



**St. Jerome's University in the University of Waterloo**  
**Department of Psychology**  
**PSYCH 312 - Learning Disabilities**  
**Winter 2018**  
**Monday 18:30 to 21:20, SJ2 1002**

Instructor: Margaret McBeath

Office: SJU 2016

Telephone: TBD

Office Hours: Monday 5:00PM to 6:00PM, or by Appointment

Virtual Office Hours (instructor available by email, or phone): Friday noon – to 1 pm

Email: [mlmcbeath@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:mlmcbeath@uwaterloo.ca)

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

A critical examination of the concept of learning disabilities and of current issues in the assessment and remediation of learning problems.

**COURSE GOALS AND LEARNING OUTCOMES**

The course addresses the issues of what is a learning disability and of how it is assessed. Along the way, the question of what is meant by learning is raised, as well as the role played by memory and attention in the development of learning problems. Specific difficulties in academic skills are then discussed along with issues in remediation.

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:

- Explain the definitions, themes, characteristics, contributing factors, and historical perspectives related to learning disabilities
- Understand the current landscape in special education, and be able to describe links between learning disabilities and related disabilities.
- Understand the process of making an assessment of a student and the relation of assessment and the IEP (Individual Education Program).
- Understand the impact/etiology of learning disabilities across the course of child and adolescent development
- Discuss the roles played by various medical and educational models
- Understand identification techniques, and describe the different assessment tools that are available
- Analyze the contributions of theorists developing an understanding of learning disabilities
- Explore issues related to learning disabilities, and analyze how the findings could be used by professionals working with those with learning disabilities



## REQUIRED TEXT

Lerner, J. W., & Johns, B. (2014). Learning disabilities and related disabilities: Strategies for success. Nelson Education. (Edition with MindTap)

**\*NOTE – required & optional readings additional to the text will be made available via the course website in both LEARN and MindTap**

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND ASSESSMENT

### Grade Breakdown

Tests	60%
Case Studies	20%
In-class Assignments	10%
MindTap Activities (or alternative case study assignment)	10%

### Assessments (Dues Dates & Weighting)

Assessment	Date of Evaluation	Weighting
Test #1	January 29, 2018	20%
Test # 2	March 5, 2018	20%
Test # 3	April 2, 2018	20%
Case Study #1	February 12, 2018	10%
Case Study #2	March 12, 2018	10%
In-Class Assignments	See dates on course schedule	10% (2 x 5% each)
Mind Tap Activities	See dates on course schedule	10% (1% each, must complete 10 of 12)
<b>Total</b>		<b>100%</b>

**TEST & DUE DATES ARE FINAL: DO NOT REQUEST ANY ALTERNATE DATES or TIMES (medical exceptions excluded, see below). REQUESTS FOR CHANGING WEIGHTINGS WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED.**

**NOTE THAT THERE IS NO FINAL EXAM IN THIS COURSE.**

### TESTS

- TESTS will NOT be cumulative
- They will cover the lecture material, handouts, video material, textbook material, and required readings.
- All tests will consist of multiple-choice questions.
- All tests will commence at 18:30
- There will be no lecture after the exams.
- Picture ID (uWaterloo Student Card) is required for exams.



## CASE STUDIES

- **There are two case studies (February 12 and March 12).**
- Each is worth 10%
- Case Studies will be distributed by 20:30 and responses must be submitted between 21:30 – 21:45 that same day. Case studies are designed so that you can complete them during the time allocated and submit them to the drop-box on Learn. Late submissions will carry a penalty of 20% per hour starting at 21:45 on the day they are due.
- Cases **MUST** be completed in groups of 4 to 5 students. Working in groups allows for breadth and diversity in the responses. It is recommended that you get to know the students sitting around you so that you have potential group members for the case studies.
- All group members should contribute equally to the assignment. Ensure the full name of each student is on the assignment. All students in a group will receive the same grade. If you believe a group member has not contributed equally, please bring this to the instructor's attention when submitting the assignment. If there is agreement between all group members that a student did not contribute, then the student will receive a penalty of up to 50% on that case assignment. It is the responsibility of all group members to look over the assignment prior to submission.
- Responses to the questions must be clear and written in a scholarly way. Grammar and spelling count. I will also deduct marks for poorly written responses (poor grammar, spelling, and sentence structure).
- Please come to class prepared for doing the cases (i.e., textbook, notes, blank paper, etc.).
- Please ensure one member of your group has a computer and access to the internet.
- Attendance is mandatory to receive marks for the Case Study. Attendance will be taken during each class. Students caught submitting a Case Study without having attended the class and/or adding a classmate's name to an assignment will receive a zero and be disciplined under the Policy on Academic Responsibility and Integrity.

