



University
of Victoria

British Columbia
Canada

Department of Psychology

PSYC 191: PSYCHOLOGY IN CONTEMPORARY SOCIETY: PSYCHOLOGY IN THE MEDIA Fall 2016

Instructor: Jodie Gawryluk

Teaching Assistant: Chantel Mayo

Class location: Cornett B135

Class time: MTh 8:30-9:50am

Office hours: Monday 10:00-11:00am

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Contacting the Professor

I would be happy to meet you to discuss information related to the course or your interest in psychology! Please phone anytime - # 250-721-7549 or email: gawryluk@uvic.ca. Please use this email address and include **191** in the subject line so my spam blocker does not delete your email. I will be available during my office hours (Monday 10:00-11:00am) or by appointment booked via email or phone.

Course Text

Forty Studies that Changed Psychology: Explorations into the History of Psychological Research (Seventh Edition; 2013) by Robert R. Hock.

The text is available at the UVic bookstore.

Course Description

This course will present the psychological research behind popular media reports (from online news sources, magazines, and blogs, as well as television and movies). The course will include an introduction to the sub disciplines of psychology, including the biology of human behaviour, perception, learning, cognition, emotion, personality, psychopathology, psychotherapy and social psychology. At the end of this syllabus is a table outlining a tentative schedule of lecture topics and readings for each week of this course.

Pre-requisites

There are no pre-requisites required for this introductory level course. Please note that this course does not replace Psych 100A and 100B, which are required for a Psychology degree program. For more information see pages 383-386 of the UVic Calendar 2016-17.

Registration

Students are responsible for checking their registration status before the end of the "add period," September 23rd. Registration status may be verified using My Page, View Schedule. Course adds and drops will not be processed after the deadlines set out in the current UVic Calendar. The last day to withdraw from second term courses without penalty is October 31st.

Course Objectives

- To foster an interest in psychology.
- To introduce key research studies in psychology.
- To evaluate the media's representation of psychology.
- To introduce psychological research methods.
- To apply psychological concepts to the experience of psychological phenomena.
- To build critical thinking skills.
- To promote an atmosphere of learning, sharing and curiosity.

Course Structure

Class time will be spent in a variety of ways: lecture, video clips, and group activities. You are expected to read the text chapter associated with each lecture topic. You will be tested on everything that is in the text, as well as the information discussed in class. Class attendance and participation are expected. I reserve the right to modify the course outline at my discretion. Any changes to the outline will be announced in class.

Course Evaluation and Due Dates

Due Date	Value
Exam #1: October 3	20%
Exam #2: November 3	25%
Exam #3: Assigned by University Systems	30%
Assignment : DUE NOVEMBER 24	15%
Attendance	10%

This course will involve three written exams and one assignment.

Exam 1: The first exam, on October 3, 2016, will include material covered in class and your text from September 8 – September 29, 2016. This exam is worth 20% of your final grade in the class. The exam will consist of approximately 60 multiple choice questions (worth 1 point each) and one short answer question (worth 5 points).

Exam 2: The second exam, on November 3, 2016 will include material covered in class and your text from October 6 – October 31, 2016. This exam is worth 25% of your final grade in the class. The exam will consist of approximately 60 multiple choice questions (worth 1 point each) and one short answer question (worth 5 points).

Exam 3: The final exam, which will be scheduled in the exam period, will include material covered in class and your text from November 7– December 1, 2016. This exam is worth 30% of your final grade in the class. The exam will consist of approximately 60 multiple choice questions (worth 1 point each) and one short answer question (worth 5 points).

Assignment: The assignment, due near the end of the course, is worth 15% of your final grade. The assignment will involve watching a movie that has a character with a mental illness. You will be provided with a set of questions that require you to think critically about the portrayal of psychology in the media.

Although all class members will watch the movie, it is expected that you will present your own individual thoughts in the assignment.

Notably, the assignment is worth 15% of the final grade. To be considered on time, assignments must be submitted by midnight on the day that they are due. Each day that an assignment is late (without proper documentation), 5% will be deducted from the total mark of the assignment.

Attendance: I encourage you to attend every class to maximize your learning experience. There are times that I will follow the textbook quite closely and other times when I will be presenting information that is not available in your text. Given that it is inconvenient to take daily class attendance, instead there will be occasions in which I will ask you to hand in a short written in-class activity. I will randomly choose 10 of these in-class assignments to comprise your attendance mark, which is worth 10% of your final grade. If you are present to complete the assignment, you will earn a percentage of your grade – it's a great chance to bring up your grade, just by showing up!

Course Policies

Grades

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, 76.4% would be rounded to 76%, whereas 76.5% would be rounded to 77%. A table of letter grades and corresponding percentage scores follows.

