Course Syllabus: PSY450 History of Psychology

Course Information
Semester: Winter/Spring 2023
Time: Mondays 6:00pm–9:00pm
Location: RW 143

Course Instructor
Name: Carolyn Davison (she/her)
E-mail: carolyn.guay@mail.utoronto.ca
Office Hours: By appointment on Zoom
  Book here: https://calendly.com/carolyn-davison
  Meeting link: https://utoronto.zoom.us/j/3531504583
  Meeting ID: 353 150 4583
  Passcode: 502953

Teaching Assistant
Name: Dela Farzanfar
Email: delaram.farzanfar@mail.utoronto.ca
Office Hours: TBA

Course Description
First and foremost, you can think of this as a methods course. Important events, trends, and figures in psychology’s history will be our subject matter, but a real emphasis will be placed on learning and practicing different conceptual approaches that folks both inside and outside of the field of psychology have used to investigate and interpret its history.

Since the field of psychology’s official inception, historical narratives have been used to depict the discipline’s past, define its present, and predict its future. However, historical investigations themselves can often complicate and undermine these very narratives. A key theme in this course is the indeterminate relationship psychology has with its own history and the resulting conflicts within the history of psychology. We will ask what the goal of the subdiscipline should be and how it can be practiced most responsibly. We’ll explore these questions by studying both narratives of what happened in psychology’s development as well as the work involved in making and evaluating these narratives.

This course is also an opportunity to practice engaging with interdisciplinary critiques of psychology. By the end of this course, you should not only have a more holistic understanding of the field’s development, but also some sense of the different ways the field has been perceived, studied, and critiqued by psychologists, historians, and others.
Course Objectives

- Develop an understanding of how psychology emerged and developed as a field as well as how ‘history of psychology’ as its own discipline has developed alongside it.
- Critically evaluate primary and secondary sources to understand how psychology has influenced and been influenced by society, particularly with regard to race, gender, sexuality, religion, age, and ability.
- Place current theories, trends, and concepts in psychology within the context of their historical antecedents.

Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Justice
The University of Toronto is committed to equity, human rights and respect for diversity. All members of the learning environment in this course should strive to create an atmosphere of mutual respect where all members of our community can express themselves, engage with each other, and respect one another’s differences. U of T does not condone discrimination or harassment against any persons or communities. In this, like so many courses, the diversity of perspectives and experiences that members of the learning community bring enrich the experience for everyone, and we must commit to creating an environment where everyone feels safe, comfortable, and welcome.

Territorial Acknowledgement
I wish to acknowledge this land on which the University of Toronto operates. For thousands of years it has been the traditional land of the Huron-Wendat, the Seneca, and most recently, the Mississaugas of the Credit River. Today, this meeting place is still the home to many Indigenous people from across Turtle Island and we are grateful to have the opportunity to work on this land.

This course will present many opportunities to reflect on the role that colonization played in the historical moments during which the field of psychology was coming into being. Psychology as a discipline itself grew in the context of colonization and has also regularly been employed as a way to perpetuate and justify violences against Indigenous people. Many of these injustices continue into our present moment and psychology must reckon with the fact that it continues to benefit from the exploitation of Indigenous people.
## Course Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Lecture Topic</th>
<th>Assignments (due at start of class)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan 9(^{th})</td>
<td>Lecture 1: Course Introduction and Syllabus</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Jan 16\(^{th}\) | Lecture 2: The History of the History of Psychology Perspectives in the History of Psychology | Course survey  
Reading response(s) |
| Jan 23\(^{rd}\) | Lecture 3: Structuralism, The “New” Psychology, and the Origins of the Psychological Experiment | Reading response(s) |
| Jan 30\(^{th}\) | Lecture 4: Functionalism, Testing, and Eugenics                                 | Reading response(s) |
| Feb 6\(^{th}\)  | Lecture 5: Psychoanalysis and Psychodynamic Therapies                           | Reading response(s) |
| Feb 13\(^{rd}\) | Lecture 6: Behaviourism                                                         | Paper topic proposal  
Reading response(s) |
| Feb 20\(^{th}\) | ---- Reading Week: No class ----                                              |                                     |
| Feb 27\(^{th}\) | Lecture 7: Gestalt Psychology and Humanistic Therapies                          | Midterm reflection  
Reading response(s) |
| Mar 6\(^{th}\)  | Lecture 8: Cold War Psychology                                                  | Paper outline  
Reading response(s) |
| Mar 13\(^{th}\) | Lecture 9: Social Cultural Perspectives                                         | Reading response(s) |
| Mar 20\(^{th}\) | Lecture 10: The Cognitive Turn and “Scientific Revolutions”                     | Reading response(s) |
| Mar 27\(^{th}\) | Lecture 11: Current Issues and Course Recap                                     | Reading response(s) |
| April 3\(^{rd}\)  |                                                                     | Final paper |
| TBD                                      |                                                                     | Take home exam  
Final reflection |
# Grade Breakdown

