



PSY204H1S: Psychology Careers and Applications



Class meets **Thursdays 1-4pm** in **SS 2135**

**Please note that class meetings will be held on zoom until otherwise noted*

Contact Information

Instructor:	Dr. Ashley Waggoner Denton (she/her/hers)
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Office Hours:	TBD or book an appointment here
Office Location:	SS 5016F or SS 6019
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Course Description, Goals, and Prerequisites

Psychology has been identified as a “hub science”, a discipline whose research influences the work of scientists in many other fields. This course will provide you with a broad introduction to the application of the psychological sciences across various clinical, academic, and industry contexts. You will gain valuable insight into the broad range of careers that are relevant to psychology, while also investigating barriers to rigorous application of psychological science in applied settings. You will learn how different areas of psychology (e.g., clinical, social, neuroscience) are applied in practice, as well as how the skills and knowledge gained in an undergraduate psychology program can be applied to a broad range of careers and fields/sectors. You will gain significant exposure to career and education planning considerations within the psychological sciences and will participate in at least one experiential career exploration activity. Wherever possible, you will also be given the opportunity to interact with psychology alumni who are currently employed in these settings.

Prerequisites: PSY100H1 (or equivalent). At least one additional PSY course at the 200-level is recommended, but not required.

Distribution Requirement: Science

Breadth Requirement: Society and its Institutions (3)

Reading Material/Textbook

Norris, M. E. (Ed.). (2019). The Canadian Handbook for Careers in Psychological Science. Kingston, ON: eCampus Ontario. Licensed under CC BY NC 4.0.

This is an open access (free!) textbook that can be read or downloaded (in a variety of formats) here: <https://ecampusontario.pressbooks.pub/psychologycareers/>

Course Webpage/Quercus

The website associated with this course is accessible via <http://q.utoronto.ca>. This is where you will find all course materials, submit your assignments, etc. If you have any questions about using this site, please do not hesitate to ask me!

Course Learning Outcomes

Knowledge & Application

- You will learn to distinguish the methods and approaches used in different psychology domains.
- You will learn about various theories of career development and how you can apply them to your own thinking about careers.
- You will learn how the psychological sciences have been applied in a variety of settings.

Scientific Inquiry & Critical Thinking

- You will learn how to navigate information databases and other resources to find primary sources.
- You will learn to evaluate the credibility and informational value of academic and non-academic sources.

Communication

- You will demonstrate effective writing for different purposes.
- You will learn how to create an effective infographic that communicates critical information, including statistics, through a combination of text and visuals.

Personal & Professional Development

- You will learn how to apply psychological concepts and academic skills in pursuit of career goals.
- You will develop meaningful professional direction for life after graduation.
- You will gain practice giving and receiving performance feedback from others.
- You will engage in critical reflection by intentionally thinking deeply about your learning experiences, your reactions and responses, and what you will take from these experiences in order to inform future actions and improve outcomes

Ethical & Social Responsibility

- You will learn how to apply ethical standards to evaluate psychological science and practice.
- You will learn how psychology can be applied to local, national and global issues of concern (e.g., health and wellbeing, sustainability).

Course Evaluation/Marking Scheme

Additional resources, instructions, and scoring rubrics for all assignments will be available on Quercus.

Midterm Test (20%)

Will be a timed, open-book test, conducted online (on Quercus). A mix of question types (e.g., multiple choice, short answer) will assess your understanding of the course content including the readings, lectures, class activities, and guest sessions.

Guest Speaker Preparation & Reflection (10%)

You will sign-up for a specific week where there is a guest speaker (or speakers) planned for class. You will prepare for the guest(s) by conducting background research (e.g., reviewing the person's education and job history on LinkedIn, learning more about the field they are in) and preparing a set of insightful and interesting questions that could be asked. For weeks with multiple guest speakers, you may choose to focus on either one or multiple guests (the page limit is the same in either case). After the session with the guest(s), you will write a reflection on what you learned from their visit.

- Background summaries and questions (maximum 3 double-spaced pages) are due by midnight on the Wednesday **before** the scheduled class visit.
- Reflections (2 double-spaced pages) are due **within one week** of the guest visit.
- Specific deadlines will not be posted on Quercus, since these depend on which week you signed up for; you are responsible for keeping track of this.

Career Exploration Orientation & Reflection (10%)

Once completed, the two-part Career Exploration Orientation will make you eligible to participate in the *Job Shadowing* and *In the Field* career exploration programs for up to three years. For more information see:

<https://studentlife.utoronto.ca/program/online-career-exploration-orientation/>

- 2% for Part 1 (online, 30 minutes; can complete anytime)
- 3% for Part 2 (online workshop, must register)
- 5% reflection on what you learned from the orientation; will only be accepted if you've completed **both** parts of the orientation.
- Deadline: April 1st, 2022

Professional Development Activity (5%)

Completion of *EITHER*:

Tri-Council CORE (Course on Research Ethics) Online Tutorial

- Recommended for those who are interested in research careers/experience and/or getting into a research-oriented graduate program (e.g., obtaining a PhD in Social Psychology)

OR

Career Workshop / CV and Personal Statement Camp

- <https://studentlife.utoronto.ca/department/career-exploration-education/>
- Find upcoming workshops and register via the *St. George Career Exploration & Education Events and Workshops Calendar*:
<https://clnx.utoronto.ca/home.htm>

*You may choose to complete both activities if you wish, of course, but only one will count toward your grade (you cannot earn more than 5%); proof of completion, along with a brief reflection on your experience, due by April 1st (see Quercus).