## IN-CLASS ASSIGNMENTS

- **There are 2 in-class assignments scheduled for this course (January 15, March 26).**
- Each is worth 5% for a total of 10%. To get full marks, you must submit 2 high quality well-written scholarly assignments
- Towards the end of class, you will be given a question to answer regarding the class content for that week. This will form the basis for the assignment.
- Responses will not be more than two neatly handwritten double-spaced pages or one typed page double-spaced. Typed assignments are preferred. A dropbox will be created on LEARN.
- Critically evaluating the content will be necessary to answer the questions.
- Students can complete the assignment on their own or work with one other person. If you work in pairs, each student receives the same grade. You do not need to work with the same person each week and you may choose to do some on your own and some with another person.



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- Assignments are due at the end of the class in which they are assigned and not later than 21:45pm. Class ends at 21:20 – however Instructor McBeath will stay until 21:45 should students want extra time to complete the assignments. Assignments should not take more than 20 minutes to complete.
- Attendance is mandatory to receive marks for in-class assignments. Attendance will be taken during each class. Students caught submitting an assignment without having attended the class and/or adding a classmate's name to an assignment will receive a zero and be disciplined under the Policy on Academic Responsibility and Integrity.

## MINDTAP ACTIVITIES

- Activities in MindTap will include quizzes, short videos to watch with accompanying questions, and case studies.
- Activities that count towards grading in each MindTap chapter are clearly marked as such. Items marked "Practice" in each MindTap chapter are simply for that, and there is no penalty for not doing the work, except that you will not learn as much. Some items are just for knowledge, such as videos and magazine articles, and may be read as you have time for them. They enrich the course but there is no penalty for not reading/viewing them.
- **EACH WEEK THERE WILL BE ONE MINDTAP ACTIVITY FOR EACH CHAPTER COVERED THAT WILL COUNT TOWARDS THE 10% TOTAL. THERE WILL BE 13 ASSIGNMENTS IN TOTAL AND YOU MUST COMPLETE 10 OF THESE IN ORDER TO EARN THE FULL 10%.**
- **MINDTAP ACTIVITIES WILL BE GRADED ON A PASS/FAIL BASIS (FOR EXAMPLE IF YOU RECEIVE 60% OR HIGHER ON A QUIZZ OR ACTIVITY YOU WILL PASS). IF YOU PASS YOU WILL RECEIVE THE FULL 1% FOR THAT ASSIGNMENT, IF YOU FAIL YOU WILL RECEIVE 0 FOR THAT ASSIGNMENT.**
- You can complete all 13 activities but I will choose the 10 with the highest grade to count towards your total 10%.
- Please note that students are 100% responsible for having access to a working computer and reliable internet connection by landline or Wi-Fi. A non-working computer or any other related excuse will not excuse the student from course content requirements or related deadlines.
- **NOTE:** IF YOU CHOOSE *NOT* TO PURCHASE MINDTAP YOU WILL BE GIVEN THE OPTION TO COMPLETE AN ADDITIONAL CASE STUDY IN ORDER TO FULFILL THIS REQUIREMENT. THIS CASE STUDY WILL BE COMPLETED INDEPENDENTLY AND WILL NOT BE MARKED ON A PASS/FAIL BASIS, BUT IN THE SAME MANNER AS THE OTHER CASE STUDIES IN THE COURSE. THIS CASE STUDY WILL BE ASSIGNED THE WEEK OF MARCH 5<sup>th</sup>, 2018 AND WILL BE DUE NO LATER THAN THE BEGINNING OF CLASS ON APRIL 2, 2018. **PLEASE EMAIL THE INSTRUCTOR BY JANUARY 15<sup>th</sup>, 2018 IF YOU WILL BE OPTING TO COMPLETE THE ADDITIONAL CASE STUDY RATHER THAN THE MINDTAP ACTIVITIES.**

## CORRESPONDENCE

All correspondence and announcements will be posted on Learn. Students must have 'fees arranged' to have access to the course. Students using the telephone to contact me must include their first and last names, student number, and course in which they are enrolled. Please address me as Ms. McBeath or Instructor McBeath. Please allow at least 24 hours for an email sent between Monday and Thursday and



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allow the weekend for a response to an inquiry made on Friday, Saturday or Sunday. All emails should be respectful, polite, professional, and structured with a salutation/greeting, a purpose, and a closing signature. If emails are not structured correctly, I will not respond. For content related questions, request for extra help with the content, or to go over one of your exams and for all other inquiries please contact me (e.g., missing an exam). If you miss a lecture, the best way to get notes is with a request (using Learn) to the entire class. Do not email or telephone asking for grades. All grades will be posted on Learn.

