



Psychology 437

Health Psychology

Instructor:	Dr. Tavis Campbell	Lecture Location:	SH 278
Phone:	403-998-0706	Lecture Days/Time:	Thursdays/17:00-19:45
Email:	t.s.campbell@ucalgary.ca		
Office:	A225		
Office Hours:	By Appointment		

Course Description and Goals

Health psychology involves the discipline and principles of psychology and human behavior in understanding how the mind, body, and behavior interact in health and disease. Class topics include psychosocial models of health and disease, stress and coping, health enhancing and health damaging behaviors, pain management, and a variety of specific behavior-related medical illnesses (e.g., heart disease, cancer, insomnia).

Course Goals:

- (1) To provide a basic and broad based overview of the field of health psychology from a biopsychosocial perspective.
- (2) To provide a practical understanding of the challenges involved in health behavior change.
- (3) To provide the foundation for students seeking advanced training in health psychology.

Prerequisites

PSYC 205 – Principles of Psychology

PSYC 312 – Experimental Design and Quantitative Methods for Psychology

Required Text

Health Psychology. A BioPsychoSocial Approach (3rd Ed.), Richard O. Straub. Bedford, Freeman & Worth, 2012. Available in the University Bookstore.

Evaluation

Paper - 40%, Exam - 40%, Verbal Report – 20%

Term Paper: (See "Term Paper" section). Points will be deducted for term papers handed in late at a rate equivalent to 10% per day (after the last class). Late papers must be turned in to the

Psychology main office, 275 Administration Building. No assignments slipped under office doors or left on desks will be accepted.

Exam: The exam contains both multiple choice and essay questions. Tests will cover information from both lectures and text chapters.

VERBAL REPORT (Due November 22nd, 29th and December 6th).

Each student will make a 5-minute statement about a health issue of your choice. There are two purposes of this special class period. The first is to make sure we touch on health topics that are of concern to students. Each of you will choose a health topic that interests you and make a very short presentation. Your statement can expand on a topic we have already covered or bring up a subject that will not otherwise be discussed. You can tell a case history of a friend or relative who had a particular disease; share your own experience with a disease or health behavior; summarize an interesting journal article; motivate the class to try a self-cure or preventive measure; inform us about an alternative therapy, a health fraud, an experience with the health care system, or anything else relevant to health psychology.

The second purpose of the assignment is to make sure everyone actively contributes to the class discussion. Public speaking is an important skill for everyone, and this is a simple way to get started. Verbal reports can be made from your seat; you do not have to come in front of the class. If you are nervous about speaking to groups, you can write out your statement and read it. If you are petrified of public speaking, you can refuse, but you lose the 10 percent of your final grade. Most students find this to be a positive experience, because it is a chance to get up on your soap box.

We will have brief discussion or comment on each verbal report. If you want to ask a question to the class or instructor at the end of your report, that is fine.

Grading will be based on *sticking to the 5-minute time limit*, relevance to health psychology, apparent preparation, and effectiveness of presentation. No written document is required.

TERM PAPER – 5 pages (Final deadline November 22nd)

The purpose of the term paper is to provide a critique of a media report (i.e. press release, print media or web article) regarding a peer-reviewed publication in the area of Health Psychology. Thus, it needs to address some issue that concerns interactions between psychological processes or behavior and physical health. Topics that address purely mental health issues or non-psychological medical issues are not appropriate. For example, a paper about treatment of alcoholism would not be appropriate, since problem drinking causes lots of difficulties that are not purely health related such as interpersonal and occupational problems. On the other hand, a paper about the impact of alcohol use and its treatment on risk for heart disease would be fine since it would blend behavioral and medical issues. Similarly, topics that address purely non-psychological medical issues are not appropriate. For example, a paper evaluating the relative merits of various medical procedures used to treat coronary artery disease (e.g., bypass surgery, percutaneous interventions, medication) would not be appropriate, unless psychological aspects were also incorporated (e.g., these might have different effects on the patients quality of life

After finding a media report, do a literature search using a search engine like Medline, PsychInfo or PubMed in order to locate the source article.

The paper should present a balanced discussion of the accuracy of the media coverage as well as discussion of the research concerning the topic. The maximum length of the paper is **5 pages double-spaced**, not including references. It is due on November 22nd.

TIPS ON TERM PAPER GRADING

1. Quality is more important than length. However, you cannot have an excellent term paper that is only 3 pages. Using really big type that makes your paper look long is not an effective way to get a better grade.
2. I am not going to correct your English, but I will deduct points from general quality if there are many misspelled words and examples of poor grammar. With spelling checkers there is little excuse for spelling errors.
3. We will discuss the term paper several times in class. If you have questions about the paper, please ask them. If the instructions are not clear, ask me to clarify.
4. You are almost ready to graduate from the university, and this paper is a major part of your grade. Therefore, I expect you to take this assignment seriously and perform at a high level. To get a high grade you must show that you have learned the academic material and have put considerable effort into writing this report.

Grading Scale

A+	96-100%	B+	75-79%	C+	60-64%	D+	45-49%
A	85-95%	B	70-74%	C	55-59%	D	40-44%
A-	80-84%	B-	65-69%	C-	50-54%	F	0-39%

Tentative Lecture Schedule

Date	Topic/Activity/Readings/Due Date
R Sep 13	Origins and overview of Health Psychology (Chapters 1 & 2)
R Sep 20	Basics of physiological systems involved in Health Psychology (Chapter 3)
R Sep 27	Physiological, emotional, and behavioral responses to life stress (Chapters 4 & 5)
R Oct 4	Psychological/Behavioral Factors in Cardiovascular Disease (Chapter 9)
R Oct 11	Psychosocial aspects of Cancer (Chapter 10)
R Oct 18	Sleep Disorders
R Oct 25	Stress, Pregnancy, and Developmental Outcomes (Gerry Giesbrecht, Ph.D.)
R Nov 1	Diet, exercise, obesity (Chapters 6 &7), Diabetes (Chapter 9)
R Nov 8	Tobacco & Smoking (Chapter 8) Adherence (Chapter 12) Pain and Pain Management (Chapter 13)
R Nov 15	Exam
R Nov 22	Verbal Reports
R Nov 29	Verbal Reports
R Dec 6	Verbal Reports

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. 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 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.

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 via the Department Office (Admin 275), 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.

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 **Dec 7, 2012**

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 170 and may be contacted at 403-220-5567.

Student Union VP Academic: Phone: 403-220-3911 suvpaca@ucalgary.ca

Student Union Faculty Rep.: Phone: 403-220-3913 socialscirep@su.ucalgary.ca

Important Dates

The last day to drop this course with no "W" notation and **still receive a tuition fee refund** is **September 21, 2012**. Last day for registration/change of registration is **September 24, 2012**. The last day to withdraw from this course is **December 7, 2012**.