
Psych 720	Seminar in Brain and Cognitive Sciences (Wandering Mind)	Winter 2023
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Phone:	403-220-4954	Lecture Days/Time:	T / 12:30-15:15
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Office:	AD 254		
Office Hours:	By Appointment		

Course Description and Objectives

This course aims to facilitate an in-depth exploration of the wandering mind and ongoing thought patterns grounded in psychological and cognitive neuroscience research. Through our readings and in-class discussion, we will explore how to define and quantify this phenomenon, how they are manifested in neural measures, their impact on our everyday life, and how they differ in clinical populations.

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 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.

Course Format

This is an in-person class held on campus.

Prerequisites

Admission to the Graduate Program in Clinical Psychology/ Psychology or by permission of the Instructor.

Required Texts and Readings

There is no assigned textbook for this course. Students will be given assigned readings, which will be made available on D2L.

Assessment Methods***Class Participation (15%)***

Students are expected to prepare for and participate in class discussion. You will be evaluated on your engagement in class, which involves both the quantity and the quality of your contributions to class. The quality of contribution can be demonstrated, in part, by knowledge of the readings for that week and your thoughtful analysis of the readings. Attendance alone will not result in a high grade.

The in-class discussions are intended to elicit your thoughts about the wandering mind. It is completely fine if you come into this class with very little background on this topic. The course is designed such that

you will develop your understanding and knowledge on this topic as we progress through the course. So do not hesitate to share your views in class. We will strive to create an open, inclusive, and respectful environment where everyone has the opportunity to share their thoughts.

Discussion Questions (10%)

Students will be required to post two questions on the D2L discussion forum one day before class (Mondays) by noon. As such, your questions will be available to all students for discussion during class. These questions will be evaluated on thoughtfulness and deep processing of the assigned readings. Questions demonstrating deeper analysis of the readings will receive a higher grade. Questions that are posted late will receive a 0.

Each of the two questions should be no longer than one-half page and must be relevant to the assigned readings for that class. For example, your questions may relate to the conceptual, methodological, or other related issues raised in the readings. Note that your questions may also go beyond the assigned readings so feel free to include mention of additional related findings. These questions should demonstrate deep (versus superficial) reading of the material.

Presentation and Discussion Lead (15% x 2 = 30%)

Students will be responsible for presenting and leading class discussion twice throughout the course on a reading that is relevant to the topic for that week. Presentations will be assigned during the first week of class. You will be guided through your choice of relevant article. Each set of presentation and discussion should take ~45 minutes. You will be evaluated using the following criteria:

- Accuracy, emphasis of important points during the presentation.
- Organization and clarity of the presentation.
- Your ability to think critically about the article.
- Your ability to lead a discussion and engage other students.

You can use Powerpoint for your presentation, though it is not necessary. If you choose to prepare powerpoint slides, 1) keep in mind that the goal is not to lecture, but rather to spark conversation and 2) email me your presentation before 5pm the day before your presentation. Your presentation should include a cogent summary of important points raised in the reading. For empirical papers, provide an overview of the topic, brief description of the methods and results, and the interpretation of key findings. For review papers, provide an overview of the topic, main take home messages (e.g. consistent/inconsistent findings), and implications.

Engaging other students and guiding the discussion are important. It is up to you to disperse discussion points throughout your presentation or leave them all at the end. To students who are not presenting: please assist your fellow students by actively participating in the discussion.

Research Proposal (5% + 30% = 35%)

Each student will write a research proposal that is relevant to topics covered in the course. This is designed to help you practice developing an idea into a grant proposal. In the proposal, students will describe a study that would make an original contribution to the literature/topic. There is a presentation and written component to the research proposal. Evaluation of both components will be based on

clarity, accuracy and completeness, and special consideration will be given to the novelty and originality of the proposal. The presentation component is worth 5% and the written component is worth 30%.

You will give a presentation summarizing parts of your research proposal on February 28, 2023. This will be an 6-8 minute presentation that includes a brief overview of background, aims of your proposed research, and methods. The purpose of this presentation is to give you an opportunity to present an initial version of your proposed work and receive feedback on your research question and design.

The completed written version of the research proposal will be submitted by email to the instructor in Word format by 5pm April 11, 2023. Without instructor approval, late submissions will not be accepted. The body of the proposal must not exceed 5 pages (double-spaced, 12 point Times or metrically equivalent font), and should be organized into the following sub-headings: (1) Brief topic/literature overview, (2) Objective of the proposal, (3) Methods, (4) Hypothesis, (5) Implications and Conclusions. In addition, there should be a title page (including the proposal title and student name) and a reference section (with a minimum of 15 references in any format).

Peer Review (10%)

Peer review is core to the publication process in academia. Despite existing issues with the current peer review system, it is helpful to understand this process as a reviewer. Accordingly, you will be asked to write a peer review as a ‘reviewer’ of one of the readings from class. Being an effective reviewer requires you to understand and critically think about the concepts, methods and analyses described in the article as well as to provide thoughtful, unambiguous feedback, with the goal to help improve the quality of the article. Note that any scientific studies have limitations and none of them are perfect. The role of the reviewer is to raise questions and offer suggestions for how these limitations can be addressed. To assist you in this process, we will discuss what makes an effective review in class. Evaluation of the review will be based on clarity, accurate understanding of the paper, and the quality of assessment of the paper and suggestions for improvement.