## POLICY REGARDING CHEATING

**CHEATING WILL NOT BE TOLERATED.** Students are referred to the university policy on academic offences. Looking at the test of another student, allowing another student to view your exam, obtaining information about a test in advance, having crib/cheat notes, and/or having information written on your body or in your phone are all examples of cheating. Students found cheating will (1) receive a zero (0%) on the test and be asked to leave the room if cheating materials cannot be confiscated OR (2) have cheating materials and the answer booklet/scantron confiscated and be given a new exam that must be completed in the time allotted.

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 crib/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 and the Dean.

## COURSE OUTLINE / CLASS SCHEDULE

Week	Date	Topic & Assignments	Readings Due
1	January 8th, 2018	Introduction/Review Course Outline Learning Disabilities and Related Disabilities: Characteristics and Current Directions <b>-Mind Tap Activity #1 – MUST BE COMPLETED BY 11:59 FRIDAY JANUARY 19<sup>TH</sup>, 2018</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lerner Text – Chapter 1</li> </ul>
2	January 15, 2018	Assessment & Testing Individualized Education Plans (IEP) <b>-In-class assignment #1 -Mind Tap Activity #2 – MUST BE COMPLETED BY 11:59 FRIDAY JANUARY 19<sup>TH</sup>, 2018</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lerner Text – Chapter 2</li> <li>D'Intino, J. S. (2017). Learning disabilities in Canada: Definitions and accommodations. Canadian Psychology, 58(3), 228.</li> <li>TDSB Special Education Plan 2017 (*Do not need to read the entire document, just scan it)</li> </ul>



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Week	Date	Topic & Assignments	Readings Due
3	January 22, 2018	Specialized Instruction and Technology Educational Settings and the Role of the family <b>-Mind Tap Activities #3 &amp; 4 – MUST BE COMPLETED BY 11:59 FRIDAY JANUARY 26<sup>TH</sup>, 2018</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lerner Text – Chapter 3 &amp;4</li> </ul>
4	January 29, 2018	<b>Test #1 –Chapters 1,2,3&amp;4 (plus required readings); lectures 1-3</b>	
5	February 5, 2018	Theories of Learning Social and Behavioural Challenges <b>-Mind Tap Activities #5 &amp; 6 – MUST BE COMPLETED BY 11:59 FRIDAY FEBRUARY 9<sup>TH</sup>, 2018</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lerner text – Chapters 5 &amp; 6</li> </ul>
6	February 12, 2018	Related Disabilities (Attention Deficit Disorder (ADHD); Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)) <b>-Case Study #1</b> <b>-Mind Tap Activity #7 – MUST BE COMPLETED BY 11:59 FRIDAY FEBRUARY 16<sup>TH</sup>, 2018</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lerner text – Chapters 7</li> </ul>
<b>FEBRUARY 19, 2018 -READING WEEK – NO CLASS</b>			
7	February 26, 2018	Young children and Adolescents with Learning Disabilities <b>-Mind Tap Activities #8 &amp; 9 – MUST BE COMPLETED BY 11:59 FRIDAY MARCH 2<sup>ND</sup>, 2018</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lerner text – Chapters 8 &amp;9</li> </ul>
8	March 5, 2018	<b>Test #2 –Chapters 5,6,7,8,9 and lectures 5-7</b>	
9	March 12, 2018	Spoken Language Difficulties <b>-Case Study #2</b> <b>-Mind Tap Activity #10 – MUST BE COMPLETED BY 11:59 FRIDAY MARCH 16<sup>TH</sup>, 2018</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lerner Text – Chapter 11</li> </ul>
10	March 19, 2018	Reading and Writing Difficulties <b>-Mind Tap Activity #11 &amp; 12 – MUST BE COMPLETED BY 11:59 FRIDAY MARCH 23<sup>RD</sup>, 2018</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lerner Text – Chapter 12 &amp; 13</li> </ul>
11	March 26, 2018	Mathematics Difficulties- <b>-In-class assignment #2</b> <b>-Mind Tap Activity #13 – MUST BE COMPLETED BY 11:59 FRIDAY MARCH 30<sup>TH</sup>, 2018</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lerner Text – Chapter 14</li> </ul>
12	April 2, 2018	<b>Test #3 - Chapters 11, 12, 13, 14; lectures 9-11</b>	



