problems or issues	Presentation, paper	2,4, 5	A
Assess and critically evaluate information, ideas, and assumptions comprehensively and from a variety of perspectives	Paper, take home exam	1,2, 4	A
Write correct, clear, concise, and convincing research papers	Paper	4,5,7	A
Give presentations to increase knowledge, foster understanding, and impact the target audience	presentation	1,2,4,5	A
Communicate and contribute to group activities and in discussions to facilitate goals	Paper, presentation	4	A
Recognize different perspectives that can be applied to ethical dilemmas	Mid-term exams, presentation, paper	6, 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

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, including the debates presented by classmates. There will be two **non-cumulative** mid-term exams in class and one take-home exam in the course. All exams will consist of short essay questions based on information from the text, class presentations and lectures. Students cannot bring any resources (notes, textbook, electronics, or otherwise) to the exam. Only exam questions and writing paper are allowed during the exam.

1. 50% of the final mark will be based on **two mid-term exams** scheduled during class time, on Tuesday **February 6 and on Tuesday March 20**. Each mid-term will count for 25% of the final mark. No textbook, class notes, study aids, or electronic devices including calculators, laptop computers, iPhones, iPads etc. will be allowed during the exams.
2. 40% of the final mark is based on a class **presentation and debate (20%)** and **position paper (20%)**. A team of 2 people will debate another team of 2 people on a contentious issue in clinical psychology. (A total of four students per debate). Students will be asked to select a day and time (within those offered) as to when they wish to present. A position paper must be submitted **at the time of the presentation**. The team of two or three people are expected to co-operate on the presentation and the position paper. 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. Electronic versions of **the presentation and the paper** must be sent to the D2L dropbox before class on the day of the presentation, and a hard copy version of the paper must also be presented to the instructor within 10 minutes of the start of class.
3. 10% of your mark is based on a **take-home exam**. The take home exam will be handed out on the last day of class, on **Tuesday April 10, and it will be due in the D2L dropbox on the last day of classes, Friday April 13, no later than 6:10 PM**. Students will lose 10% of the exam mark for every day late, including weekends.

Position papers are subject to similar rules. Late papers must be turned in to the Psychology main office, 275 Administration Building and receive a date stamp. Late papers will be subjected to a 10% penalty per day, including weekends. 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.

In this course there will be no rounding up of final grades, especially in light of the opportunities students have to increase their final grade via research participation.

Tentative Lecture Schedule

Date	Topic/Activity/Readings/Due Date
T Jan 9	<p><i>Winter term lectures begin.</i></p> <p>Course overview; discussion of presentation/debate/paper teams and debate format.</p> <p><i>Are mental disorders categorically different from 'normal' behavior</i></p> <p>Reading: Halgin introductory chapter</p>
R Jan 11	
T Jan 16	<p><i>Is Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) a real disorder?</i></p> <p>Reading: Halgin Issue #1.2</p> <p><i>Should Obesity be included in eating disorders?</i></p>
R Jan 18	
F Jan 19	Last day to drop Winter Term half-courses.
M Jan 22	Last day to add or swap Winter Term half courses. Last day for change of registration from audit to credit or credit to audit.
T Jan 23	<p>Final day for debate teams announce and get approval for topics (come prepared with two topics)</p> <p><i>Should Psychologists prescribe medication?</i></p> <p>Reading: Halgin Issue #2.1</p> <p><i>Should empirically supported therapies (ESTs) be the only forms of psychotherapy to be taught and used?</i></p>
R Jan 25	
T Jan 30	<p>Final decisions on debate topics – topics assigned</p> <p><i>Is gender identity a mental illness?</i></p> <p>Reading: Halgin Issue #1.3</p>
R Feb 1	
T Feb 6	<p>Mid Term exam #1</p> <p><i>Is addiction a brain disease?</i></p> <p>Reading: Halgin issue #2.4</p>
R Feb 8	
T Feb 13	<p>Lecture: <i>Can suicide be rational?</i></p> <p>Lecture: <i>Should hypersexuality disorder be a diagnosable mental disorder?</i></p> <p>Reading: Halgin issue #1.1</p>
R Feb 15	
Feb 18-25	Reading Week. No lectures. University is open (except Family Day). Alberta Family Day, University closed (except Taylor Family Digital Library, Law, Medical, Gallagher and Business Libraries). No lectures.
M Feb 19	Alberta Family Day, University closed (except Taylor Family Digital Library, Law, Medical, Gallagher and Business Libraries). No lectures.
T Feb 27	<p>Debate #1</p> <p>Debate #2</p>

R Mar 1	
T Mar 6	Debate #3 Debate #4
R Mar 8	
T Mar 13	Debate #5 Debate #6
R Mar 15	
T Mar 20	Midterm exam #2 Lecture: Is it appropriate to diagnose people who grieve with major depressive disorder?
R Mar 22	
T Mar 27	Debate #7 Debate #8
R Mar 29	
F Mar 30	Good Friday. University Closed
T Apr 3	Debate #9 Debate #10
R Apr 5	
T Apr 10	Take-home exam handed out Lecture: (subject TBA)
R Apr 12	
F Apr 13	Take-home exam to be sent electronically to the D2L dropbox by 6:10 PM at the latest. Winter Term Lectures End. Last day to withdraw from full courses and Winter Term half courses.
Apr 16-26	Winter Term Final Examinations.

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 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 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. Students with an exceptional extenuating circumstance (e.g., a family emergency) should contact the Department of Psychology (psyugrd@ucalgary.ca).

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/>).

I

Course Credits for Research Participation (Max 2% of final grade)

Students in most psychology courses are eligible to participate in Departmentally approved research and earn credits toward their final grades. **A maximum of two credits (2%) per course, including this course, may be applied to the student's final grade. Students earn 0.5% (0.5 credits) for each full 30 minutes of participation.** The demand for timeslots may exceed the supply in a given term. Thus, students are not guaranteed that there will be enough studies available to them to meet their credit requirements. Students should seek studies early in the term and should frequently check for open timeslots. Students can create an account and participate in Departmentally approved research studies at <http://ucalgary.sona-systems.com>. The last day to participate in studies and to assign or reassign earned credits to courses is **April 13, 2018**.

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 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>)

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 **January 19, 2018**. Last day for registration/change of registration is **January 22, 2018**. The last day to withdraw from this course is **April 13, 2018**.