

PSYCHOLOGY 217, SECTION 002
Thinking Clearly About Psychology
September – December 2007

Course Information

Meeting Days: Monday, Wednesday and Friday

Meeting Time: 12:00 – 1:00pm

Location: Mathematics, Room 100

Website: <http://www.psych.ubc.ca/~psyc217/>

Instructor

Name: Carrie Cuttler

Office: Kenny Building, Room 3202

Office Hours: by appointment

Email: cuttler@psych.ubc.ca

Teaching Assistant

Name: Ryan McLaughlin

Office: Kenny Building, Room 1614

Office Hours: by appointment

Email: rjmclgh@mta.ca

Textbooks

How to Think Straight About Psychology (8th Edition) Keith E. Stanovich

Methods in Behavioral Research (9th Edition) Paul C. Cozby

Lectures and Assigned Readings

Attendance at lectures is essential for students who wish to do well in the course.

Examinations will cover both lecture material and assigned readings. You are responsible for all assigned readings and all lecture material.

Grades

Your final grade in this course will be weighted in the following manner:

Midterm: 40%

Final Exam: 60%

Examinations

There will be two exams: a midterm exam and a final exam. The midterm will be written in class on **Wednesday, October 17th**. The final exam will be written during the examination period at the time and place designated by the Registrar. You must be available to write your final exam at any scheduled time during the official exam period. If you have 3 or more exams scheduled within a 24 hour period you may request to write the second exam on a different day. However, you must give the instructor of the second exam one months notice.

The midterm exam will be 50 minutes in duration. It will cover all lecture material covered before October 17th, chapters 1-4 of the Cozby textbook and chapters 1-6 of the Stanovich textbook (10 chapters in total). The exam will contain 60 multiple-choice questions.

The final exam will be approximately 120 minutes in duration. The majority of the questions on the final exam will focus on material covered after the midterm examination, however some questions will require you to use information that you learned before the midterm. The primary focus of the final exam will be on lecture material presented after the midterm, chapters 5-14 of the Cozby textbook and chapters 7-12 of the Stanovich textbook. The exam will contain 100 multiple-choice questions, 25 true/false questions and 25 fill-in-the-blank questions.

Psychology Department's Position on Academic Misconduct

Cheating, plagiarism, and other forms of academic misconduct are very serious concerns of the University, and the Department of Psychology has taken steps to alleviate them. In the first place, the Department has implemented software that can reliably detect cheating on multiple-choice exams by analyzing the patterns of students' responses. In addition, the Department subscribes to *TurnItIn*--a service designed to detect and deter plagiarism. All materials (term papers, lab reports, etc.) that students submit for grading will be scanned and compared to over 5 billion pages of content located on the Internet or in TurnItIn's own proprietary databases. The results of these comparisons are compiled into customized "Originality Reports" containing several, sensitive measures of plagiarism; instructors receive copies of these reports for every student in their class.

In all cases of suspected academic misconduct, the parties involved will be pursued to the fullest extent dictated by the guidelines of the University. Strong evidence of cheating or plagiarism may result in a zero credit for the work in question. According to the University Act (section 61), the President of UBC has the right to impose harsher penalties including (but not limited to) a failing grade for the course, suspension from the University, cancellation of scholarships, or a notation added to a student's transcript.

All graded work in this course, unless otherwise specified, is to be original work done independently by individuals. Do **not** use Google/Yahoo/MSN Search/etc. to find articles for assignments in this course. **Do** use any of the indexes and databases listed under Indexes and Databases, Subject Resources, OneSearch or Metasearch on the Library's website at <http://www.library.ubc.ca>. (Not sure which index to use? Click HELP on the library homepage at www.library.ubc.ca or try Subject Resources.)

If you have any questions as to whether or not what you are doing is even a borderline case of academic misconduct, please consult your instructor. For

details on pertinent University policies and procedures, please see Chapter 5 in the UBC Calendar (<http://students.ubc.ca/calendar>).

Psychology Department's Policy on Grade Distributions and Scaling

In order to reduce grade inflation and maintain equity across multiple course sections, all psychology courses are required to comply with departmental norms regarding grade distributions. According to departmental norms, the mean grade in a 300-level class is 70 for a good class, 68 for an average class, and 66 for a weak class, with a standard deviation of 13). The corresponding figures for 100- and 200-level Psychology courses are 67, 65, and 63, with a standard deviation of 14. **Scaling** is likely to be used in order to comply with these norms; grades may be scaled up or down as necessary by the professor or department.

