

**Health Psychology
Psychology 314-002
Fall 2012**

Professor: Dr. Christiane Hoppmann
Office: Kenny 3509
Email: choppmann@psych.ubc.ca
Location: Buchanan A102
Time: TU/TH 14:00- 15:30
Office hours: I am available to meet in room 3509 of the Kenny Building from noon to 13:00 on Tuesdays and after class at 15:45-16:30 on Thursdays, or by appointment at other times. Please let me know via email if you would like to meet with me.

Teaching Assistants:

Jennifer Lay: Coordinating TA
jennifer.lay@psych.ubc.ca
Location: Kenny 1007
Office hours: Mondays from 15:00- 16:00. Please email Jennifer Lay if you would like to meet with her.

Lillian May: lamay@psych.ubc.ca

Any questions or concerns with this course should first be addressed to Jennifer Lay, the coordinating TA. You may email the coordinating TA with questions or see her during office hours. Complex questions are typically easier to resolve during office hours. The coordinating TA is a great resource and will be able to provide you with answers to many of your questions. She also works in close contact with me and will refer matters if she cannot resolve them for you. You may also talk to me immediately after class to address any pressing issues. We take your questions very seriously and want to facilitate learning. We always try to get back to you as soon as we can. This can be challenging due to the size of the class and especially around exam times and when the activity assignments are due. So please make sure to allow at least one day for us to reply.

Course Description:

This course will provide a general introduction to health psychology. The course will give you exposure to topics related to methods in health psychology, health behavior and promotion, stress and coping, social support, patient-provider relations, pain and pain management, the role of psychosocial factors in the management of illness, and death and dying. Many of these topics are also quite relevant to other, neighboring disciplines. The purpose of this class is to provide you with a psychological perspective on these issues.

The format of this course will be lectures accompanied by active, in-class discussion. At several points throughout the course, there will be small group discussions to give students the opportunity to share their own ideas and opinions with each other and the class.

Course Webpage: The website for this course is <http://www.psych.ubc.ca/~choppmann> (login id: Psych314; password: _____). After class, I will post the slides that I presented. The slides provide an outline of the lecture material. You may be examined on details that are discussed in class that are not presented on the slides. The slides do not substitute for taking notes.

Textbook:

Taylor, S. E., & Sirois, F. M. (2012). *Health Psychology* (2nd Canadian Edition). Toronto: McGraw-Hill Ryerson.

Prerequisites:

Health Psychology touches on issues that are of interest to students coming from many different disciplines. This also means that students have different backgrounds and skills. This course requires basic knowledge of psychological concepts and research methods. Although this course requires this knowledge, class time will not be spent in reviewing the required knowledge. Students who want a refresher, are recommended to use the following resources: Cozby, P. C. (2007). *Methods in Behavioral Research*. New York: McGraw-Hill. Myers, D. G. (2007). *Psychology*. New York: Worth Publishers. These books are on hold in the Koerner Library under Psych 314.

Course Evaluation:

Your grade will be based upon a midterm exam (35 %), a final exam (45 %), and two activity assignments (10 % each).

The **exams** will consist of multiple choice and short answer questions. Please bring an HB pencil and an eraser to each exam to allow for electronic scoring of the multiple-choice questions. The exams will cover both lecture and textbook material. The purpose of the lecture is to amplify, explain, and expand upon the textbook material. Although there will be overlap between the lectures and the textbook, there will also be material that will be covered in the lectures that is not part of the textbook. Furthermore, some material from the textbook will not be discussed in class. This means that to be successful in this course you must carefully read the text and attend the lectures. Examinations are non-cumulative.

Please note that, during exams, invigilators may ask students to move or alter students' seating arrangements with no explanation provided. An invigilator may ask you to move due to the possible misconduct of a classmate in an adjacent seat.

Examinations will be given on published dates only. Exceptions will be made in the case of medical problems, in which case a doctor's note is required. Exceptions will also be made for students who have religious obligations that conflict with an exam date. If you are unable to write an exam due to medical problems, please contact me before the exam or within 24 hours after the exam. Students who do not contact me within 24 hours after the exam will be assigned a grade of "0" on the exam. If you are unable to write an exam due to religious obligations, please notify me within the first 2 weeks of class. If you are required to write a makeup exam, you are expected to complete it within the shortest time period possible. Moreover, the content and/or format of the makeup exam may differ from the exam that was administered in class.

Exam grades will be posted on the course website as soon as they are available. Students

wishing to view their exam should make an appointment with the TAs. Students who have viewed their exam and who wish to have their exam re-graded should email me detailing in several sentences why they think that their exam was unjustly graded.

You will be asked to complete **two activity assignments** during the course (out of 5 total opportunities). These assignments are designed to help you think more deeply about some of the topics we discuss in this course in a fun, insightful way. These assignments will involve time and effort on your part outside of class and will include a writing component. You must be in attendance when the assignment is announced (so that you know what the assignment is) and when it is to be turned in. **Assignments must be turned in at their designated time in class** and can NOT be emailed or given to me or a TA outside of class. Extra assignments will not earn you extra credit.

Extra credit: You may earn extra credit for research participation (at a rate of 1/2 points for 1/2 hour, to a maximum of 3 points) or, as an alternative, by completing a library writing project. Your earned points are added to your final grade. For complete details, see "Subject Pool Information for Participants" on the Department's website: <https://hsp.psych.ubc.ca/>. Please **register** in this online system **by the end of September**.