## POLICY REGARDING ILLNESS OR ACCOMMODATION – University of Waterloo

The University of Waterloo Examination Regulations [www.registrar.uwaterloo.ca/exams/ExamRegs.pdf](http://www.registrar.uwaterloo.ca/exams/ExamRegs.pdf) state that:

- A medical certificate presented in support of an official petition for relief from normal academic requirements must provide all of the information requested on the “University of Waterloo Verification of Illness” form or it will not be accepted. This form can be obtained from Health Services or at [www.healthservices.uwaterloo.ca/Health\\_Services/verification.html](http://www.healthservices.uwaterloo.ca/Health_Services/verification.html).
- If a student has a test/examination deferred due to acceptable medical evidence, he/she normally will write the test/examination at a mutually convenient time, to be determined by the course instructor.
- The University acknowledges that, due to the pluralistic nature of the University community, some students may on religious grounds require alternative times to write tests and examinations.
- Elective arrangements (such as travel plans) are not considered acceptable grounds for granting an alternative examination time.

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).

## INSTRUCTOR'S POLICY REGARDING ILLNESS

- **Deferrals of exams or case studies are decided by the instructor and ARE NOT AUTOMATIC (see McBeath's Policy below). A make-up exam or change of case study due date/time will be refused if McBeath's policy is not followed.** If a student completes an exam or case study while ill, the grade stands. False claims of illness and/or submitting false documentation constitutes an academic offense that is subject to disciplinary action under Policy #71.
- Only on the documented basis of illness or other extreme circumstance will students be permitted to write a make-up exam or be given an extension for a case study.
- **In all cases (e.g., death in the family, illness) it is the student's responsibility to inform Instructor McBeath BEFORE the exam or case study due date and time.** Failure to contact Instructor McBeath before the exam or due date forfeits a right to a make-up or extension. The voice mail stamps the date and time of telephone calls.
- **In the case of illness, 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 (i.e., severe illness) or complete the case study by the due date and time. The verification of illness form MUST be completed by UW Health Services BEFORE OR ON THE SAME DAY as the scheduled exam or due date. Once the student has been seen by a health professional at UW Health Services, and the VIF has been completed, the student must inform Instructor McBeath by email or phone. A form completed after the day and time of the exam or due date WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. The completed form must be submitted to Instructor McBeath within 24 hours of the exam or due date – a photo of the VIF can be emailed as soon as it is**



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received at Health Services (see below for submitting the hard copy). Doctors' notes created by a physician or clinic, or notes scribbled on a prescription pad are **not acceptable medical certificates**.

- **DEFERRAL OF AN EXAM OR CASE STUDY:** All make-up exams and case studies will be offered on the first Friday following the exam or case study due date from 13:00 – 16:00 (1:00pm – 4:00pm). If a copy of a VIF was emailed to Instructor McBeath, students must submit the original hard copy at the time of the make-up.
  - **In the case of an immediate family members' illness or hospitalization, documentation from the hospital or attending physician is required. Deferrals will only be granted for immediate family member illnesses.** An immediate family member is defined as (and limited to) a student's: spouse/common-law partner, child, parent, grandparent, sibling, mother-in-law, father-in-law, brother-in-law, and sister-in-law.
  - **In the case of a death in the family, documentation must be provided indicating your relationship to the deceased, the date and time of the funeral service, and an official letter or certificate from the funeral home or organization handling the arrangements. Deferrals will only be granted for a partner's death or an immediate family member's death.**
  - **FAILURE TO FOLLOW THE ABOVE REQUIREMENTS WILL FORFEIT YOUR RIGHT TO A MAKE-UP EXAM OR EXTENSION. If you are ill and you contact me after the exam or due date, you will NOT be permitted to write the test or complete the case study.** You will receive a '0' on those assessments. Exception to this: if you are involved in an accident on your way to the exam or class (documentation required) and as a result you are not able to call me – however Instructor McBeath must be notified and a request for a make-up/extension must be received no later than 12 hours after the test or due date. If you are extremely incapacitated, in hospital, or have had an unexpected death in the family within 24 hrs prior to the exam or due date, then have a friend or family member call ASAP and no later than 24 hours after the test.
  - Any student missing an exam and case study with a valid reason and having followed policy must write a make-up exam and complete the case study. A make-up exam and case study will differ in format from the original.
  - Please note that the following are **NOT** valid reasons for rescheduling an exam or requesting an extension:
    - Travel plans (athletic or personal – weddings included),
    - missing your bus or ride, work overload, sleeping-in or alarm clock problems,
    - or forgetting you had an exam or assignment.

