



*This syllabus is subject to some minor change



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Psychology in Popular Culture

PSYC 191 Section A01 | Fall 2021

Mondays & Thursdays 11:30am – 12:50pm
ELL 060

Instructor: Dr. Jhotisha Mugon

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Office hours: Thursdays 2-3pm

Teaching Assistant: TBA

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Office hours:

Course Description:

Significant findings from research on the brain and nervous system – neuroscience, reach the public imagination through movies (e.g., *Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind*, *Inside-out*, *Bourne Trilogy*). This course will explore various themes (memory, amnesia, emotions, lucid dreaming, dissociation, personality disorder, narcissism, OCD, developmental, Stereotypes and norms) often depicted in movies and provide an opportunity for us to analyze how accurately or inaccurately these themes have been depicted. In this course, you will learn to cast a critical eye on popular representations of neuroscientific (and more broadly psychological) research to spot anything from harmless exaggerations to outright misrepresentations.

Learning outcomes:

By the end of this course, you should be able to:

1. Outline and explain common psychological themes in popular movies
2. Define and apply key psychological concepts, terms, and theories
3. Critically analyze popular depictions of neuroscience and human behavior based on assigned readings
4. Develop an awareness of the impact of popular movies on society

What's in this syllabus?

About your instructor	2
Learning resources	2
Course format/ expectations	3
How will I be evaluated?	4
Course schedule	6
Important course considerations	8
Take care of yourself	9
Psyc Dept. course policies	10



About Me:

I completed my PhD in Cognitive neuroscience at the University of Waterloo, Ontario in 2020. My research focused on the role of emotions – specifically of boredom – to act as self-regulatory signals to keep us on track with our goals. I am also passionate about teaching undergraduate courses and keeping boredom at bay within our classes. I vividly remember my very first psychology class in University – It solidified my plans to pursue a career in psychology and along the way I became interested in teaching psychology courses. I hope to share my passion for psychology with you and to work collaboratively with you to see how popular depictions of psychological constructs have become very prominent in movies. I am always open to suggestions and constructive feedback so feel free to reach out if you want to chat. Please note that I am a new teaching professor at UVic (I only moved to Victoria, BC a few months ago) so please bear with me as I figure out the various systems 😊

A note on our return to the physical classroom: I recognize that the pandemic has brought on many challenges for us. As we begin to come back to our physical classroom spaces, I understand that, for some of you, there may be new hesitations and some anxiety about social interactions. Afterall, we did just spend the last few months practicing social distancing and we may have forgotten how social interactions work! My goal is to create a welcoming and safe environment where you will hopefully feel comfortable to share your perspectives about psychology and movies with one another. To this end, I invite you to participate in the class while taking any precautions you deem important. I also welcome you to share my goal of creating a safe and welcoming environment for all.

Learning resources



There are NO textbooks assigned for this course. All assigned readings will be in the form of journal articles and will be available via the course Brightspace site. All other course related materials, announcements, lecture slides, and grades will also be available on Brightspace.



There are **9 movies + 1 documentary** assigned for you to watch in this course. To access these movies please visit this UVic library site (<https://libguides.uvic.ca/c.php?g=577550>) and click on the appropriate streaming database (see course schedule for more details). Once there, you can search for the movie and voila! You can start watching. Of course, you can use your preferred streaming platform such as Amazon prime or Netflix to find the movies. **NOTE 1:** For movies that are not available for free to stream via the UVic library site (there are 2 of them), you will have to rent them out via streaming platforms such as YouTube or Google Play. **NOTE 2:** Some of the movies you will be required to view may contain instances of violence, sexual content, and/or foul language as would be consistent with an R rating. If this is offensive, or if you are otherwise unable to view such movies, please discuss this with me at least 1 week ahead of the scheduled movie.

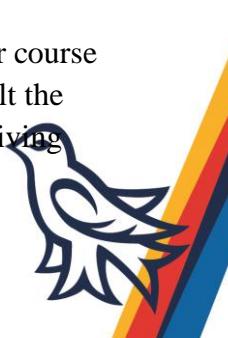


 **iClicker** I will present i>Clicker questions during lectures and 6% of your final mark is based on that participation. There are two options for you to purchase an iClicker:

- 1) iClicker Reef. This is an application that can be used on a personal device (laptop, smartphone, or tablet). In order to receive your 6% participation points, you **must** create a Reef account (<https://app.reef-education.com/#/login>).
- 2) iClicker 2 is a physical remote that can be purchased at the bookstore new or used and it will be usable in other courses that use iClickers. It can also be sold back to the UVic bookstore just like with textbooks. Only the second-generation iClickers can be used. If you use the original iClicker you may not be able to respond to all the questions in class. In order to receive your 6% participation points, you must register your iClicker online. Please go to <https://www.uvic.ca/systems/support/learningteaching/iclicker/index.php> to find out how to synchronize your iClicker with UVic's registration system. **Note:** *DO NOT* register your clicker at the iClicker.com website.

