



University of Waterloo

Fall 2012

COURSE NUMBER: Psychology 312R
Course Name: Learning Disabilities
Instructor: R. James Little, M.Ed., M.A., C. Psych.
Email: rjlittle@uwaterloo.ca

Class Times/Location: Wednesdays 6:30 - 9:20 Room 2107

Office Hours: By appointment or email

Course Description:

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

Course Objectives:

- To provide a historical context for the study of learning disabilities and review the major definitions used currently.
- To understand learning disabilities across the life span.
- To understand theories and treatment of reading, writing, math and social disabilities.
- To understand, explain and critically evaluate best practices in assessment and remediation/treatment of learning disabilities.

Text: Wong, B., Graham, L., Hoskyn, M., & Berman, J. (2008). *The ABCs of Learning Disabilities, 2nd Edition*. Boston: Academic Press.

Course Requirements:

The students will complete TWO in-class assessments/tests, ONE take home exam/assignment, and ONE in-class presentation of a strategy or teaching tool useful for teaching students with learning disabilities.

Assessments and assignments are designed to have students explain and critically examine course concepts.

Grading¹:

In-class Assessments

Due October 12	25%
Due November 23	25%
Student Presentation	15%
Participation/Attendance	15%
Take Home Exam/ Assignment	20%
Due December 10	

SYLLABUS

Date	Topic	Readings
Sept. 12	Learning Disabilities - History and Definitions.	Chapter 1 - Text
Sept. 19	What's It Like to have a Learning Disability	F.A.T. City Video
Sept. 26	Neurodevelopment Perspective of Learning and Learning Problems	PowerPoint Hand-out
Oct. 3	Assessment of Learning Disabilities	Chapters 3 and 6 - Text
Oct. 10	Models of Learning Disabilities and Comorbid Disorders	PowerPoint Hand-out
Oct. 17	Understanding and Treating Disorders of Written Expression Test	Chapter 9 - Text PowerPoint Hand-out
Oct. 24	Understanding and Treating Reading Disorders Student Presentations	Guest speaker - ???? Chapter 7 - Text PowerPoint Hand-out
Nov. 31	Understanding and Treating Math Disorders Student Presentations	Chapter 8 - Text PowerPoint Hand-out
Nov. 7	LD Across the Life Span	PowerPoint Hand-out

¹ In light of the grading methodology it may be necessary to place marks on a Bell Curve for final grade assignments.

	Student Presentations	
Nov. 14	Social/Emotional/Behavioural Development of Children and Adolescents with LD Student Presentations	Guest Speaker - Dr. Andrea Myrie Nurse Chapter 4 - Text PowerPoint Hand-out
Nov. 21	Special Education for Students with LD Final Test Student Presentations	Intstructor provided materials
Nov. 28	Critical Review and Wrap-up Student Presentations Final Assignment Due December 10	

UW-ACE

The UW-ACE site for PSYCH 312R will be used to post the following important information: this course outline, power point lecture notes, links to library reserves and other websites, assessment instructions and drop-boxes and contact information for R. James Little. It is important to check the UW-ACE site regularly for course announcements and information.

IMPORTANT UNIVERSITY POLICIES

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/PSCI cross-list will count in a Philosophy major average, even if the course was taken under the Political Science rubric.

Accommodation for Illness or Unforeseen Circumstances:

The instructor follows the practices of the University of Waterloo in accommodating students who have documented reasons for missing quizzes or exams. See http://www.registrar.uwaterloo.ca/students/accom_illness.html

Academic Integrity: In order to maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo community are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility.

Academic Integrity website (Arts):

http://arts.uwaterloo.ca/arts/ugrad/academic_responsibility.html

Academic Integrity Office (UW):

<http://uwaterloo.ca/academicintegrity/>

Discipline: A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity [check www.uwaterloo.ca/academicintegrity/] 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, cheating) or about “rules” for group work/collaboration, should seek guidance from the course instructor, academic advisor, or Renison’s Administrative Dean. When misconduct has been found to have occurred, disciplinary penalties will be imposed under Policy 71, Student Discipline. For information on categories of offences and types of penalties, students should refer to this policy www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy71.htm . For typical penalties check Guidelines for the Assessment of Penalties, www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/guidelines/penaltyguidelines.htm .

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, www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy70.htm

Appeals: A student may appeal the finding and/or penalty in a decision made under Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances (other than regarding a petition) or Policy 71 - Student Discipline if grounds for an appeal can be established. Read Policy 72 - Student Appeals www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy72.htm .

Accommodation for Students with Disabilities: The Office for Persons with Disabilities (OPD), located in Needles Hall, Room 1132, 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 OPD at the beginning of each academic term.

Final Examination Policy

For Fall 2012, the schedule will be available in October. Students should be aware that student travel plans are not acceptable grounds for granting an alternative final examination time (see: <http://www.registrar.uwaterloo.ca/exams/finalexams.html>).