Psychology-Related Careers Infographic Assignment (30%)

An infographic (information + graphic) is a visual representation of information, data or knowledge. Infographics present complex information quickly and clearly to communicate concepts using texts, symbols, colors, and graphic visuals. Infographics present large amounts of information in a compact and easy to understand way. You will select a career that is relevant to psychology (guidance will be provided) and create an infographic for this career that would be useful for other psychology students. Readers of your infographic should be able to learn all of the critical information they need to know about this career, how it connects to their psychology studies, and what steps they would need to take to prepare for this career. To aid you in this task, you will submit a draft of your infographic to peerScholar and receive constructive feedback from your classmates on how to improve your infographic before the final product is due.

- Marks breakdown:
 - Submission of draft and quality of constructive peer feedback (5%)
 - Final infographic (25%)

Final Assessment (25%)

A cumulative assessment that will be completed online during the April Final Assessment Period (April 11 – 29). More information TBD.

Course Policies

Due Dates and Extension Requests

In general, late assignments will be subject to a 5% per day late penalty. However, there are certain assignments that *cannot* be submitted late (e.g., peer feedback). If you need an extension on an assignment, please complete this form **before** the deadline for the assignment (if possible): <https://forms.office.com/r/N7WeGLDy1w>
All reasonable requests will be granted. Thank you!

Re-Grading Policies

Please keep in mind that your TAs are human beings with very busy schedules, who have likely just spent many hours grading dozens of assignments. While they will be

more than happy to fix any mistakes that they have made during the grading of your assignment, they will not respond to requests that are rude or bullying in nature. If you believe that an assessment has not been graded fairly, please do the following: (1) carefully review the rubric (if applicable) and instructions for the assignment, along with any feedback provided by your TA. Make sure that you truly believe the assignment was not graded appropriately, and that you are not just acting out of disappointment with the mark you received. (2) Contact your TA and *briefly but clearly* explain where you think something was overlooked (e.g., the section of the paper or part of the rubric where you feel the problem lies). Your TA will review the assignment, and will make any adjustments to the mark that they feel are appropriate. (3) If after communicating with your TA, you are still unsatisfied and would like an official regrading of your assignment, you may request that I regrade your assignment by emailing me at a.waggoner@utoronto.ca. Please understand that the mark that I give you will be *final*, and that your mark may go up, go down, or stay the same. Requests for regrades must be made within two weeks of the date the marks are returned.

Email Policy

Please check the syllabus and the class materials posted on Quercus before sending an email. You will find answers to most of your questions there. I am available to talk and answer questions after class, or you may use the link on the first page to book an appointment with me.

When sending email, **you must use your official utoronto email account**, otherwise your email may be marked as spam and never received! Please use a meaningful subject line and start it with PSY204 (e.g., "PSY204: question about career workshop"). Use a proper greeting (e.g., "Hi Dr. Waggoner Denton") and sign with your name (no need to add your student number or anything else!). State your concern clearly and succinctly. If the issue is something that would be better discussed in person, please book a meeting with me instead.

I will generally respond to your email within two business days, but please note that I do **not** check email on the weekends (i.e., an email sent on Friday may not be responded to until Monday).

Religious Accommodation

As a student at the University of Toronto, you are part of a diverse community that welcomes and includes students and faculty from a wide range of backgrounds, cultural traditions, and spiritual beliefs. For my part, I will make every reasonable effort to avoid scheduling compulsory activities on religious holy days not captured by statutory holidays. Further to University Policy, if you anticipate being absent from class or missing a major course activity due to a religious observance, please let me know as early in the course as possible, and with sufficient notice (at least two to three weeks), so that we can work together to make alternate arrangements.

Grading Policy

Please note that all course marks are tentative until approved by department chair and dean's office, and recorded in the office of the faculty registrar.

For more information on What Grades Mean at U of T, please see:

<http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/advice/general/grading-policy>

Academic Resources

Accessibility Needs: Students with diverse learning styles and needs are welcome in this course. If you have an acute or ongoing disability issue or accommodation need, you should register with Accessibility Services (AS) (www.accessibility.utoronto.ca) at the beginning of the academic year. Without registration, you will not be able to verify your situation with your instructors, and instructors will not be advised about your accommodation needs. AS will assess your medical situation, develop an accommodation plan with you, and support you in requesting accommodation for your coursework. Remember that the process of accommodation is private: AS will not share details of your condition with any instructor, and your instructors will not reveal that you are registered with AS.