Course format and expectations:

- There is **one movie assigned per week** and **between 1-3 journal articles** (no more than 20-22 pages combined). You should aim to have watched the movie and read the assigned articles before coming to class. If you decide to complete a film analysis for that week, you will need to submit it by 11:59pm the day before class (see course schedule). When completing the film analysis, you should think deeply and critically about the movie and the assigned reading
- **Attend class regularly** and bring your own iClicker (or reef app) to class, and use it to submit responses to surveys and polls
- During class, there will be some **small group discussions** about the assigned movie and the content covered in class. Enter and contribute to the discussion enthusiastically while at the same time respecting your classmate's opinion and ideas. It is OK to have different opinions and ideas but it is NOT OK to be disrespectful towards others or to personally attack others. Such behaviors will not be tolerated in class.
- I will upload lecture slides in the morning – before our class at 11:30 am.
- **If you register late** for the course, **you** are responsible for speaking to me to make up for any missed material and to make sure your i>Clicker marks are accurately captured on the system. This will require me updating the system manually and until I know that a new student has joined the class, I will not be updating the system.
- **If you have a question, here is where/ how to get an answer:**
 - o For technical question (e.g. related to Brightspace, Zoom, or Netlink login), please contact the computer help desk (helpdesk@uvic.ca ; 250-721-7687).
 - o For questions regarding the lectures, the clicker questions, film analyses questions or course accommodations, please contact me at jmugon@uvic.ca. I kindly ask that you consult the syllabus for assessment timelines prior to emailing me. I am open to receiving and giving





constructive feedback and creating a positive inclusive environment for learning so please attend my office hours or email me your feedback.

- For questions regarding your mark on exams, or film analyses, please contact our TA (TBA)
- **Let me know if there are any special circumstances.** Each of us learns in different ways and with varying degrees of success. If you know of any factors in your life that hinder your ability to learn up to your potential in this course, please contact the Centre for Accessible Learning (CAL: <https://www.uvic.ca/services/cal/index.php>) The CAL staff are available by appointment to assess specific needs, provide referrals, and arrange for appropriate accommodations. I will automatically be notified if you receive any CAL accommodations.

How will you be evaluated?

Assessment	Date	Weighing
Exam1		22%
Exam2		22%
Exam3		15%
Film Analysis		35% (5 @ 7% each)
In-class participation (i-Clickers)		6%

* You are expected to complete ALL course requirements. Note that you must complete all 3 exams to receive credit for this course. Students who do not complete all 3 exams will receive an “N” (Failing) grade.

Assessment guidelines:

Exams: There are three non-cumulative exams in this course (see schedule below). All course materials (lectures, assigned readings, in-class movie discussions) are testable. The first two tests will be made up of two short answer questions out of a choice of four and between 40-45 multiple choice questions. The final exam will be made up of one short answer question out of a choice of two and between 20-25 multiple choice questions. All tests will take place in our classroom in ELL060 unless otherwise stated/ announced in class.

Missed exams: You are responsible for attending exams as scheduled. If you miss an exam due to illness/accident or family emergency, inform me as soon as possible. I will ask you to provide me (or the TA) with documentation explaining your absence (e.g., doctor’s note, etc.) within 2 days of missing the exam. Documentation must be dated the day of the exam. If documentation is approved, then a make-up examination will be scheduled. If you miss an exam and fail to contact me as described, you will receive an “N” mark (failure due to not completing a course requirement) for the course.



Film Analysis: Throughout the term, you will submit *five* of the ten film analyses based on posted discussion questions – which may include one or more sub-questions. There will be one set of discussion question per week/movie, and you can choose the week for which you'll write a film analysis. Broadly, each analysis will involve you viewing and critically analyzing the psychological constructs present in the assigned movie and the assigned readings for the week. You do not need to look for additional resources or information for your film analysis. Your analysis should be between 2-3 pages long (doubled space, 12-point font, 1-inch margins) with minimal or no grammatical or referencing errors (please proofread your work prior to submitting it online) and minimal to no direct quotes from the assigned journal articles (quotes from movies are OK; see assignment rubric on Brightspace). To effectively write a film analysis, you should not simply provide a summary of the movie. Rather, you should use the provided question set to guide your answer. Your analysis should provide specific examples of scenes/ story lines of when the movie aligned or did not aligned with the assigned readings. You should integrate information from the assigned articles to back your claims and your paragraphs should flow smoothly from one another. In short, these film analyses are meant to give you an opportunity to think critically about the movie plot based on the information provided in the assigned readings and before learning new content in class. Please use the APA referencing style when citing information from either the assigned readings or the movie and check the course schedule for weekly deadline. All film analyses must be submitted electronically via Brightspace in the weekly dropbox folder.

