

**St. Jerome's in the University of Waterloo**  
**Department of Psychology**  
**Psychology 212 – Fall 2009**  
**Educational Psychology**

**Course Outline**

**Instructor:** Professor A. Nosko PhD (c)  
**Office:** STJ  
**Phone:** 884-8111, EXT. 28216  
**Email:** [aenosko@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:aenosko@uwaterloo.ca)  
**Office Hours:** Thursday 1-2:20 Office: P3  
**Lectures:** Tuesday and Thursday 2:30 – 3:50, STJ 1036  
**Teaching Assistant:** Steve Hertz email: hertzsg@gmail.com EXT: 28256

**Course Overview:**

Educational psychology is the branch of psychology that specializes in understanding theories of teaching, learning and assessment in educational settings. The content of this course includes human development, theories of learning, and the application of psychological principles in educational settings, with special focus upon the conditions essential to efficient learning. In addition, a substantial portion of the course focuses on psychological testing and measuring learning outcomes.

**Learning Objectives:**

At the end of this course, students will have an understanding of:

- aspects of human development through the school years
- individual differences in cognitive, social, intellectual and physical functioning
- explanations of how we learn and learning problems
- applications of learning theories to teaching
- motivation in educational settings
- educational measurement and assessment

**Required Text:**

Santrock, J., Woloshyn, V., Gallagher, T., Di Petta, T., & Marini, Z. (2004). Educational Psychology (2<sup>nd</sup> Canadian Edition). Toronto: McGraw Hill Ryerson.

\*Note: The 1<sup>st</sup> Canadian Edition is acceptable

**Correspondence:**

Students using email or the telephone to contact a TA, or Professor Nosko must include their first and last names, student number, and course in which they are enrolled. Always email us via UW-ACE and put Psych 212 in subject line.

Please allow at least 24 hours for a response made between Monday and Thursday and allow the weekend for a response to an inquiry made on Friday, Saturday or Sunday.

For course related questions, request for extra help with the content, or to go over one of your exams, please contact a TA. For all other inquiries or questions, please contact Professor Nosko or (e.g., missing an exam).

Please do not ask if you can borrow our notes if you miss class. The best way to get notes is with an email request (using ACE) to the class.

Do not email or telephone asking for grades. For security reasons, grades are not released over the telephone or Internet.

If our door is open, outside of office hours, feel free to approach. If we are busy, we will let you know. Please don't be offended if we can't drop what we are doing to talk. We will schedule a convenient time for both of us. This is especially important for students who have conflicts with our office hours.

**Evaluation:**

Exam 1:	25%	September 29, 2009
Exam 2:	30%	October 22, 2009
Exam 3:	25%	November 17, 2009
Exam 4:	20%	December 3, 2009

NOTE: EXAM DATES ARE FINAL: PLEASE DO NOT REQUEST ANY ALTERNATE DATES/TIMES (medical exceptions excluded, see below).

## Exams

- Exams will **NOT** be cumulative and will cover the lecture material (including the case studies presented in class), video material, and textbook material. Students are responsible for material covered in the lectures as well as the assigned chapters in the text.
- Students are responsible for material in the textbook that is not covered during the lectures. Some of the textbook may be assigned as “Independent Study” meaning that students will be expected to read chapter sections that are not discussed in class.
- All three exams will consist of multiple-choice questions.
- Requests for changing the weighting of tests will not be considered.
- **CHEATING WILL NOT BE TOLERATED**; Students are referred to the university policy on scholastic offences. Looking at the test of another student, allowing another student to view your exam, or obtaining information about a test in advance are all examples of cheating. Students found cheating will: (1) receive a zero (0%) and be asked to leave the room if cheating materials cannot be confiscated and/or students are disruptive about being caught OR (2) have cheating materials and the answer booklet/scantron confiscated and be given a new exam that must be completed in the time remaining. A number of safeguards will be employed to discourage cheating. For example, invigilators of the tests can ask students to move to another seat during the exam, cover their paper, avert their eyes from other students’ papers, remove baseball caps, check for cheat notes, etc. This is not meant as a personal affront or as an accusation of cheating, rather as vigilant attempts at proctoring. It is strongly recommended that you **do not** sit with friends during the examinations.
- All incidences of cheating will be reported to the Department Chair, the Associate Dean at SJU, and the Associate Dean of the student’s home department. If clear pre-meditated cheating is evident (e.g., cheat notes), the instructor will recommend a failing grade to the Associate Dean of the student’s home department. All cases of cheating are formally documented in the student’s academic records. In addition, the professor can recommend that the student be required to withdraw from the university.
- Scientific calculators will NOT be permitted for Exam 3.