PLEASE NOTE: Because I believe that accessibility is an issue that should be addressed broadly, not only for specific individuals with appropriate documentation, I have tried my best to design a flexible course where every learner's needs can be met. For example, no documentation is necessary to request a due date extension; simply [fill out the request form](#). Of course, if you have specific needs that have not been met by default in the design or format of the course, please just let me know (either via email or booking an appointment with me - whatever is most comfortable for you).

Writing: As a student here at the University of Toronto, you are expected to write well. The university provides its students with a number of resources to help them achieve this. For more information on campus writing centres and writing courses, please visit <http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/>.

English Language Learners (ELL) Program:

<http://www.artsci.utoronto.ca/current/advising/ell>

ELL offers a range of programs/workshops/resources to assist all Arts & Science students who wish to improve their English language skills (including reading, listening, speaking, and writing). Please see their website for more information about these resources.

Academic Integrity and Plagiarism: All students, faculty and staff are expected to follow the University's guidelines and policies on academic integrity. For students, this means following the standards of academic honesty when writing assignments, collaborating with fellow students, and writing tests and exams. Ensure that the work you submit for grading represents your own honest efforts. Plagiarism—representing someone else's work as your own or submitting work that you have previously submitted for marks in another class or program—is a serious offence that can result in sanctions. Speak to me or your TA for advice on anything that you find unclear. To learn more about how to cite and use source material appropriately and for other writing support, see the U of T writing support website at www.writing.utoronto.ca/. Consult the Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters for a complete outline of the

University's policy and expectations. For more information, please see <http://www.artsci.utoronto.ca/osai> and <http://academicintegrity.utoronto.ca/>

Mental Health: Everyone feels stressed or anxious now and then – it's a normal part of university life. In the most recent National College Health Assessment (published in 2017), however, 64% of UofT students surveyed reported experiencing overwhelming anxiety in the past 12 months and 45% reported having felt so depressed it was hard to function. If you are ever experiencing anxiety, depression, or any other symptoms that are preventing you from completing your work and/or benefiting from your university experience, I encourage you to investigate U of T's various resources: <https://studentlife.utoronto.ca/department/health-wellness/>. If you are experiencing more acute distress, please visit: <http://safety.utoronto.ca/>.

Additional Resources

Student Life Programs and Services (<http://www.studentlife.utoronto.ca/>)

Academic Success Services (<http://www.studentlife.utoronto.ca/asc>)

Counselling and Psychological Services (<http://www.studentlife.utoronto.ca/hwc>)

Never hesitate to reach out to me with any questions or concerns. I'm looking forward to a fantastic semester with you!



Professor Waggoner Denton
(she/her/hers)

Course Outline/Schedule

Class Date	Topic & Guest Speakers (*subject to change; updated guest speaker info will be posted to Quercus)	Reading & Activities (Additional readings may be posted to Quercus)
Week 1 January 13	Course Introduction: The Skillful Psychology Student	Read Chapter 1 Sign-up for guest speaker preparation
Week 2 January 20	Career Development & Networking <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guest: Kelci Archibald, U of T Career Exploration & Education 	Read Chapter 2 Start reviewing potential careers for infographic assignment Complete career exploration orientation (part 1)
Week 3 January 27	Research Methods & Ethics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guests: Graduate student panel (TAs & former U of T psychology undergrads) 	Read Chapters 3 & 4 Tri Council CORE ethics completion recommended (if applicable)
Week 4 February 3	Clinical and Counseling Careers & Applications <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guests: Jessica Hughes (registered psychotherapist); Michelle Zochniak (registered nurse) 	Read Chapters 5 & 6
Week 5 February 10	Social Psychology Careers & Applications <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guest: Gary Offenberger (Executive Vice President, Market Research Services at Advanis) 	Read Chapter 7
Week 6 February 17	Developmental Psychology Careers & Applications <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guest(s): TBD 	Read Chapter 8
Week 7	READING WEEK (may be a good time to complete career orientation and professional development activities!)	
Week 8 March 3	Midterm Test (will be held online)	No class/reading this week
Week 9 March 10	Neuroscience Careers & Applications	Read Chapter 9

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guests: Bryan Hong (graduate student); Queenie Wu (registered physiotherapist) 	Infographic drafts due
Week 10 March 17	Industrial/Organizational Psychology & Human Factors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guests: to be confirmed 	Read Chapter 10 Constructive feedback on peer infographics due
Week 11 March 24	Forensic Psychology <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guest(s): to be confirmed 	Read Chapter 11
Week 12 March 31	Environmental & Community Psychology <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guest(s): TBD 	Read Chapters 13 & 14
Week 13 April 7	Psychology Careers & Applications Student Showcase! (will be held online)	Final Infographics Due
Exam Period	Final Exam	