A+	90 – 100	B+	77 – 79	C+	65 – 69	F	0 - 49
A	85 - 89	B	73 – 76	C	60 – 64		
A-	80 - 84	B -	70 – 72	D	50 – 59		

Extensions

Should you need an extension, please feel free to come and speak to me about it BEFORE the due date. If you are having trouble getting started on an assignment, do not hesitate to make use of my office hours. I would love to help you!

University policies

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: <http://web.uvic.ca/calendar2016-09/>) pages 59-60.

A student whose academic performance is affected by injury, family or personal affliction, or illness should immediately consult with University Counselling Services, University Health Services, or another health professional, and may request, directly from the course instructor, deferral or substitution of a mid-term test or examination, or of other work which is due during the term . This request must be accompanied by supporting documentation.

All work for which a Concession is approved must be completed before course grades are submitted by the instructor.

A RAC must always be accompanied by supporting documentation.

An academic concession may be:

- a Deferral of a final examination, test, or other course work;
- an Extended Deferral of this work;
- an Aegrotat (AEG) notation added to a course grade in cases where injury, affliction, or illness affected performance in a completed course, or will prevent completion of a course, and a Deferral is not viable;
- a WE excluded registration status in cases where withdrawal from a course is approved due to extenuating circumstances .
- a Drop of courses without academic penalty — and possibly without fee penalty — after the published Last Day for Withdrawing .

All RACs, along with supporting documentation, must be submitted to the Office of the Registrar. For Deferrals, Aegrotats and Drops this must normally be done within ten working days of the end of the examination period of the term in which the course is taken. For Extended Deferral this must normally be done no later than the deadline set for completion in the initial Deferral.

If a Deferral is granted, any required course work (including exams) must be completed at the latest by a date set by the instructor which is to be not later than the end of the term immediately following the course:

- courses ending in December: completion by the end of the following April;
- courses ending in April: completion by the end of the following August;
- Summer Session courses: completion by the end of the following December.

If deferred work is not completed by the dead- line, the final grade for the course reverts to the grade calculated and submitted originally by the instructor on the basis of the work that was completed. A Deferral may be extended beyond the above deadlines only in exceptional circumstances and only with the written permission of the Dean (or designate) of the student's Faculty of Registration . An additional RAC is required, asking for an Extended Deferral.

If a Request for Academic Concession is denied, a student may appeal as described under "Appeals" in the calendar (<http://web.uvic.ca/calendar2016-09/>) page 69.

A student who completes all course requirements is not eligible for an academic concession. Exceptions will only be considered by the Dean (or designate) of the student's Faculty of Registration if there is supporting documentation that the student was not medically or otherwise fit to make a decision on whether or not to complete the work . The RAC must be submitted to the Office of the Registrar as soon as possible after completion of the work and before the results are known.

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. For more information on academic concessions, please see the 2016-17 academic calendar (<http://web.uvic.ca/calendar2016-09/>) pages 59-60.

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 (see UVic Calendar 2016-17: <http://web.uvic.ca/calendar2016-09/undergrad/info/regulations/academic-integrity.html>). 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 (2016-17: <http://web.uvic.ca/calendar2016-09/undergrad/info/regulations/academic-integrity.html>).

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

Tentative Course Outline:

Dates	Topics/ Readings
September 8	Introduction to the course: overview of course outline and expectations
September 12	Introduction to psychology, psychological methods, and psychology in the media
September 15	One brain or two?; More experience = bigger brain
September 19	Are you a “natural”?; Watch out for the visual cliff!
September 22	Take a long look; To sleep, no doubt to dream...; It's not just about salivating dogs!
September 26	As a category, it's a natural; Acting as if you are hypnotized
September 29	Little Emotional Albert; Knock wood!; See aggression...do aggression!
October 3	Exam #1
October 6	What you expect is what you get; Just how are you intelligent?; Maps in your mind
October 13	Thanks for the Memories!; Discovering love; Out of sight, but not out of mind
October 17	How moral are you?; In control and glad of it!
October 20	Marshmallow study; I can see it all over your face
October 24	Watching your emotions?; Thoughts out of tune
October 27	Are you the master of your fate?; Masculine or feminine....or both?
October 31	Racing against your heart; The one, the many
November 3	Exam #2
November 7	Who's crazy here, anyway?; You're getting defensive again!
Reading Break	November 9 - 11
November 14	Learning to be depressed; Crowding into the behavioral sink
November 17	Choosing your psychotherapist; Relaxing your fears away
November 21	Projections of who you are; Picture this!
November 24	A prison by any other name; The power of conformity; Assignment Due
November 28	To help or not to help; Obey at any cost?
December 1	Review