A note on plagiarism: The film analyses must be of your own writing. While you can study in groups and ask your peers questions about the assigned reading, you should not be collaborating with any classmate when writing your film analysis. You should also not share your own analysis with others or ask others to share theirs with you. Additionally, note that your TA and I reserve the right to use a plagiarism software to check if your film analysis adheres to the academic integrity standards set by UVic.

Missed film analysis: Because you only need to complete 5 out of 10 film analyses, the additional weekly film analysis questions serve as “make-up” film analysis questions. As such there will be no additional make-up for film analyses.

In class participation (i>Clickers): I will present i>Clicker questions during lectures. My hope is that these will a) encourage your active participation in class, b) help me to see which concepts the class understands well and which need a little more attention and c) determine the teaching value of each film based on your judgements. Answer all the questions presented in the lecture to get your i>Clicker point for that day. For some questions, there will be no right or wrong answer. Other questions will be content questions and it's ok if you get it wrong or if you miss *one* in a single lecture; you'll still get a mark for that day. There will be approximately 40-45 i>Clicker opportunities distributed throughout 16 classes (excluding exams, i-clicker test lecture and potential guest lecture; i-clicker questions start on Thursday, Sept 16). You will need to provide responses in at least 12 classes to receive full marks. This gives you several classes of leeway to overcome technical challenges/find lost clickers/make up for missed classes/etc. Thus, there will be no opportunity to make up i>Clicker responses for the above reasons. Please note, I consider providing



i>Clicker responses for another student to be an academic infraction and will treat it as such (according to the UVic Policy on Academic Integrity).

If you have a physical iClicker, you can register your i>clicker through [My page](#):

1. Go to [My page](#) and login with your NetLink ID and password.
2. Click on the **Student services** link, located on the left-hand menu.
3. Click on the **iClicker** tab, located in the top menu bar.
4. Enter your i>clicker's serial number and click **submit**.

If you have the [iClicker Reef app](#) (This option is proving to be more popular with students):

- Create a Reef account (<https://app.reef-education.com/#/login>) with your campus email address and then **make sure you add your correct student ID number** (e.g., “V00123456”) to your REEF profile section. This is the only way you will receive participation marks in the course.
- Download the iClicker Reef app iOS or Android app from your iTunes or Play store
- You will also need to purchase a subscription – you can buy this subscription at the UVic bookstore. Follow these steps to enter your access code in your Reef account:
 - Log in to your iClicker account using a web browser.
 - Access codes cannot be entered via the smartphone or tablet apps. A web browser is required for entering your access code.
 - If you are using a smartphone or tablet, simply use the web browser in your device to follow the steps below.
 - Click the “Menu” icon in the upper left corner and select “Subscriptions”.
 - Click “Polling”.
 - Click “Enter Access Code” and enter the code:
 - Click “Submit” - Clicking submit more than once can give you an error message, so click the back arrow to see when your subscription expires if you get an error message.
 - You will **need to add the course to your course list** by selecting the “+” button, typing in your institution (“University of Victoria”) and then searching for the course (“PSYC 191”). Make sure you select the right section (A01). Once you have confirmed that you’ve found the right course, click, “Add this Course” and it will show up on your list. *If you do not do this, the system will not register and record your participation and there’ll be no evidence of you participating in the classes.*
 - I will upload participation grades one week after each exam in the course. **If you register late** for the course, **you** are responsible for speaking to me to make sure your i>Clicker marks are accurately captured on the system (this will require a manual roster update on my part)

Cut off points for final grades:

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





Course schedule (*Subject to minor changes in order of content, class topic or movie/ reading assigned)

**There are multiple UVic movie databases from where you can watch the assigned movies. You'll find the list of databases here: (<https://libguides.uvic.ca/c.php?g=577550>). In the course schedule below, the movie database from where you'll be able to watch the movie will be in parentheses under the 'Film assigned' column. Note: you may have to rent some movies out as they are not available on the UVic movie databases.