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reflections</th>
<th>Subtotal</th>
<th>Section Total</th>
<th>Due</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Intro Course Survey</td>
<td>1 %</td>
<td></td>
<td>16/01/2023</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Midterm Reflection</td>
<td>4 %</td>
<td></td>
<td>27/02/2023</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Final Reflection</td>
<td>5 %</td>
<td></td>
<td>31/03/2023</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>10%</strong></td>
<td><strong>10%</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reading Responses</th>
<th>Subtotal</th>
<th>Section Total</th>
<th>Due</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Response #1–10</td>
<td>17.5 %</td>
<td></td>
<td>various dates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Response #11–20</td>
<td>10.5 %</td>
<td></td>
<td>various dates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Response #21–30</td>
<td>7 %</td>
<td></td>
<td>various dates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>35%</strong></td>
<td><strong>35%</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term Paper</th>
<th>Subtotal</th>
<th>Section Total</th>
<th>Due</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Topic Proposal</td>
<td>1 %</td>
<td></td>
<td>13/02/2023</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Outline</td>
<td>5 %</td>
<td></td>
<td>06/03/2023</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Cover Letter</td>
<td>4 %</td>
<td></td>
<td>31/03/2023</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Final Paper</td>
<td>25 %</td>
<td></td>
<td>31/03/2023</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>35%</strong></td>
<td><strong>35%</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Online Final Exam           | 20 %     |               | TBD             |
| **Total**                   | **20%**  | **20%**       |                 |

# Assignments

- Intro Course Survey: 1%
- Midterm Reflection: 4%
- Final Reflection: 5%
- Reading Responses: 35%
- Term Paper: 35%
- Online Final Exam: 20%
**Reflections: 10%** (Course Survey, Midterm Reflection, and Final Reflection)

Throughout the term, you will have various opportunities to reflect on your experiences and goals. There will be some general questions to guide your reflections, but these activities are ultimately designed to be tools for you and, as such, you are welcome to add or expand on any elements that feel most pertinent to you. With each reflection, there will also be an opportunity to submit anonymous feedback about your experience in the course.

You may find it helpful to record brief summaries of your experiences with the class and the readings each week to help you remember.

**Reading Responses: 35%**

Each week, there will be a set of assigned and optional readings. For each reading, you will have the opportunity to prepare a brief response to help you collect your ideas and demonstrate that you have read and understood the material. These responses should be short (1–2 pages) and relatively informal and can follow a general template that will be provided to you.

The responses for each week’s readings will be due at the start of class, because they will be useful to refer to in our group discussions.

Reading responses will be graded following a specifications grading model. This means that they will each be graded for completion (acceptable/not acceptable), and your final grade for this section of the course will be determined entirely based on how many completed (acceptable) responses you submit. It is up to you which and how many readings you choose to submit responses to, and you are encouraged to use this flexibility to accommodate your schedules.

The first ten responses are worth 5 points each, the next ten are worth 3 points each, and the last ten are worth 2 points each, for a maximum of 100 points (35% of course grade).

*Note that required readings are still required even if you choose not to submit a response for them.*

**Term Paper: 35%**

In your term paper, you will be asked to intervene in a current debate in the field of psychology by tracing the historical antecedents of various positions and drawing conclusions about how history can be brought to bear on the controversy in its present state. The term ‘debate’ here can be interpreted broadly, but could include disagreements over methods, theories, or interpretations of findings. You should try to be as specific as possible in your topic choice to prioritize depth over breadth of analysis.

You will have opportunities throughout the term to submit and receive feedback on both a topic proposal and an outline before your final paper is due. This will give you lower-stakes opportunities to get advice from your TA and make revisions before submitting your final paper.

