

**Ethics in Psychology**  
Psychology 3814G, section 530  
**Provisional 2015 course outline**

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Office hours: Mondays and Wednesdays 11:30 am - 12:30 pm, and by appointment.

Class times: Mondays 2:30 - 3:30 pm, Wednesdays 2:30 - 4:30 pm; room 135

**Required reading**

Package: *Cultivating a culture of research ethics* (second edition) Government of Canada

Guidelines: *Ethical principles of psychologists and code of conduct* (2010) APA

*Canadian code of ethics for psychologists - 3<sup>rd</sup> ed.* (2000) CPA

Coursepack: *Ethics in Psychology Readings* (2011).

Available from the UWO bookstore, package number TBA

**N.B.** The Canada government package and CPA guidelines booklets will be distributed free to students registered in this class. Copies of these materials will be distributed at lectures, during the first two weeks of classes. If you drop the course, you must return the package and booklet for use by another student. For the APA guidelines, download a copy of their guidelines from the APA website <http://www.apa.org/ethics/> or hard copies of the new Code are available from the APA Order Department, 750 First Street, NE, Washington, DC 20002-4242 (the APA will give one copy of their guidelines to an individual who requests them). The coursepack of readings must be purchased at the bookstore and is non-returnable.

**Course Description**

In this course we examine basic concepts of ethics, research and professional, for Psychologists.

This course will introduce concepts of ethics and cover different professional and research ethics guidelines, with more in-depth study of particular and current controversies. Topics may include research in human genetics, animal research and the concept of animal rights, professional relationships, and psychometry and reporting of test results. (UWO Calendar).

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## Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, among other skills, students should:

- have an understanding of the philosophical concepts underlying ethics in psychology and be able to relate these to research and practice in psychology.
- be able to recognize and review the social and intellectual forces which drive/have driven the development of concepts of ethics and codes of conduct in psychology.
- be able to independently investigate and analyse the origins, and eventual structure, of codes of ethics within psychology.
- have the ability to critically assess research and writings in psychology from an ethical perspective.

Note: "Students may vary in their competency levels on these outcomes. They can expect to achieve these outcomes if they honor course policies, attend classes regularly, complete all assigned work in good faith and on time, and meet all other course expectations of them as students" (Nilson, 2010, p.37).

## Evaluation

There will be one two-hour test and a final exam, based on the lectures and assigned readings. The test and exam will consist of multiple-choice questions and short essay questions and are not cumulative. One main assignment will be required: an approx. 20 min. group presentation on an ethical issue. This presentation will be done in class (see page five of outline for dates list). Further information regarding this assignment will be given during classes, at the start of term. Attendance at in-class discussions is mandatory. Answers to set questions or a synopsis and critique of the assigned article are to be handed in at discussions two to five. Discussion one will be an in-class discussion of ethics codes, including that of the Tri-Council, with no paper due. For discussions two, three, four, and five marks will be given for discussion participation (attendance and paper). *Note: the short assignments, in-class discussions and other activities are designed to offer students a variety of learning experiences.*

**N.B.** The Research Ethics section of the course requires that you have done the on-line tutorial of the Tri-Council Statement "Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans" (TCPS); see the Government of Canada Panel on Research Ethics (PRE) website, found at [www.ethics.gc.ca](http://www.ethics.gc.ca). Choose whether to see the site in English or in French. On left hand side of the Panel on Research Ethics homepage you will see a menu, with headings for sections in purple. About halfway down that menu is the heading "Education". The first sub-section under that heading is "TCPS 2 Tutorial"; click on that link. The tutorial is stated as taking about two hours, but probably does not require this amount of time. You can "save" and return to the tutorial, breaking it down into shorter instalments if you prefer. At the conclusion of the tutorial you will be able to print off a certificate acknowledging completion of the tutorial. If you have done the tutorial already for another class you do not have to repeat the tutorial. Bring the certificate or a copy with you to class. "Computer/printer problems" will not be considered a valid excuse, so if you do not have a certificate plan to do the tutorial in time!

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## Mark distribution

Mid-term test	28%
Final exam	30 %
Discussion papers	32 % (i.e., 8% each)
Presentation	10 %

This course is designated as an essay course. Senate regulations for a half-year essay course include:

The guidelines for the minimum written assignments refer to the cumulative amount of written work in a course but excludes written work in examinations.

