

Thinking Clearly about Psychology
PSYC 217 Section 901
Winter Session 2007 Term 1

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

Course Time and Location:

Monday 7:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.
Buchanan A202

Instructor: Dana Thordarson

Office: Kenny 3503

Email: thordars@interchange.ubc.ca

Office hour: Monday 5:30-6:30 p.m.

I'm not generally at UBC except on Monday evenings.

Teaching Assistant: Charles He

Office: Kenny 3514

Email: c@harl.es

Office hour: to be announced

Course Description

In this course, we'll be looking at the scientific basis of the discipline of psychology, as well as more particularly, behavioural research methods and designs.

Required Textbooks

Stanovich, K. E. (2007). How to think straight about psychology (8th ed). Boston: Allyn and Bacon, Pearson Education, Inc.

Cozby, P. C. (2007). Methods in behavioral research (9th ed). New York: McGraw-Hill.

Lectures

A schedule of lecture topics and readings is on the course webpage. This should be considered provisional, and it may be updated as the course progresses. Unless otherwise specified, you are responsible for all material from the lectures and assigned readings.

Please note that there will be a short lecture AFTER the midterm on October 22nd. With all the holiday Mondays, we just can't afford to lose an entire week of classes for the midterm.

Examinations & Assignments

Midterm #1 in class October 22nd, 40% of grade (1.25 hours)

Final examination in December examination period, 60% of grade (2 hours).

The final exam period this term is Dec 5th through Dec 19th.

Missed examinations: Examinations that are not written will receive a grade of zero. If you miss an examination due to unavoidable emergency situation, please contact me as soon as possible to arrange to make up the exam. Documentation (e.g., physician's note) will be required. In addition, if

you miss the final examination, you will be required to apply for Deferred Standing through the Faculty of Arts.

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 200-level class is 67 for a good class, 65 for an average class, and 63 for a weak class, 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 Credit

A maximum of 2 research participation credits can be obtained for this course. Students interested in participating in experiments may sign-up for experiments and receive/check their credit info using the online Research Participation System. Students can get started by applying for an account at <http://hsp.psych.ubc.ca>. As an alternative to participating in experiments, students can also receive credits for reading and summarizing a recent journal article. For more information, see the Subject Pool Information for Participants at <http://www.psych.ubc.ca/resguide.psy>.

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>).

Important Dates from the Calendar:

Tuesday, 18 September 2007

Last day for change in registration and for withdrawal from most Term 1 courses without withdrawal standing of "W" recorded on a student's academic record.

Monday, 8 October 2007

Thanksgiving Day. University closed.

Friday, 12 October 2007

Last day for withdrawal from most Winter Session Term 1 courses with withdrawal standing of "W" recorded on a student's academic record.

Monday, 12 November 2007

Holiday in lieu of Remembrance Day. University closed.

Friday, 30 November 2007

Last day of classes for most faculties.

PROVISIONAL lecture schedule

Topic	Lecture	Date	Readings
Psychology is a Science Falsifiability Operationalism	1	Sept 10	Stanovich Ch.1 Stanovich Ch. 2 Stanovich Ch. 3
Testimonials & Case Studies Correlation & Causation	2	Sept 17	Stanovich Ch. 4 Stanovich Ch. 5
Experimental Control Artificiality	3	Sept 24	Stanovich Ch. 6 Stanovich Ch. 7
Converging Evidence Multiple Causation Probabilistic Reasoning	4	Oct 1	Stanovich Ch. 8 Stanovich Ch. 9 Stanovich Ch. 10
Chance & coincidence Psychology don't get no respect	5	Oct 15	Stanovich Ch. 11 Stanovich Ch. 12
Science, hypotheses, ethics	Midterm 6	Oct 22	Cozby Ch. 1-3
Variables, measurement	7	Oct 29	Cozby Ch. 4-5
Observation & Surveys	8	Nov 5	Cozby Ch. 6-7
Experimental Design	9	Nov 19	Cozby Ch. 9-10
Single case and quasi- experimental designs Generalizing results	10	Nov 26	Cozby CH. 11 Cozby Ch. 14