



THE UNIVERSITY OF
WINNIPEG

COURSE OUTLINE

Psychology 2430 - 001 Psychological Approaches to Social Issues September – December 2018

Instructor. Dr. Jeremy Frimer
office: 4L02
email: j.frimer@uwinnipeg.ca
office hours: by appointment

Lectures. Tuesdays & Thursdays from 11:30pm - 12:45pm in room 2D12

Course Description. This course investigates the major social issues of our time, and how psychological science can shed light on them. These issues may include racism, climate change, terrorism, economic inequality, and artificial intelligence (some of these topics may not be covered.) To cultivate a *broad* understanding of the issues, we will examine multiple sides of the issues. To cultivate a *deep* understanding of the issues, the course will delve into the psychological processes that help explain the emergence, importance, and possible solutions to the issues. The course will be a success if students gain knowledge about the psychological processes underlying social issues, gain an appreciation for multiple perspectives on contentious issues, develop respect for adversarial views and intellectual humility, and develop the skills and habits necessary to engage in civil, productive dialogue on social issues.

Prerequisites. Psychology 1000

Required Materials. The course does not have a textbook. However, IClicker Cloud software is required. Students will need to download the program/application onto a computer/tablet/smart phone from <https://www.iclicker.com/students> and purchase a subscription that lasts the full duration of the course. A 6-month subscription currently costs \$14.99 US (~\$20 Canadian). Students will need to bring their device (connected to the internet) to each lecture. UW's wifi connection can sometimes be unreliable; it is recommended that devices have a cellular data plan as a fall-back.

Evaluation. Grades will be determined by students' performance on five course requirements, with the following weighting. Students can earn Exam Weighting Points to adjust these weightings.

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| (a) IClicker Participation | worth 9% |
| (b) Podquizzes | worth 16% |
| (c) Midterm Examination 1 | worth 25% |
| (d) Midterm Examination 2 | worth 25% |
| (e) Final Examination | worth 25% |

Exam Weighting Points. Students can earn "Exam Weighting Points" (EWPs) in class. EWPs do not earn course credit directly. Rather, EWPs change the *weighting* of the three exam grades in a way that always favors the student. In this way, EWPs are much like an insurance policy against the possibility of a low score on an exam. Here's how it works. Every 1000 EWPs that a student earns will cause the student's highest exam score to be weighted 1% more and the other

two exams to be weighted 0.5% less each. If, for example, a student earns 20,000 EWPs, the exam with the highest score will be worth 45% of the total grade, with the lower two scores being worth 15% each. EWPs are earned via IClicker only.

IClicker is a multiple-choice response system that allows students to express their views without having to speak publicly. IClicker will be a regular part of lecture activities. IClicker participation is determined by whether students click, not whether students get the correct answer. There will be 21 lectures in which students can earn participation credit, with the first opportunity being on second lecture in the course, which is on September 6. In each lecture, only those students who click on >75% of the questions will receive a participation credit for that lecture. Students need to register their IClicker unit at <https://www.iclicker.com/students>

Podquizzes. Students will listen to assigned podcasts (free of charge). Students may access the podcasts on any computer, tablet, or smart phone. Students will then take “podquizzes” that test the material on the podcasts. Quizzes will take place in class only, and via IClicker responses only. Podquizzes may happen at any time during any lecture on *or* after the assigned date (dates are assigned on the course website). The material in podcasts is examinable in the midterms and the final exam. Unlike midterm and final examinations, podquizzes are “open book”: students may use notes, smart phones, tablets, or computers. However, they may not communicate with other students during podquizzes.

Examinations test students’ knowledge of the course material, which includes everything covered in class and in the assigned podcasts since the last examination. That is, the exams are not cumulative. The professor will announce which specific material is testable on each exam before the exam takes place. Students must bring their UW student ID card, pens, pencils, and erasers to examinations. The instructor will not provide pencils. No additional equipment (such as notes, smart phones, tablets, or computers) is authorized in examinations.

Letter Grade Cut-Offs

These cut-offs are tentative until approved by the Psychology Department and the UW Senate. If need be, these cut-offs can be adjusted by the Instructor, the departmental DRC, or Senate.