The peer review will be submitted by email to the instructor in Word format by 5pm March 28, 2023. Without instructor approval, late submissions will not be accepted. The review must not exceed 2 pages (double-spaced, 12 point Times or metrically equivalent font), and should be include a brief summary of the paper and your review of the article.

Course component	Weighting	Due date
Class Participation	10%	--
Discussion Questions	15%	--
Leading a class and associated discussion	30%	
Discussion Lead 1	15%	TBD
Discussion Lead 2	15%	TBD
Peer Review	10%	Mar 28
Research Proposal	35%	
Proposal Presentation	5%	Feb 28
Written Proposal	30%	April 11

University of Calgary Academic Integrity Policy

Academic integrity is the foundation of the development and acquisition of knowledge and is based on values of honesty, trust, responsibility, and respect. We expect members of our community to act with integrity.

Research integrity, ethics, and principles of conduct are key to academic integrity. Members of our campus community are required to abide by our institutional code of conduct and promote academic integrity in upholding the University of Calgary's reputation of excellence. It is your responsibility to ensure that you have read and are familiar with the student academic misconduct policy:

www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html

Faculty of Graduate Studies Grading System

A+ = Outstanding performance, A = Excellent performance, A- = Very good performance

B+ = Good performance, B = Satisfactory performance, B- = Minimum pass

C+: All grades of "C+" or lower are indicative of failure at the graduate level and cannot be counted toward Faculty of Graduate Studies course requirements. Individual programs may require a higher passing grade.

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%

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. To determine final letter grades, final percentage grades will be rounded up or down to the nearest whole percentage (e.g., 89.5% will be rounded up to 90% = A but 89.4% will be rounded down to 89% = A-).

Tentative Lecture Schedule

Ideally in table format with date of class, topics to be covered, and chapters/readings to be read. Due dates for tests/exams and assignments should be included in this schedule as well.

Date	Topic / Due Date
T Jan 10	Introduction and Topic Overview First day of lectures
T Jan 17	Definitional Complexity
R Jan 19	Last day to drop a class without financial penalty
F Jan 20	Last day to add or swap a course
T Jan 24	Thought Content
F Jan 27	Fee payment deadline for Winter Term full and half courses.
T Jan 31	Executive Control
T Feb 7	Neuroimaging
T Feb 14	Machine Learning

Feb 19-25	Term Break. No Classes. Feb 20 th Alberta Family Day. University Closed.
T Feb 28	Research Proposal Presentation Peer Review Discussion
T Mar 7	Occurrence Rate and Consequences
T Mar 14	Well-being
T Mar 21	Creativity
T Mar 28	Peer Review Assignment due Mindfulness
T Apr 4	Clinical Implications I
M Apr 7	University Closed. Good Friday.
F Apr 10	University Closed. Easter Monday.
T Apr 11	Research Proposal due Clinical Implications II
W Apr 12	Winter Term Lectures End.
Apr 15-26	Final Exam Period

Absence From An Exam

Makeup exams are **NOT** an option without the approval of the instructor. If students miss a quiz, they have up to 48 hours to contact the instructor to ask for a makeup quiz. It's the instructor's discretion if they will allow a make-up quiz or re-weighting of quizzes. Students who do not schedule a makeup quiz with the instructor within this 48-hour period forfeit the right to a makeup quiz or for the quiz to be re-weighted. At the instructor's discretion, a makeup quiz may differ significantly (in form and/or content) from a regularly scheduled quiz. Once approved by the instructor a makeup quiz must be written within 2 weeks of the missed quiz on a day/time scheduled by the instructor.

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 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 <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/exams/deferred-exams>. Students with an exceptional extenuating circumstance (e.g., a family emergency) should contact the Department of Psychology (psyugrd@ucalgary.ca).

Reappraisal of Term Work or Final Grade

Reappraisal of Graded Term Work: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/i-2.html>

Reappraisal of Final Grade: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/i-3.html>

Academic Accommodations

Students seeking an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services; SAS will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors.

For additional information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities, visit www.ucalgary.ca/access/. Students who require an accommodation in relation to their coursework based on a protected ground other than disability should communicate this need in writing to their Instructor. The full policy on Student Accommodations is available at <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/accommodation-students-disabilities-procedure>.

Academic Misconduct

For information on academic misconduct and its consequences, please see the University of Calgary Calendar at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>

Instructor Intellectual Property

Course materials created by professor(s) (including course outlines, presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the professor(s). These materials may NOT be reproduced, redistributed or copied without the explicit consent of the professor. The posting of course materials to third party websites such as note-sharing sites without permission is prohibited. Sharing of extracts of these course materials with other students enrolled in the course at the same time may be allowed under fair dealing.

Copyright Legislation

All students are required to read the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright (www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/acceptable-use-of-material-protected-by-copyright.pdf) and requirements of the copyright act (<https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html>) to ensure they are aware of the consequences of unauthorized sharing of course materials (including instructor notes, electronic versions of textbooks etc.). Students who use material protected by copyright in violation of this policy may be disciplined under the Non-Academic Misconduct Policy.

Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy

Student information will be collected in accordance with typical (or usual) classroom practice. Students' assignments will be accessible only by the authorized course faculty. Private information related to the individual student is treated with the utmost regard by the faculty at the University of Calgary

Student Support and Resources

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/course-outlines>

Important Dates

The last day to drop this course with no "W" notation and **still receive a tuition fee refund** is **Thursday, January 19, 2023**. Last day add/swap a course is **Friday, January 20, 2023**. The last day to withdraw from this course is **Wednesday, April 12, 2023**

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/academic-schedule.html#fall2017>