Participation: I strongly encourage and appreciate student participation. Participation may be in the form of questions or comments posed during class amongst your classmates or outside of class in discussion with me. I will make every effort to create a classroom environment in which students feel comfortable to discuss their ideas. If, however, you would prefer to share your ideas with me outside of class, you are welcome to see me during my office hours or by appointment. In order to encourage and facilitate participation, I ask that all students support their classmates' efforts to contribute to class discussion. General course policies can be obtained from the UBC Calendar on academic regulations.

Class Etiquette: In consideration of your fellow students, please turn your phones off during class. The use of laptops in class is an effective means to take notes and record comments related to course content. However, some students use laptops in class to "surf" the internet, engage in e-mail correspondence, and/or work on material associated with other courses. These activities can be very distracting to those who sit in adjacent seats and can interfere with their efforts to focus on course content. For this reason, all students who intend to use their laptop in class for activities unrelated to the course are asked to sit in rows at the rear of the classroom. If you arrive at class late or need to leave early, do so with minimal disruption.

Department Policy on Distribution of Grades in Psychology Courses: Courses offered by the Psychology Department are required to meet a target grade distribution. This is done in order to ensure that all students are assessed fairly in relation to students in other sections of the same course and to students in other courses. The target grade distribution for 300-level psychology courses requires that the mean for the class fall between 66% and 70%, with a standard deviation of approximately 13%. Accordingly, students should note that the Department may scale the final grades in this course up or down if the distribution of grades deviates substantially from the target. A student's grade is not official until it appears on his or her academic record.

Learning Resources: There are a number of useful resources available on and off campus to assist students in achieving their learning goals.

Study support: Learning Commons (<http://learningcommons.ubc.ca/>) is an online resource designed to provide UBC students with learning and study support. It is an interactive website that provides access to information on exam preparation, tutoring, on-campus learning workshops, study groups, and technical tools. The University of Northern British Columbia (UNBC) has a number of useful learning resources available for students online. A series of helpful study skills handouts (e.g., concentration tips, memory strategies) from UNBC can be found at: <http://www.unbc.ca/lsc/index.html>.

Writing Support: UBC students may obtain assistance with writing through the UBC Writing Centre (<http://www.writingcentre.ubc.ca/>). The Writing Centre offers courses, tutoring services, and an online Writer's Workshop to assist students in developing their writing skills. The UBC Library (<http://help.library.ubc.ca/>) provides online information to assist students in conducting library searches for papers.

Time Management: Resources to assist you in managing your time across courses are available at: <http://www.arc.sbc.edu/timeschedule.html>.

Academic Accommodation: The University accommodates students with disabilities who have registered with Access and Diversity (<http://www.students.ubc.ca/access/index.cfm>). Please let me know in advance, preferably within the first 2 weeks of class, if you require any accommodation on these grounds.

Academic Concession: During your time in this course, if you encounter medical, emotional, or personal problems that affect your attendance or performance, please notify me. You may be able to obtain academic concession from the Dean of your Faculty. Please discuss any extenuating circumstances with me prior to exam dates. In order to ensure equity among the students in the class, accommodations will not be made after an exam has been written. Furthermore, the relative weight of course requirements will not be changed for any given student. For further information on academic concession, please consult Policies and Regulations in the UBC Calendar (<http://www.calendar.ubc.ca/vancouver/index.cfm>).

Cheating and other academic offenses: 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 (papers, assignments, etc.) that students submit for grading will be scanned and compared to over 4.5 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. 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>).

Further course policies can be obtained from the UBC Calendar on academic regulations.

Final Note: Due to the nature of the course, some students may have personal experience with a topic that is covered in class. My role as an instructor is to present the current state of research in this area. If you need someone to talk to or seek advice, you may contact UBC Counseling Services, 1040 Brock Hall-1874 East Mall, Vancouver, BC V6T 1Z1, Tel: (604) 822-3811.

Course Topics and Schedule of Readings:

Below, you will find a course outline. Dates refer to the approximate day when we will start with a new topic. Topics refer to the content of the lecture and readings.

Date	Topic	Readings
Sept 06	Introduction to health psychology Topics include: Historical origins and contemporary models of health psychology; methodological issues	Chapter 1
Sept 25	Health behaviors Topics include: Health promoting and compromising behaviors; models of health behavior change	Chapters 3-5
Oct 4	Guest lecture Dr. Thomas Kerr: The social-structural production of drug-related harm: Insite and other stories	
Oct 9	Stress and coping Topics include: Stress and coping; resources and strategies for managing stress; social support	Chapters 6-7
Oct 16	Midterm exam: covers all lectures and readings up to Oct 11	
Oct 30	The patient in the treatment setting Topics include: Access to and use of health care services; optimizing patient-provider relations	Chapters 8-10
Nov 8	Management of chronic and terminal illness Topics include: Promoting the management of chronic illness; terminal disease and end of life issues	Chapters 11-12
Nov 15	No class	
Nov 20	Future outlook and new trends Topics include: Successful aging; positive psychology	Chapter 15
Nov 29	Last day of class	
Final exam	Please check the University schedule for date, time and place- be sure to bring a pencil and student ID	