Letter	Minimum %
A+	90%
A	85%
A-	80%
B+	76%
B	68%
C+	64%
C	55%
D	50%
F	0%

Important Dates

Sept. 4	First lecture
Oct. 4	MIDTERM EXAMINATION 1
Oct. 8-12	Reading Week
Nov. 6	MIDTERM EXAMINATION 2
Nov. 12	Voluntary withdrawal (VW) date.
Nov. 29	Final lecture
TBA	FINAL EXAM

Course Policies

- **Free Speech.** This course covers sensitive and controversial topics. For the sake of learning, the professor and students may share controversial opinions. Some students may find some ideas shared to be offensive, hurtful, or wrong. Students are encouraged to express their opinions, and to do so in a manner that is polite and sensitive to others' feelings. The goal of sharing opinions is to educate students about the diversity of thought on these issues. The professor defends individuals' right to free expression. Inciting violence and personal slander are unacceptable. However, all other forms of speech are acceptable. The professor endorses The Chicago Principles on Freedom of Expression, and will abide by them:
<https://provost.uchicago.edu/sites/default/files/documents/reports/FOECommitteeReport.pdf>
 - **Students' Questions.** The instructor encourages questions before, during, or after seminar, or during office visits. Email is also an acceptable means of asking questions only if the query can be answered in a few sentences. If questions require a longer response, the professor will encourage an office visit.
 - **Electronic communication** with the professor should be formal. Emails should begin by formally addressing the recipient (e.g., "Hello Dr. Frimer"). Sentences should be complete and grammatically correct. Emoticons should be absent. Students should sign their email by their first and last name, followed by their student number. Failure to meet these communication standards will result in the professor responding with an email that contains the text in this paragraph.
 - **Late Assignments.** If a student fails to complete an assignment on time and fails to provide acceptable documentation from an appropriate authority within 7 days of the due date, the penalty to the student is receiving a 0.
 - **Concessions.** The instructor may grant concessions to students who have conflicting responsibilities (e.g., religious holidays, competitive sports) or unforeseen events (e.g., physical or emotional illness). If these circumstances befall you, please notify the instructor by email as soon as possible. A note from an appropriate authority (e.g., medical doctor) may be required to qualify for a concession. If the instructor grants a concession, he and the student will negotiate a reasonable due date extension.
 - **Examination Materials.** Students may not use books, calculators, electronic devices (including smart phones) or any other aids during midterm or final exams, except their UW student card, pens, pencils, and erasers. Drinking containers are also permitted. Students need to bring pens, pencils and erasers to examinations. The professor will not provide any to students. Students must have their UW student card available during exams for identification purposes.
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University Policies

- When it is necessary to cancel a class due to exceptional circumstances, instructors will make every effort to inform you via uwinnipeg email, as well as the departmental assistant and Chair/Dean so that class cancellation forms can be posted outside classrooms.
 - Class make-up days are scheduled at the end of term for courses that conflict with holidays.
 - All of the University regulations concerning academic misconduct (e.g., plagiarism, cheating) apply in this course. See the Course Calendar for full details.
<http://uwinnipeg.ca/academics/calendar/docs/regulationsandpolicies.pdf>
 - All students, faculty and staff have the right to participate, learn and work in an environment that is free of harassment and discrimination. The UW Respectful Working and Learning
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Environment Policy may be found online at www.uwinnipeg.ca/respect

- Students with documented disabilities, temporary or chronic medical conditions, requiring academic accommodations for tests/exams (e.g., private space) or during lectures/laboratories (e.g., note-takers) are encouraged to contact Accessibility Services (AS) at 786-9771 or accessibilityservices@uwinnipeg.ca to discuss appropriate options. All information about a student's disability or medical condition remains confidential
<http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/accessibility>
 - Students may choose not to attend classes or write examinations on holy days of their religion, but they must notify their instructors at least two weeks in advance. Instructors will then provide opportunity for students to make-up work and/or examinations without penalty. A list of religious holidays can be found at:
<http://uwinnipeg.ca/academics/calendar/docs/important-notes.pdf>
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