## **POLICY REGARDING ILLNESS OR ACCOMMODATION**

- Students are entitled to a rescheduling of exams or an extension of deadlines for legitimate medical or compassionate reasons. Students are also entitled to rescheduling of exams based on religious grounds. However, **it is the student’s responsibility** to inform the instructor **PRIOR** to the due date or exam date, to arrange a timely makeup, and to provide acceptable documentation to support a medical, compassionate, or religious claim (University of Waterloo Calendar).
- If you feel that you have a medical or personal problem that is interfering with your work, you should contact your instructor and the Academic Counselling Office 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 grade revisions on medical or compassionate grounds will not be considered (University of Waterloo Calendar. If a student completes an exam while ill, the grade stands).

## **PROFESSOR’S REQUIREMENTS REGARDING ILLNESS**

- Only on the documented basis of illness or other extreme circumstance will students be permitted to write a make-up test. In the case of illness, a student **must** contact the instructor in the Psychology Department **PRIOR TO THE TEST** (the voice mail stamps the date and time of telephone calls). The student must provide an **official “Verification of Illness” certificate** from the University of Waterloo, which states that, due to medical reasons, it was **impossible** for the student to write the exam at the scheduled time (i.e., severe illness). **A NOTE SCRIBBLED ON A PRESCRIPTION PAD IS NOT AN ACCEPTABLE MEDICAL CERTIFICATE** (see page 1:8-9 of the University of Waterloo Calendar regarding the standard practices with respect to illness). The University of Waterloo charges a fee for a “Verification of Illness” certificate.
- **If you are sick and you contact me after the exam, you will not be permitted to write the test.** You will receive a ‘zero’ on that test. Exception to this: if you are involved in an accident on your way to the exam (documentation required) and as a result you are not able to call me. If you are extremely incapacitated, in hospital or have had an unexpected death in the family within 24 hours of the test, then have a friend or family member call ASAP.
- Any student missing an exam with a valid reason must write a make-up exam. **The make-up exam may differ in format from the original exam (e.g., an entire essay exam).** Eliminating an exam from the course requirements and redistributing grades is not an option. If you miss an exam, you will receive an “INC” for the course.
- Please note that the following are **NOT** valid reasons for rescheduling an exam:
  - Travel plans (athletic or personal)
  - Missing your bus or ride to campus
  - Work overload. You can have as many as 5 exams in a single day during the regular term.
  - Sleeping-in or alarm clock problems.
  - Forgetting you had an exam or forgetting you were registered in the course.

## RELEASE OF GRADES:

When tests are graded, the results will be posted on ACE. Grades are not released over email or telephone. Do not send an email to the Instructor or TA regarding “when will the grades be posted?” We endeavour to complete the grading as quickly as possible.

## AVOIDANCE OF ACADEMIC OFFENSES

A note on avoidance of academic offenses: All students registered in the courses of the Faculty of Arts and its colleges are expected to know what constitutes academic integrity, to avoid committing academic offenses, and to take responsibility for their academic actions. Students who are unsure whether an action constitutes an offense, or who need help in learning how to avoid offenses (e.g., plagiarism, cheating), or about “rules” for group work/collaboration should seek guidance from the course professor, TA, academic advisor, the appropriate ST. Jerome’s departmental Chair, or ultimately the Appeals Officer (currently the Associate Dean) for St. Jerome’s University. When the commission of an offense is established, disciplinary penalties will be imposed in accord with Policy #71 (Student Academic Discipline) which is supplied in the university of Waterloo Undergraduate Calendar (on the web at <http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy71.html>) and St. Jerome’s University Calendar.