**Final Exam: 20%**

The final exam is designed to give you an opportunity to make connections across material from the whole course. The exam will consist of five questions, of which you are required to answer four of your choosing. This is an open-book exam which should take about 2 hours to complete. However, it will be available for 48 hours to allow you to schedule around your other obligations and avoid complications for those completing the exam in different time zones.
**Participation and Course Culture**

Interdisciplinarity is the heart of this course. Everyone in the room comes from a different background and brings a unique perspective to the discussion. There will be some readings or assignments that feel more familiar to you, and some that stretch your comfort zone. Let them. This discomfort is where the most learning will happen. I hope to build a classroom culture that supports you in pushing your boundaries and allows you to support others in pushing theirs.

On a related note… don’t be a poop. If you’ve come across ideas, concepts, or skills in other courses or areas of your life, please use this foundation to help your peers who haven’t. This isn’t a time to perform competence, it’s an opportunity to take on the role of teacher and share what you know. Again, we all come to this class with our own sets of baggage and areas of expertise: bring to these moments the patience and bravery your peers will show you when the roles are reversed.

In order to meet everyone’s educational needs, the classroom must be a space in which students can feel safe to experiment: to think aloud, even to be spectacularly wrong, but nonetheless to grow together. All positions and perspectives that do not deny the humanity of others will be treated equitably. Accordingly, I will not tolerate any kind of discrimination against members of historically marginalized groups, nor will I condone personal attacks. While civility may occasionally be overrated, in the classroom it is essential. Thus, while I ask that everyone avoid tone policing, I concurrently also request that we all do our best to treat each other as though everyone is acting in good faith.

- As a necessary corollary, please make sure to act in good faith. Malicious trolling, gaslighting, and the like will not be tolerated.

**Online Communication**

Instructors are strongly advised to require students use their mail.utoronto.ca email addresses for all course-related communications, and you are encouraged to check this address regularly. University of Toronto email accounts are more secure, and are also governed by the institution's codes of conduct, meaning that the University has recourse to address any inappropriate communications (e.g. racist, aggressive, threatening, harassing, etc.) between students and other students as well as with the instructor. Additionally, University of Toronto email addresses are less likely to be redirected to spam.

**Technology**

Technology can support student learning, but it can also become a distraction. Research indicates that multi-tasking (texting or going online) during class time can have a negative impact on learning. However, I also understand that there may be times when you need to monitor your phone/email or even just take a minute to check out during class. I get it. You're adults, and I trust you to make the right decisions for your learning and mental health. Out of respect for your classmates, please refrain from displaying any material on a device which may be distracting or offensive to your fellow students.

That said, laptops/tablets/phones are an incredible resource and I believe they do have a place in the modern university environment. Therefore, use of technological devices is allowed (and encouraged!) for legitimate classroom purposes, such as taking notes, downloading course information from Quercus, participating in interactive lecture components, looking up relevant information, or working on an assigned in-class exercise.
Late Submission of Assignments
All reflections, responses, assignments, and exams should be turned in via Quercus; refer to the online class schedule for the dates on which these are due. Unless otherwise stated, they must be submitted by 5:59 pm (before the start of class).

Unless you notify me in advance about extenuating circumstances that will prevent you from submitting your assignments on time, I will lower your grade for the assignment by 5% per day.

• In general, the more notice you give, the better; however, an e-mail mere minutes before the deadline will suffice. My job is not to be the arbiter of timeliness, but to enable your success. Extensions often offer their own set of challenges, especially since the course will continue unabated, and thus we will need to be conscientious in their use. Regardless, I will always take your individual situation into account when evaluating and responding to your work.

• Requests for extensions will never count against you or your grade. This is not a trap. I promise. If you need one, simply ask for one, and I won’t judge you. If timeliness becomes a systemic problem, we will have to talk about it, but only in order to help solve it.

Students with Disabilities or Accommodation Requirements
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) at the beginning of the academic year by visiting http://www.studentlife.utoronto.ca/as/new-registration. 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 situation, develop an accommodation plan with you, and support you in requesting accommodation for your course work. Remember that the process of accommodation is private: AS will not share details of your needs or condition with any instructor, and your instructors will not reveal that you are registered with AS.