## RELEASE OF GRADES:

When tests and case studies are graded, the results will be posted on Learn. Grades are not released over email or telephone. Do not send an email to the Instructor regarding "when will the grades be posted?" I will endeavour to complete the grading as quickly as possible. Normally grades are posted within a week.

## ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Academic Integrity: In order to maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility. See the [UWaterloo Academic Integrity webpage](#) and the [Arts Academic Integrity webpage](#) for more information.

**Discipline:** A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity, to avoid committing academic offences, and to take responsibility for his/her actions. A student who is unsure whether an action constitutes an offence, or who needs help in learning how to avoid offences (e.g., plagiarism,



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cheating) or about “rules” for group work/collaboration should seek guidance from the course professor, academic advisor, or the Undergraduate Associate Dean. When misconduct has been found to have occurred, disciplinary penalties will be imposed under Policy 71 – Student Discipline. For information on categories of offenses and types of penalties, students should refer to [Policy 71 - Student Discipline](#). For typical penalties check [Guidelines for the Assessment of Penalties](#).

## CONCERNS ABOUT A COURSE POLICY OR DECISION

**Informal Stage.** We in the Psychology Department take great pride in the high quality of our program and our instructors. Though infrequent, we know that students occasionally find themselves in situations of conflict with their instructors over course policies or grade assessments. If such a conflict arises, the Associate Chair for Undergraduate Affairs (Richard Eibach) is available for consultation and to mediate a resolution between the student and instructor: Email: [reibach@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:reibach@uwaterloo.ca); Ph 519-888-4567 ext. 38790

**Grievance:** A student who believes that a decision affecting some aspect of his/her university life has been unfair or unreasonable may have grounds for initiating a grievance. Read [Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances](#), Section 4. When in doubt, please be certain to contact [Richard Eibach](#), the Associate Chair for Undergraduate Affairs who will provide further assistance.

**Appeals:** A decision made or penalty imposed under Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances (other than a petition) or Policy 71 - Student Discipline may be appealed if there is a ground. A student who believes he/she has a ground for an appeal should refer to [Policy 72 - Student Appeals](#).

## ACCOMMODATION FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Note for students with disabilities: The [AccessAbility Services](#) office, located on the first floor of the Needles Hall extension (1401), collaborates with all academic departments to arrange appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities without compromising the academic integrity of the curriculum. If you require academic accommodations to lessen the impact of your disability, please register with the AS office at the beginning of each academic term.

## MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

[Mental Health Services](#) aim is to provide holistic programming and services to help you lead a healthy and balanced life. We strive to provide a secure, supportive environment for students of all orientations and backgrounds.

Students suffering from problems with anxiety, depression, problems with sleep, attention, obsessions or compulsions, relationship difficulties, severe winter blues, etc., may make an appointment by phone or in person. Appointments are usually available within two days of initial contact with one of our medical doctors. All contacts are completely confidential.

### Contact Health Services

Health Services Building

Call 519-888-4096 to schedule an appointment

Call 1-866-797-0000 for free 24/7 advice from a health professional

Contact Counselling Services

Needles Hall Addition, NH 2401

Call 519-888-4567 x 32655 to schedule an appointment



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[counserv@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:counserv@uwaterloo.ca)

## **OFFICIAL VERSION OF THE COURSE OUTLINE**

If there is a discrepancy between the hard copy outline (i.e., if students were provided with a hard copy at the first class) and the outline posted on LEARN, the outline on LEARN will be deemed the official version. Outlines on LEARN may change as instructors develop a course, but they become final as of the first class meeting for the term.

## **CROSS-LISTED COURSE**

Please note that a cross-listed course will count in all respective averages no matter under which rubric it has been taken. For example, a PHIL/PSYCH cross-list will count in the Philosophy major average, even if the course was taken under the Psychology rubric.

## **TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

We acknowledge that we are living and working on the traditional territory of the Attawandaron (also known as Neutral), Anishinaabe and Haudenosaunee peoples. The University of Waterloo is situated on the Haldimand Tract, the land promised to the Six Nations that includes six miles on each side of the Grand River.

*\*Portions of these sections were taken from the following sources: Academic Calendars of St. Jerome's University, the University of Waterloo, and Dr. Maureen T.B. Drysdale from the St. Jerome's University/University of Waterloo*