If you believe you have been wrongfully or unjustly penalized, you may grieve this decision in accord with Policy #70, *Student Grievance*, [www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy70.htm](http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy70.htm). If you need help in learning how to avoid offenses such as plagiarism, cheating and double submission, or if you need clarification of aspects of the discipline policy, ask your course instructor for guidance. Other resources regarding the discipline policy are your academic advisor; the appropriate St. Jerome’s departmental chair and ultimately the Appeals Officer (currently the Associate Dean) for St. Jerome’s University. Further information on “*How to Avoid Plagiarism and Other Written Offences: A Guide for Students and Instructors*” can be found at <http://watarts.uwaterloo.ca/~sager/plagiarism.html>.

## PROCEDURES FOR APPEALING ACADEMIC EVALUATIONS\*

In the first instance, all appeals of a grade must be made to the course instructor (informal consultation). If the student is not satisfied with the decision of the course instructor, a written appeal must be made to the course instructor. If the student is not satisfied, the written appeal should then be sent to the Departmental Chair or appropriate authority. If the formal response of the department is considered unsatisfactory to the student, he/she may then initiate a hearing before a tribunal established at the Faculty or University level (see Policy 70, Academic Grievances, Type 1 in the St. Jerome’s University Calendar or the University of Waterloo Calendar). More information regarding appeals can be obtained by contacting the St. Jerome’s Student Appeals Officer or the Ombudsperson’s Office (Student Life Centre, Room 2128, 885-1211). The full text of **Policy 70** is available on the Web as well as from the Secretariat (Needles Hall, Room 3060). <http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy70.pdf>

## OTHER INFORMATION

- Students with documented or suspected disabilities (i.e., physical, learning, or sensory disabilities or chronic medical conditions) are encouraged to contact the Office for Persons with Disabilities (OPD) to determine eligibility for their services. OPD is located in Needles Hall 1132, 888-4567, ext. 35082.
- Student ID Cards are necessary for examinations. Please place them on the corner of your desk.
- Absolutely no cellular telephones, headphones, or other electronic devices are permitted on your desk during examinations. Baseball caps should not be worn during examinations. If you must wear one, the cap must be worn backward so that your eyes are visible to proctors.
- Backpacks must be stored beneath your desk or at the front of the classroom during examinations. Purses and other personal items must also be stored beneath the desk.
- Do ***NOT*** sit with friends during examinations.
- Students who are dissatisfied with their academic achievement are *strongly* encouraged to seek advice from a study skills counsellor at Needles Hall (888-4567, Ext. 32655), the teaching assistant, or the professor *prior* to their next exam(s).
- If you bring coffee & other drinks and/or muffins & other food into the classroom, please take your empty cups, tins, wrappers, crumbs, etc. with you and dispose of them in the wastebasket.
- Please do not email the professor or the TA requesting information on required readings/chapters for exams. Please refer to your outline.
- Please turn off your cell phones during class.

\*Portions of these sections were taken from the following sources: Academic Calendars of St. Jerome’s University, the University of Waterloo, the University of Western Ontario and the University of Calgary.

**LECTURE, EXAM SCHEDULE AND REQUIRED READINGS**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Required Reading Chapter</b>
September 15	Introduction & Role of Educational Psychology and Research Methods	Chapter 1
September 17	Physical, Cognitive and Language Development	Chapter 2
September 22 & 24	Social Contexts & Socioemotional Development	Chapter 3
<b>September 29</b>	<b>Exam 1 (25%)</b>	<b>Chapters 1, 2, 3</b>
October 6 & 8	Individual Variations & Learners Who Are Exceptional	Chapters 4 & 6
October 8 & 13	Behavioural Approaches, Social Cognitive Approaches & Teaching	Chapter 7
October 15 & 20	Managing The Classroom	Chapter 12
<b>October 22</b>	<b>Exam 2 (30%)</b>	<b>Chapters 4, 6, 7, 12</b>
October 27 & 29	The Cognitive Information-Processing Approach & Teaching	Chapter 8
Nov. 3 & 5	Motivating Students to Learn	Chapter 11
Nov. 10 & 12	Planning & Instruction	Chapter 10
<b>November 17</b>	<b>Exam 3 (25%)</b>	<b>Chapters 8, 10, 11 + Video</b>
November 19 & 24	Standardized Tests and Teaching	Chapter 13
Nov. 26 & Dec. 1	Assessing Student's Learning	Chapter 14
<b>December 3</b>	<b>Exam 4 (20%)</b>	<b>Chapters 13, 14</b>

**\*NOTE: Test Blueprints will be provided before each exam.**