



PSYCHOLOGY 541 (A01) Fall 2016
Research Methods in Neuropsychology

Lectures: Cornett A228, Thursday 11:30-12:50
CogSem: Cornett A225, Friday 3:00-4:30
Instructor: Jodie Gawryluk, Ph.D.
Office: Cornett A257
Office hours: By appointment
Office Phone: 250-721-7549
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Appointments:

I would be happy to meet you to discuss information related to the course or your interest in psychology! Please email or phone anytime (email: gawryluk@uvic.ca and phone # 250-721-7549).

About this Course/Course Structure:

Neuropsychology examines the relationship between the brain and behaviour. This course is a seminar on current neuropsychological research methodologies, with a focus on neuroimaging techniques.

This course is divided into two parts – a class component and a ‘lab’ component.

Thursday classes will include lectures, videos, discussions, and journal club format presentations. In general, you can expect class to begin with an introduction to the technique (~ 35 minutes), followed by two journal club style presentations (~25 minutes each).

In addition to weekly class meetings (on Thursdays), you will be required to attend the Cognition and Brain Science Seminars, which are presented weekly in the department on Fridays. This will be considered a ‘lab’ portion of the course, and accordingly we have reduced the regular class meeting time to 1.5 hours. The schedule for the Seminars can be found viewed online at <http://www.uvic.ca/socialsciences/psychology/graduate/brain-sciences/cabssem/>.

Over the course, students will gain skills required to understand and think critically about articles that use neuropsychological research methods. At the end of the course students will be able develop ideas about how to use these methods in their own work.

****If there are any particular topics that you are interested in, please let me know – I would be happy to discuss this and if possible, try to incorporate your interests into the course.**

Prerequisites:

In order to benefit from this course, the curriculum committee at the Department of Psychology has established that the prerequisite for this course is PSYC 315 or an equivalent undergraduate human neuropsychology course. I am aware that in some cases this requirement can be waived if you provide evidence of having fulfilled it in another way. If you are not sure, please contact me and we can discuss together ways to make sure you are prepared for this class. Remember the departmental rule of thumb is that:

Students who remain in courses for which they do not have the prerequisites do so at their own risk. Those who complete courses without prerequisites are not exempt from having to complete the prerequisite course(s) at some later date if such courses are required for the degree program.

Registration:

Course Add Deadline: Students are responsible for checking their registration status before the end of the course-add period (September 23, 2016); students will not be added after this deadline. It is each student's responsibility to check and ensure that s/he is registered appropriately. Last day for withdrawing from first-term courses without penalty of failure is October 31, 2016.

Readings for this class:

There is no textbook that covers all of the areas within this course. As a result, the readings will be made available to you prior to class via CourseSpaces.

Course Objectives:

1. To develop an understanding of up to date research methods used in neuropsychology.
2. To demonstrate competency in summarizing and critically questioning reading/presentations on cognition and neuropsychology.
3. To show competency in presenting neuropsychological research orally in journal club format.
4. To develop an understanding of how/when to use neuroimaging research methods in neuropsychological research.

Evaluation and Grading Policy:

Written critiques of 3 CogSem presentations =	30%
Two class presentations of research articles (15% each) =	30%
Participation/Weekly assignments =	25%
Final Exam =	15%

The final letter grade in the course will be based on the total percentage earned during the semester, as follows:

A+	(Exceptional work) =	90-100%
A	(Outstanding work) =	85-89%
A-	(Excellent work) =	80-84%
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B+	(Very good work) =	77-79%
B	(Acceptable work) =	73-76%
B-	(Unacceptable work) =	70-72%
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C+	(Unacceptable work) =	65-69%
C	(Unacceptable work) =	60-64%
D	(Unacceptable work) =	50-59%
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F	(Failing grade) =	0 -49%

In determining your final letter grade in the course, anything .5 and above will be rounded up to the next percentage score, and anything .4 and below will be rounded down to the previous percentage score. For example, 86.4% would be rounded to 86%, whereas 86.5% would be rounded to 87%.

Written critiques of 'CogSem' presentations

You will be required to provide a written critique of 3 of the research projects presented in the Cognition and Brain Sciences Seminars. Formats for these reviews will be provided on the CourseSpaces site. You are free to choose which 3 presentations to review and they are due within 1 week of the presentation. While you will be attending presentations with your colleagues, it will be important that you work on these critiques alone. This is not a group assignment and I want your own critical thinking reflected in your written reviews. The three written critiques that you provide will comprise 30% of your final grade.

In-Class Student Presentations (2 presentations)

We will discuss a list of possible topics within the first week of classes. Afterwards, I will ask you to rank order your preferred topics and I will try to give each of you two topics that are high on your list (keeping in mind that we must cover

all of the topics that complement our class material). Based on the topic, I would like for you to select a reading (a primary research article) and post it on CourseSpaces one week prior to your presentation. During class, you will have approximately 25 minutes to conduct a presentation on this topic (including an overview and discussion). The presentation will be in journal club format – you should provide a summary and be prepared to lead a discussion (no powerpoint is required). Marks will be assigned on the basis of quality (clarity, thoroughness and thoughtfulness) of the presentation/preparation, the relevance of additional source information, as well as the leadership of the discussion.

More information about the presentation guidelines will be given during class. Each of you will present twice, earning 15% of your grade for each presentation. Overall, your presentations are worth 30% of your final grade.