An essay course must normally involve total written assignments (essays or other appropriate prose composition, excluding examinations) as follows: ...

Half course (100 and above): at least 2500 words and must be so structured that the student is required to demonstrate competence in essay writing to pass the course.

The structure of the essay course must be such that in order to pass the course, the student must exhibit some minimal level of competence in essay writing and the appropriate level of knowledge of the content of the course.

The term "essay" is to be understood broadly to include many of the reports, reviews, summaries, critiques, and some laboratory reports that are currently assigned, as well as essays in the strictest sense. The essential point is that the assignments involve assembling information and argument and presenting it in connected prose.

In keeping with university regulations, failure to attend a test or exam **will result in a mark of zero**, unless documentary evidence of extenuating circumstances is provided. Social events, travel plans, vacations, misreading the test schedule or sleeping in are not legitimate reasons for missing a test. Only under special circumstances will a student be allowed to write a make-up test. The instructor must be notified of any such case as soon as possible, and the student request a make-up. If the instructor allows a make-up test, the student will be expected to write the test within a week or two after the missed test.

Late submission of assignments will result in a penalty of 10% per day and late submissions will not be marked after the fifth day, unless evidence of extenuating circumstances has been provided. All submissions must be typed or clearly hand-written. Illegible handwritten submissions will not be accepted.

It is pointless to come to any instructor at the end of the term to plead for a higher grade on grounds that you had problems (personal or academic). Deal with problems as soon as they arise - see someone, take action - no-one will think less of you for doing so; in fact it shows intelligence and sense of personal responsibility.

**There will be no re-taking of tests/examinations nor extra work available for the purpose of improving grades.** You must plan to study and prepare well in advance of examinations. The course involves a fair amount of reading on your own. It is best to read set materials before the corresponding lectures. You are advised to attend every lecture - especially as in this course attendance for discussions is mandatory. If you are unable to attend a discussion session, arrange to be excused in advance. Missing lectures is the responsibility of the student. Should you be absent you are advised to find out what material you missed and make arrangements to catch up on that material.

## **Expectations for Behaviour**

Because this course includes discussion of ethical principles and often contentious issues, students attending this course are expected to behave in a mature and respectful fashion in class.

Note that by signing up for this course you are considered to have agreed to:

(i) Maintain respect of other's opinions during discussions. This means allowing others to speak and to present their opinions without ridicule or denigration. You are free to disagree entirely with any other person, but must respect the rights of others to hold opposing views.

(ii) Treat as confidential any personal disclosures made within the class and/or during discussions. These rules have been laid down not to restrict free discussion and expression of opinion, but to allow that freedom and expression. As Voltaire put it: *I may disagree with what you have to say, but I shall defend to the death your right to say it.* Individuals also must feel comfortable to disclose personal information during discussions without fear of becoming a source of gossip.

## **Contacts**

Be warned, I may not check email throughout day. If you need to talk to me, it is better to come and see me at classes or in my office. You may also telephone the Brescia number given above (if I am not in, leave a message). If you do choose to use email, please note: (i) a reply may not be immediate, and (ii) general questions sent *via* email will be answered in class, for the benefit of all, especially in the case of questions where the information has already been provided in some other form; e.g. "When is the next test ?" That information is provided on the course outline and will be reiterated in class.

## **Senate Regulations**

Senate regulations require that students' attention be directed to the information regarding issues such as plagiarism and course antirequisites. See the policies and regulations pages at the end of this outline, and check the UWO calendar for further details.

*Note: In Psychology you are expected to follow the American Psychological Society (APA) guidelines for writing and for acknowledgement of sources, and to use APA referencing format. Further information on use of APA style will be given in class. There is also a copy of the APA style manual on reserve in the Brescia library.*

**Antirequisite(s):** The former Psychology 2814F/G.

**Prerequisite(s):** At least 60% in Psychology 1000 and registration in third or fourth year of a Major, Specialization, or Honors Specialization in Psychology, or permission of instructor.

Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you will be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

**TOPIC OUTLINE**  
**Psychology 3814G - Ethics in Psychology (2015)**

*N.B. See relevant coursepack references, by week, for each topic/issue.*

<u>Week</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Issue</u>
1	Jan 5 & 7	Introduction - concepts of ethics; theoretical bases	<i>What are "ethics"?</i>
2	Jan 12 & 14	Construction of codes - APA/CPA/Tri-council. <b>Discussion 1: Jan. 14<sup>th</sup></b> - Comparison of codes	<i>What codes are and how they were developed.</i>
<u>Research Ethics</u>			
3	Jan 19 & 21	Research ethics: Overview; Bioethics Bioethics - human enhancement	<i>Genetic engineering</i>
4	Jan 26 & 28	Animal research. <b>Discussion 2: Jan 28<sup>th</sup></b> - Animal rights in research	<i>"Animal rights".</i> Codes + coursepack references
5	Feb 2 & 4	Human research.	<i>"Subjects" or "participants" ?</i>
6	Feb 9 & 11	Vulnerable populations <b>Discussion 3: Feb. 11<sup>th</sup></b> - Discussion of "consent"	<i>Consent; Assent and Dissent.</i> Codes + coursepack references; (e.g., Cappel, 2006)
7	<b>Feb 16 &amp; 18</b>	<b>Reading week - no classes</b>	
8	Feb. 23	Vulnerable populations, cont. <b>Feb. 25 Mid-term Test – topics covered and references used to date.</b>	
<u>Professional Ethics</u>			
9	Mar 2 & 4	Professional ethics: Overview; Diagnoses <b>Discussion 4: Mar. 4<sup>th</sup></b> - Issues of "labelling"	<i>DSM - uses and abuses</i> Bersoff (2008) references
10	Mar 9 & 11	The "ethic of care"	' '
11	Mar 16 & 18	Professional relationships	<i>Violations of professional boundaries.</i>
12	Mar 23 & 25	Testing and other professional services. <b>Discussion 5: Mar. 25<sup>th</sup></b> - Professional relationships	<i>Reporting of results.</i> Various references - coursepack.
13	Mar. 30	Testing, cont.	
	Wed. Apr 1	Student presentations - <i>Small group, ~ 20 min. presentations on particular guidelines, issues, violations, etc.</i>	
14	Mon. Apr 6	== presentations, cont. ==	
April 11 - 30 UWO exam period - <b>Final Exam</b> , date <i>TBA</i> , <b>topics/refs. from second half of course.</b>			

# BRESCIA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE ACADEMIC POLICIES AND REGULATIONS

## 1. POLICY REGARDING MAKEUP EXAMS AND EXTENSIONS OF DEADLINES

When a student requests academic accommodation (e.g., extension of a deadline, a makeup exam) for work representing 10% or more of the student's overall grade in the course, it is the responsibility of the student to provide acceptable documentation to support a medical or compassionate claim. All such requests for academic accommodation **must** be made through an Academic Advisor and include supporting documentation. Academic accommodation on medical grounds will be granted only if the documentation indicates that the onset, duration and severity of the illness are such that the student could not reasonably be expected to complete her academic responsibilities. Appropriate academic accommodation will be determined by the Dean's Office in consultation with the student's instructor(s). Please note that personal commitments (e.g., vacation flight bookings, work schedule) which conflict with a scheduled test, exam or course requirement are not grounds for academic accommodation.

A UWO Student Medical Certificate (SMC) is **required** if a student is seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds. This documentation should be obtained at the time of the initial consultation with the physician/nurse practitioner or walk-in clinic. A SMC can be downloaded under the Medical Documentation heading of the following website: <https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/index.cfm> . If it is not possible to have an SMC completed by the attending physician/nurse practitioner, the student must request documentation sufficient to demonstrate that her ability to meet academic responsibilities was seriously affected. Please note that under University Senate regulations documentation stating simply that the student "was seen for a medical reason" or "was ill" is **not** adequate to support a request for academic accommodation. All documentation is to be submitted to an Academic Advisor.

Whenever possible, requests for academic accommodation should be initiated in advance of due dates, examination dates, etc. Students must follow up with their professors and Academic Advisor in a timely manner.