Week	Class	Date (day/month)	Topic	Film assigned	Assignment due/ Notes Film analysis (FA)	Assigned reading on Brightspace	
1	1	Th 9/9	Course intro				
2	2	M 13/9	Emotion	Inside out (Audio Cine Films)	i-clicker testing (no grades)	Gruber et al., 2011; Kowalska & Wrobel, 2017; Ekman & Cordaro, 2011	
	3	Th 16/9	Emotion		Inside out FA due Fri. Sept. 17 Graded i-clicker begins		
3	4	M 20/9	Memory	Eternal sunshine of the spotless mind (Rent from YouTube, Google Play, Apple TV)	Eternal sunshine of the spotless mind FA due Sun. Sept. 19	Schiller et al., (2010); Feduccia & Mothefer, 2018	
	5	Th 23/9	Memory				
4	6	M 27/9	Amnesia	Memento (Kanopy)	Memento FA due Sun. Sept. 26	Dossani et al., 2015; Sacks, 2007	
		Th 30/9	National day of commemoration - Statutory holiday - No Class!				
5	7	M 4/10	Sleep and consciousness	Inception (Criterion database)	Inception FA due Sun. Oct. 3	LaBerge, 1986; Konkoly et al., 2021	
	8	Th 7/10	Lucid dreaming (*potential guest lecture)				
6		M 11/10	Thanksgiving long weekend – No class!				
	9	Th 14/10	Exam1				
7	10	M 18/10	Delusional disorder or schizophrenia?	Shutter Island (Criterion database)	Shutter Island FA due Sun. Oct. 17	Munoz-Negro et al., 2018; Scott et al., 2007	
	11	Th 21/10	Delusional disorder or schizophrenia?				





8	12	M 25/10	Narcissism and psychopathy	Joker (Criterion database)	Joker FA due Sun. Oct. 24	Yakeley, 2018 Sellbom & Drislane 2021
	13	Th 8/10	Personality disorder and psychopathy (continued)			
9	14	M 1/11	Anxiety disorder (OCD)	As good as it gets (Rent from YouTube, Google Play, Apple TV)	As good as it gets FA due Sun. Oct. 31	Garyfallos et al., 2010
		Th 4/11	Reading break			
10	15	M 8/11	Development/ Motivation	Good will hunting (Criterion database)	Good Will Hunting FA due Sun. Nov. 7	Waters et al., 2000; Lynch et al., 2019; Milulincer & Nachslon, 1991
	16	Th 11/11	Development/ Motivation			
11	17	M 15/11	Exam2			
	18	Th 18/11	Racism, sexism and Women in STEM	Hidden figures (Criterion database)	Hidden figures FA due Wed. Nov. 17	Smith & Hung, 2008; Dasgupta & Asgari, 2004; CPA fact sheet – Racism, 2020
12	19	M 22/11	Racism, sexism and Women in STEM			
	20	Th 25/11	Social roles, norms and obedience	Documentary: The Stanford Prison Experiment (Kanopy)	The Stanford Prison Experiment FA due Wed. Nov. 24	Bartels, 2019; Reicher & Haslam, 2006 - (the psychologist report) Zimbardo, 2006 – commentary on The BBC prison study
13	21	M 29/11	Social roles, norms and obedience			
	22	Th 2/12	Exam3			

***Some of the movies you will be required to view may contain instances of violence, sexual content, and/or foul language as would be consistent with an R rating. If this is offensive, or if you are otherwise unable to view such movies, please discuss this with me well ahead of time.*



Important course considerations:

Respect for Diversity: It is my intent that students from all diverse backgrounds be well-served by this course, that students' learning needs be addressed, and that the diversity that students bring to this class be viewed as a resource, strength and benefit. It is my intent to present materials that are respectful of diversity: gender, sexuality, disability, age, socio-economic status, ethnicity, race, and culture. Your feedback and suggestions are encouraged and appreciated – not only at the end of the semester through the Course Evaluation Survey, but also throughout the term. Please do not hesitate to talk to me regarding effective learning and respectful conduct.

Academic Integrity: You are responsible for familiarizing yourself with the University of Victoria's [Policy on Academic Integrity](#). Violations of this policy include plagiarism, unauthorized collaboration, and other forms of cheating. At minimum, the penalty for any instance of these behaviours will be a grade of 0% on the assignment or exam in question. The course penalty for more extensive violations of this policy will be a failing grade for the class.

- At the beginning of this course, you will sign an academic integrity pledge through Brightspace. All assignments, and exams are conditional on that pledge.
- NOTE that for the film analyses, you do not need to research additional information. However, if you choose to incorporate additional information, you should ensure that you only use peer-reviewed academic journals or articles. In addition, these film analyses are individual assessments – collaboration or sharing of your own work with others (or vice versa) is in violation of the university's academic integrity policy. Furthermore, in reporting other people's work (i.e. research papers you select), you need to use your own words and cite sources accordingly.