Research Participation Bonus Marks

Students have the opportunity to earn up to two bonus marks (2%) by participating in a Psychology Subject Pool study. You can locate and sign up for studies by going to <https://hsp.psych.ubc.ca>. If you don't already have a user account you will first need to request an HSP (human subject pool) user account on this webpage. Once you have an account and have logged into it, you will be able to browse through all of the experiments that you can participate in, sign up for experiments and confirm your accumulated bonus marks. I strongly urge all students to confirm their accumulated bonus marks *before* the last week of class. Further instruction on how to use the HSP online system can be found at <http://www.psych.ubc.ca/resguide.psy> in the document entitled "Subject Pool Information for Participants."

As an alternative to participation in a Psychology Subject Pool study, you may obtain extra credits by completing a library writing project. If you choose this option you will be required to read and summarize (in written form) a recent peer reviewed (i.e., it cannot be a news item, a notice or a letter to the editor, for example) research article (i.e., not a review article) in a journal published by the American Psychological Association, the American Psychological Society, the Canadian Psychological Association or the Psychonomic Society. The research article must have been published recently – within the last 12 months, and your summary should be about 500 words in length. You will receive 1 extra credit for each article summary, up to a maximum of 2 credits.

If you choose to make use of the library option, you must submit your completed article summaries, together with copies of the summarized articles to, Dr. Peter Graf, in Kenny 3110, at least 10 days before the end of class (i.e., before April 2nd).

Reporting of Grades

Once the midterm exam has been marked, the grades will be posted with student numbers (no names) on the course website.

Requests for the adjustment of a grade on the midterm exam must be made within 2 weeks of the posting of the grades. Most requests for adjustment of grades can be settled directly with your teaching assistant during his office hour. In cases of a dispute that cannot be satisfactorily resolved in this fashion, the instructor will render a final decision. Please note that if you request that a question be re-graded, it will be re-graded and your mark may go up, down or stay the same.

It is a university regulation that students may not view their final examinations without special written permission from the Dean's Office – during this viewing, discussion of grades is strictly forbidden. If you believe that an error has been made in the marking of your final examination, you may officially request from the Registrar's Office (within 4 weeks of the announcement of the final grades) that your examination be remarked. See the UBC calendar.

Missed Examinations

If you miss an exam due to illness, contact the instructor, Carrie Cuttler, and the teaching assistant, Ryan McLaughlin, as soon as possible, preferably before the exam. The teaching assistant will schedule a make-up exam for you to write. You must bring a note from your doctor confirming your illness to the make up exam in order to be permitted to write the exam.

If you miss an exam for a reason other than illness a decision about how to proceed will be made on a case by case basis. However, in most cases missing an exam will result in a grade of 0 on the exam and no opportunity to write a make-up exam.

List of Assigned Readings

You will be required to read both textbooks in their entirety. The following is a rough list of the days the readings will be covered in class.

Dates	How to Think Straight About Psychology K. E. Stanovich	Methods in Behavioral Research P. C. Cozby
Sept 7 th – Sept 10 th	Preface & Chapter 1	Chapter 1
Sept 10 th – Sept 12 th	Chapter 2	None
Sept 12 th – Sept 14 th	Chapter 3	None
Sept 14 th – Sept 17 th	Chapter 4	Chapter 2
Sept 19 th – Oct 1 st	None	Chapter 3
Oct 1 st – Oct 3 rd	Chapter 5	Chapter 4 pg. 66-77
Oct 5th & Oct 8th	No Class (Thanksgiving)	No Class (Thanksgiving)
Oct 10 th – Oct 12 th	Chapter 6	Chapter 4 pg. 77-90
Oct 15 th	Review Session	Review Session
Oct 17 th	Midterm	Midterm
Oct 19 th – Oct 22 nd	None	Chapter 5
Oct 22 nd – Oct 26 th	None	Chapter 6
Oct 26 th – Oct 29 th	None	Chapter 7
Oct 29 th – Nov 2 nd	None	Chapter 8
Nov 2 nd – Nov 5 th	None	Chapter 9
Nov 5 th – Nov 9 th	Chapter 9	Chapter 10
Nov 9 th	None	Chapter 11
Nov 12th	No Class (Remembrance Day)	No Class (Remembrance Day)
Nov 14 th	None	Chapter 11 cont.
Nov 16 th – Nov 19 th	None	Chapter 12
Nov 19 th – Nov 23 rd	Chapters 10 & 11	None
Nov 23 rd – Nov 26 th	None	Chapter 13
Nov 28 th – Nov 30 th	Chapters 7 & 8	Chapter 14
Nov 30 th	Chapter 12	None
	Review Session	Review Session