The full statement of University policy regarding extensions of deadlines or makeup exams can be found at <http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2014/pg117.html>

## 2. ACADEMIC CONCERNS

If you feel that you have a medical or personal problem that is interfering with your work, contact your instructor and Academic Advisor as soon as possible. Problems may then be documented and possible arrangements to assist you can be discussed at the time of occurrence rather than on a retroactive basis. Retroactive requests for academic accommodation on medical or compassionate grounds may not be considered.

If you think that you are too far behind to catch up or that your work load is not manageable, you should consult an Academic Advisor. If you consider reducing your workload by dropping one or more courses, this must be done by the appropriate deadlines (refer to the Registrar's website, [www.registrar.uwo.ca](http://www.registrar.uwo.ca), for official dates). You should consult with the course instructor and the Academic Advisor who can help you consider alternatives to dropping one or more courses. *Note that dropping a course may affect OSAP eligibility and/or Entrance Scholarship eligibility.*

The Dean may refuse permission to write the final examination in a course if the student has failed to maintain satisfactory academic standing throughout the year or for too frequent absence from the class or laboratory.

## 3. ABSENCES

**Short Absences:** If you miss a class due to a minor illness or other problems, check your course outline for information regarding attendance requirements and make sure you are not missing a test or assignment. Cover any readings and arrange to borrow notes from a classmate. Contact the course instructor if you have any questions.

**Extended Absences:** If you have an extended absence, you should contact the course instructor and an Academic Advisor. Your course instructor and Academic Advisor can discuss ways for you to catch up on missed work and arrange academic accommodations, if appropriate.

#### **4. POLICY ON CHEATING & ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT**

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site: [http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/scholastic\\_discipline\\_undergrad.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf).

Students are responsible for understanding the nature of and avoiding the occurrence of plagiarism and other academic offences. Students are urged to read the section on Scholastic Offences in the Academic Calendar. Note that such offences include plagiarism, cheating on an examination, submitting false or fraudulent assignments or credentials, impersonating a candidate, or submitting for credit in any course without the knowledge and approval of the instructor to whom it is submitted, any academic work for which credit has previously been obtained or is being sought in another course in the University or elsewhere. Students are advised to consult the section on Academic Misconduct in the Western Academic Calendar.

If you are in doubt about whether what you are doing is inappropriate or not, consult your instructor, the Student Services Centre, or the Registrar. A claim that "you didn't know it was wrong" is not accepted as an excuse.

The penalties for a student guilty of a scholastic offence (including plagiarism) include refusal of a passing grade in the assignment, refusal of a passing grade in the course, suspension from the University, and expulsion from the University.

##### **Plagiarism:**

Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence (see Scholastic Offence Policy in the Western Academic Calendar).

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com.

##### **Computer-marked Tests/exams:**

Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating. Software currently in use to score computer-marked multiple-choice tests and exams performs a similarity review as part of standard exam analysis.

#### **5. PROCEDURES FOR APPEALING ACADEMIC EVALUATIONS**

All appeals of a grade must be directed first to the course instructor. If the student is not satisfied with the decision of the course instructor, a written appeal signed by the student must be sent to the Department Chair. If the response of the department is considered unsatisfactory to the student, she may then submit a signed, written appeal to the Office of the Dean. Only after receiving a final decision from the Dean may a student appeal to the Senate Review Board Academic. A Guide to Appeals is available from the Ombudsperson's Office, or you can consult an Academic Advisor. Students are advised to consult the section on Academic Rights and Responsibilities in the Western Academic Calendar.

#### **6. PREREQUISITES AND ANTIREQUISITES**

Unless you have either the prerequisites for a course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you will be removed from the course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

Similarly, you will also be deleted from a class list if you have previously taken an antirequisite course unless this has the approval of the Dean. These decisions may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course because you have taken an antirequisite course.

## 7. SUPPORT SERVICES

The Brescia University College Registrar's website, with a link to Academic Advisors, is at [http://www.brescia.uwo.ca/academics/registrar\\_services/index.html](http://www.brescia.uwo.ca/academics/registrar_services/index.html) . The Western Registrar's website is at <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca/index.cfm> . The website for the Student Development Centre at Western is at <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/> . Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health @ Western <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

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Portions of this document were taken from the Academic Calendar, the Handbook of Academic and Scholarship Policy and the Academic Handbook of Senate Regulations. This document is a summary of relevant regulations and does not supersede the academic policies and regulations of the Senate of the University of Western Ontario.