Copyright Statement: All course content and materials are made available by instructors for educational purposes and for the exclusive use of students registered in their class. The material is protected under copyright law, even if not marked with a ©. Any further use or distribution of materials to others requires the written permission of the instructor, except under fair dealing or another exception in the Copyright Act. Violations may result in disciplinary action under the Resolution of Non-Academic Misconduct Allegations policy (AC1300). The assigned journal articles and chapter readings may only be used for the purpose of research, private study, criticism, review, education. If the copy is used for the purpose of review, criticism or news reporting, the source and the name of the author must be mentioned.



Take care of yourself

Being a student can be stressful! Please take care of yourself – eat well, exercise, get enough sleep, take some time to relax, and talk to someone if you’re feeling overwhelmed. This will help you achieve your goals and cope with stress. You are not alone – all of us benefit from support during times of struggle.

Social Life, Friends, & Community at UVic: Having a social network is an extremely important foundation for positive mental health. There are lots of benefits to joining clubs, course unions, intramurals and teams on campus (some of these will be available online this Fall semester).

<https://www.uvic.ca/mentalhealth/undergraduate/connecting/index.php>

Counselling Services: Counselling Services can help you make the most of your university experience. They offer free professional, confidential, inclusive support to currently registered UVic students.

www.uvic.ca/services/counselling/

Health Services: University Health Services (UHS) provides a full service primary health clinic for students and coordinates healthy student and campus initiatives: www.uvic.ca/services/health/

Centre for Accessible Learning: The CAL staff are available by appointment to assess specific needs, provide referrals and arrange appropriate accommodations. The sooner you let us know your needs, the quicker we can assist you in achieving your learning goals in this course: www.uvic.ca/services/cal/

Elders' Voices: The Office of Indigenous Academic and Community Engagement (IACE) has the privilege of assembling a group of Elders from local communities to guide students, staff, faculty, and administration in Indigenous ways of knowing and being: www.uvic.ca/services/indigenous/students/programming/elders/

Mental Health Supports and Services: Mental health supports and services are available to students from all areas of the UVic community: www.uvic.ca/mentalhealth/undergraduate/

Sexualized Violence Prevention and Response at UVic: The University of Victoria takes sexualized violence seriously and has standards for what is considered acceptable behaviour. We encourage students to learn more about how the university defines sexualized violence and its overall approach by visiting:
www.uvic.ca/svp

If you or someone you know has been impacted by sexualized violence and needs information, advice, or support please contact the sexualized violence resource office in Equity and Human Rights (EQHR).

Whether or not you have been directly impacted, if you want to take part in the important prevention work taking place on campus, you can also reach out to the Sexualized violence resource office in EQHR, Sedgewick C119; Phone: 250.721.8021; Email: svpcoordinator@uvic.ca
Web: www.uvic.ca/svp

UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA



Department of Psychology

Important Course Policy Information Fall 2021

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

Program Requirements: For more information see the UVic Calendar September 2021.

<https://www.uvic.ca/calendar/future/undergrad/index.php#/programs?searchTerm=psycho>

Registration Status: Students are responsible for verifying their registration status. 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.

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: Refer to the course outline

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

https://www.uvic.ca/calendar/future/undergrad/#/policy/Sk_0xsM_V?bc=true&bcCurrent=08%20-%20Policy%20on%20Academic%20Integrity&bcGroup=Undergraduate%20Academic%20Regulations&bcItem Type=policies. 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. **Unauthorized Use of an Editor.** The use of an editor is prohibited unless the instructor grants explicit written authorization.
3. **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.
4. **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.





5. **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.
6. **Aiding Others to Cheat.** It is a violation to help others or attempt to help others to engage in any of the conduct described above.

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 September 2021.

The definitive source for information on Academic Integrity is the University Calendar

Other useful resources on Plagiarism and Cheating include:

1. The Ombudsperson's office: <https://uvicombudsperson.ca/tips/plagiarism/>
1. The Office of the Ombudsperson is an independent and impartial resource to assist with the fair resolution of student issues. A confidential consultation can help you understand your rights and responsibilities. The Ombudsperson can also clarify information, help navigate procedures, assist with problem-solving, facilitate communication, provide feedback on an appeal, investigate and make recommendations. Phone: 250-721-8357; Email: ombuddy@uvic.ca; Web: uvicombudsperson.ca
2. UVic Library Resources: <http://www.uvic.ca/library/research/citation/plagiarism/>
3. https://www.uvic.ca/library/research/citation/documents/avoiding%20plagiarism%20guideUpdate_Sept_2013.pdf

