

St. Jerome's in the University of Waterloo
Department of Psychology
Psychology 319 – Winter 2005
Problem Behaviour in the Classroom

Course Outline

Instructor: Dr. M. Drysdale
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Email: mdrysdal@watarts.uwaterloo.ca
Office Hours: T & TH 10:30 – 11:00
Lectures: Tuesday and Thursday 8:30am – 9:45am
Teaching Assistant: Nadia Palarchio, nipalarchio@hotmail.com, Office: STJ 2021

Course Overview:

This course will address current issues in educational psychology, with a specific focus on exceptional students and the problems they encounter in special education classrooms and mainstream classrooms. Theories related to problem behaviours in the classroom; the incidence and etiology of conduct problems and behavioural disorders; and the learning outcomes of children with such disorders will be examined. Special emphasis will be placed on critically examining the current research on the classroom experiences of students with emotional and behavioural problems and teachers of such students. Strategies on how best to teach and manage these children will also be addressed.

Learning Objectives:

- To understand the behavioural problems encountered in education
- To review the theoretical perspectives concerning exceptional learners
- To review the empirical research on exceptional learners
- To understand school-based psychological assessment
- To review the theories and practices of special education
- To develop professional and scholarly writing in the field of educational psychology

Required Text:

Rosenberg, M. S., Wilson, R., Maheady, L., & Sindelar, P. T. (2004). *Educating Students with Behaviour Disorders (third edition)*. Boston MA: Allyn and Bacon.

Correspondence:

Students using email or the telephone to contact the T.A or me **must** include their first and last names, student number, and course in which they are enrolled. Please address me as Dr. Drysdale.

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 the TA (Nadia). For all other inquiries or questions, please contact me (Dr. Drysdale) (e.g., missing an exam).

Please do not ask if you can borrow my notes if you miss class.

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

If my door is open feel free to approach. Please knock first. If the door is closed, I am away or busy. Please respect my "Do Not Disturb" sign.

Evaluation:

Midterm Exam:	40%	February 15
Final Exam:	40%	Scheduled by the Registrar
Theoretical Paper:	20%	Variable depending on topic. See Research Paper Guidelines

NOTE: All Due Dates and Exam Dates ARE FINAL: PLEASE DO NOT REQUEST ANY ALTERNATE DATES/TIMES (medical exceptions excluded, see below).

- Both the midterm and final exams will cover the lecture material, handouts, video material, guest lectures, and the corresponding material in the textbooks.
- The final exam will NOT be cumulative.
- Each exam will have two components. A multiple-choice component and a short-answer component.

- 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 receive a zero (0%) on that exam. A number of safeguards will be employed to discourage cheating. For example, invigilators of the tests will ask students to move to another seat during the exam, cover their paper, avert their eyes from other students' papers, remove baseball caps, 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 Associate Dean. The Associate Dean will then record the offence in the students record. In addition, the professor will recommend that the student be required to withdraw from the university.

Theoretical Paper

- Students will select and write a scholarly paper on one specific group of exceptional students (see list below).
- Papers should include the following (which will be gathered from both the theoretical and empirical literature)
 - A brief description of the exceptionality or group and the school problems they encounter
 - Problems teachers and school administrators encounter
 - Predicted learning outcomes (short-term achievement and long term transitional issues)
 - Pros and cons of inclusive education and special education
 - Specific strategies on how best to teach these students.
- Use APA style formatting: spelling, grammar, punctuation and professional appearance will be graded.
- Empirical evidence should be current (1994 to the present)
- Length and format: **Maximum 10 pages, including references, 12-point font, and 1" margins.**
- Topics must be selected by January 27th, 2005. Sign up sheets will be available during every class.
- Late papers will not be accepted as the dues dates correspond to classroom discussions. Treat the due date as a classroom presentation date.
- Papers can be completed individually or in groups of 2 – 3 students.
- 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 professors' attention. If there is agreement between all group members that a student did not contribute, then the student may receive a penalty of up to 20% on the project. Grades will not be raised for group members who did more work. It is the responsibility of all group members to do a final edit and check of the paper prior to submission.
- The following is a list (with due dates) of the exceptional groups you can choose from. Due dates are arranged one day prior to the day the topic is discussed in class.

○ ADHD/Hyperactive Behaviour	March 1 st
○ Aggressive Behaviour	March 3 rd
○ School Bullying	March 3 rd
○ Rule-Breaking/Juvenile Delinquency	March 8 th
○ Social Withdrawal	March 10 th
○ Obsessive Compulsive Disorder	March 10 th
○ School Refusal	March 10 th
○ Autism	March 22 nd
○ Asperger's Syndrome	March 22 nd
○ Tourette's	March 24 th
○ Schizophrenia	March 24 th
○ Eating Disorders	March 24 th

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, to arrange a timely makeup, and to provide acceptable documentation to support a medical, compassionate, or religious claim (Page 1:8-9 in the 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 (Page 1:8-9 in the 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 illness certificate* on appropriate letterhead from their physician, 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).
- 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.
- Please note that the following are **NOT** valid reasons for rescheduling an exam or getting an extension on the article critique:
 - 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 and be expected to write all of them. All exams in this course are during the regular term. Therefore I will not reschedule because of other exams or assignments on the same day.
 - 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 the Psychology bulletin board between offices 2016 and 2018. 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. Final exam grades will not be posted prior to the end of the examination period.

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 an academic offense, to avoid committing academic offenses, and to take responsibility for their academic actions. 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 (p. 1:10; on the web at http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infooucal/UW/policy_71.html) and St. Jerome's University Calendar (p. 16 - 17). If you believe you have been wrongfully or unjustly penalized, you may grieve this decision in accord with Policy #70, (Student Grievance, p. 17 - 18, SJU Calendar). 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 x2402). 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

- 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. 2655**), 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. If your phone rings during class, I will stop talking and the class will be on hold until you leave 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 Schedule and Required Readings

Date	Topic	Textbook
January 4	Introduction	
January 6	Defining Behaviour Disorders	1
January 11	Theories & Prevalence of Behaviour Problems	1
January 13	Assessment & Classification	4
January 18 & 20	Functional Assessment	5
January 25 & 27	Understanding Special Education/Inclusion Debate	6
February 1 & 3	Special Education in Canada	
February 8	Issues & Teacher Training	
February 10	International Perspectives	
February 15	Midterm Exam (40%)	
February 17	High-Incidence Behaviour Disorders	2
February 21-25	Reading Week	
March 1	High-Incidence Behaviour Disorders (cont'd)	2
March 3	Managing Hyperactive Behaviour/ADHD	7
March 8	Managing Aggressive Behaviour	8
March 10	Managing Rule-Breaking Behaviour & Delinquency	10
March 15	Managing Socially Withdrawn Behaviour	9
March 17 & 22	Low-Incidence Behaviour Disorders	3
March 24 & 29	Managing Low-Incidence Behaviours	11
March 31	Emerging Issues, Future Directions, Transitions	13
April 5	Flex Day (Snow Day)	
TBA	FINAL EXAM	

NOTE: In the event of a “Snow Day” where all classes are cancelled, the schedule will continue as planned with everything moving forward by one day. If the snow day is not used, the course will end on March 31st.