Participation in Class/Weekly Class Assignments

It is anticipated that you will attend all class meetings (please let me know in advance if you are not able to attend class). During class, you will be expected to actively participate in journal club discussions that will help you learn from one another. You will be expected to read the material (the articles assigned by your classmates) prior to class and come prepared with thoughts about the readings. To enhance this process, I will ask you to fill out and hand in a short weekly assignment with your questions and thoughts about the articles you've read. You may hand in the weekly assignment on paper in class or electronically before class (but not after class). Your attendance grade will be based on completion of the weekly assignment and participation in class discussions – this is worth 25% of your final grade.

In-Class Final Examination

I want you to be able to use this material later in your career, rather than just for the term. In this regard, the exam will include practical questions intended to stimulate critical thinking, as well as basic knowledge. There is one final exam, worth 15% of your grade that will be written during the last day of class. Further details regarding the exam will be discussed in class.

University of Victoria Policies:

Students are expected to familiarize themselves with the Important Course Policy Information (below) and are responsible for checking and correcting their registration status before the Add/Drop deadlines.

The University of Victoria is committed to promoting, providing and protecting a positive and supportive and safe learning and working environment for all its members.

It is expected that you will write the exams on the dates they are scheduled. Make-up exams are only given if a physician's note documents an illness, or through a "Request for Academic Concession" from the Records Services office in campus if you need additional time to complete course requirements due to calamity, family affliction, or other such reasons. Unfortunately, if you cannot provide these documents, I will have to assign a total of zero (0) points to the test, and will calculate the letter grade accordingly. Similarly, I expect you to conduct the in-class presentation at the scheduled time, unless documentation is otherwise provided.

Commitment to Inclusivity and Diversity

The University of Victoria is committed to promoting, providing and protecting a positive and supportive and safe learning and working environment for all its members.

In the Event of Illness, Accident or Family Affliction

(See UVic Calendar, 2016-17)

What to do if you miss an exam other than one scheduled during the formal examination period

Do not apply at Records Services for a "Request for Academic Concession". Instead submit documentation of the illness, accident or family affliction directly to your course instructor (or designated teaching assistant).

What to do if you miss an exam scheduled during the formal exam period

Apply at Records Services for a “Request for Academic Concession”, normally within 10 working days of the end of the formal examination period. Records Services will forward the form to the instructor. If the concession is granted the instructor will determine how to deal with the situation (for example, a deferred exam). Where a concession is not applied for or where such application is denied, an N grade will be entered on the student’s academic record.

What to do if you require additional time to complete course requirements

Apply at Records Services for a “Request for Academic Concession”, normally within 10 working days of the end of the formal examination period. Records Services will forward the form to the instructor. If the concession is granted the instructor will determine how to deal with the situation. Where a concession is not applied for or where such application is denied, an N grade will be entered on the student’s academic record.

Policy on Academic Integrity including Plagiarism and Cheating

The Department of Psychology fully endorses and intends to enforce rigorously the Senate Policy on Academic integrity (<http://web.uvic.ca/calendar2016-09>; UVic Calendar 2016-17). It is of utmost importance that students who do their work honestly be protected from those who do not. Because this policy is in place to ensure that students carry out and benefit from the learning activities assigned in each course, it is expected that students will cooperate in its implementation.

The offences defined by the policy can be summarized briefly as follows:

1. *Plagiarism*. You must make sure that the work you submit is your work and not someone else’s. There are proper procedures for citing the works of others. The student is responsible for being aware of and using these procedures.
2. *Multiple Submission*. Only under exceptional circumstances may a work submitted to fulfill an academic requirement be used to satisfy another similar requirement. The student is responsible for clarifying this with the instructor(s) involved.
3. *Falsifying Materials Subject to Academic Evaluation*. This includes falsification of data, use of commercially prepared essays, using information from the Internet without proper citation, citing sources from which material is not actually obtained, etc.
4. *Cheating on Assignments, Tests, and Examinations*. You may not copy the work of others in or out of class; you may not give your work to others for the purpose of copying; you may not use unauthorized material or equipment during examinations or tests; and you may not impersonate or allow yourself to be impersonated by another at an examination. The Department of Psychology has a policy of not making old examinations available for study purposes. Therefore, use of old exams without the express written permission of the instructor constitutes cheating by the user, and abetting of cheating by the person who provided the exam.
5. *Being an Accessory to Offences*. This means that helping another student to cheat (for instance, by showing or communicating to them answers to an assignment, or by allowing them to view answers on an exam) is an academic offence. Instructors are expected to make every effort to prevent cheating and plagiarism. This may include the assignment of seating for examinations, asking students to move during examinations, requests to see student identification cards, and other measures as appropriate. Instructors also have available to them a variety of tools and procedures to check for Internet and electronic media-based cheating. In instances of suspected or actual plagiarism or cheating, instructors, following prescribed procedures, are authorized to take steps consistent with the degree of the offence. These measures will range from a zero on the test or assignment or a failing grade for the course, probation within a program to temporary or even permanent suspension from the University. Rights of Appeal are described in the Policy on Academic Integrity in the University calendar. The definitive source for information on Academic Integrity is the University Calendar (<http://web.uvic.ca/calendar2016-09/>).

Other useful resources on Plagiarism and Cheating include:

1. The Learning Skills program: <http://www.coun.uvic.ca/learning/index.html>
2. The Ombudsperson’s office: <http://www.uvss.uvic.ca/ombudsperson/pubsguides/plagiarism.pdf>
3. Dr. Mitchell of the UVic English Department: http://web.uvic.ca/~amitch/teaching_files/Avoiding%20Plagiarism.pdf

Please familiarize yourself with the university’s standards of academic integrity (e.g., plagiarism and cheating). These regulations can be accessed at the following website: <http://web.uvic.ca/calendar2016-09/>