Mental Health Resources
As a student, you may experience challenges that can interfere with learning such as strained relationships, increased anxiety, depression, substance use, feeling down, difficulty concentrating, lack of motivation, financial concerns, family worries, interpersonal or sexual violence, difficulty with eating or sleeping, grief, and so forth. These factors may affect your academic performance and/or reduce your ability to participate fully in daily activities. Everyone feels stressed now and then—it is a normal part of university life, but that doesn’t mean you should tough it out without support. Some days are better than others, and there is no wrong time to reach out. There are resources for every situation and every level of stress. An important part of the University experience is learning how and when to ask for help. Below are some of the resources you have available to you:

• http://studentlife.utoronto.ca/
• https://mentalhealth.utoronto.ca/
• https://www.svpscentre.utoronto.ca/

While I am not professionally trained to provide any kind of therapeutic services, know that I stand with you in solidarity and am ready to help in whatever way I can.
Specific Medical Circumstances

If you are sick, please do not come to class. In this era of in-person pandemic learning, we are asked to put our trust and our health in the hands of our peers and colleagues. With the very real, long-term consequences that can arise from viral infections, including COVID-19, “toughing it out” to attend class despite a contagious illness is dangerous for both you and your fellow students, and will not be tolerated. Take care of yourselves. Take care of each other.

The university is still using the ACORN Absence Declaration for missed classes, quizzes/tests, etc. in lieu of previous formal supporting documentation, which applies for both medical and non-medical circumstances. The declaration is available on ACORN under the Profile and Settings menu. Students should submit this within one week of missing a test/quiz, and for anything else that you miss during the term that requires you to be present or to complete an assessment.

If an absence extends beyond 7 consecutive days, or if you have a non-medical personal situation preventing you from completing your academic work, you should connect with your College Registrar. They can provide advice and assistance reaching out to instructors on your behalf. If you get a concussion, break your hand, or suffer some other acute injury, you should register with Accessibility Services as soon as possible.

Accommodation for Personal Reasons

There may be times when you are unable to complete course work on time due to nonmedical reasons. If you have concerns, speak to me or to an advisor in your College Registrar's office; they can help you to decide if you want to request an extension or accommodation. They may be able to provide you with a College Registrar's letter of support to give to your instructors, and importantly, connect you with other resources on campus for help with your situation.

Quercus Info

This course uses the University's learning management system, Quercus, to post important information. This includes posting readings and other materials required to complete class activities and course assignments, as well as sharing important announcements and updates. The site is dynamic and new information and resources will be posted regularly as we move through the term, so please make it a habit to log in to the site on a regular basis. To access the course website, go to the U of T Quercus log-in page at https://q.utoronto.ca. Once you have logged in to Quercus using your UTORid and password, you should see the link or "card" for PSY450H1 S LEC5101. You may need to scroll through other cards to find this. Click on the PSY450H1 S LEC5101 link to open our course area, view the latest announcements and access your course resources. There are Quercus help guides for students that you can access by clicking on the "?” icon in the left side column.

SPECIAL NOTE ABOUT GRADES POSTED ONLINE: Please also note that any grades posted are for your information only, so you can view and track your progress through the course. No grades are considered official, including any posted in Quercus at any point in the term, until they have been formally approved and posted on ACORN at the end of the course. Please contact me as soon as possible if you think there is an error in any grade posted on Quercus.
**Academic Integrity**

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 http://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 https://www.artsci.utoronto.ca/current/academicadvising-and-support/student-academicintegrity and http://academicintegrity.utoronto.ca

**Course Readings**

Readings will be a combination of primary and secondary sources, all of which will be posted on Quercus. The reading list is divided into required readings and “supplemental readings”. Both the lectures and the exam will assume you have done the required readings. Supplemental readings are completely optional. They are intended to expand on the lecture material and/or provide further examples of primary and secondary sources in the history of psychology. You may choose to submit reading responses to any required or supplemental reading listed here.

**Lecture 1 – Intro & Syllabus**

No Readings

**Lecture 2 – The History of the History of Psychology**

*Required:*


*Supplemental:*


Lecture 3 – Structuralism, The “New” Psychology and the Origins of the Psychological Experiment

Required:

Supplemental:
Baldwin, J. (1892). The psychological laboratory in the University of Toronto. Science, 19 (no. 475), 143-144.

Lecture 4 – Functionalism, Testing, & Eugenics

Required:

Supplemental:

Lecture 5 – Psychoanalysis

Required:


**Lecture 6 – Behaviourism**

**Required:**


**Supplemental:**


**Lecture 7 – Gestalt Psychology and Humanistic Therapies**

**Required:**


**Supplemental:**


**Lecture 8 – Cold War Psychology**

**Required:**


Supplemental:

Lecture 9 – Social and Cultural Perspectives

Required:

Supplemental:

Lecture 10 – The Cognitive Turn and “Scientific Revolutions”

Required:

Supplemental:
Lecture 11 – Current Issues and Course Recap

Required:

Supplemental: