

Psychology 3850N – Evidence Based Learning - Spring 2016

Department of Psychology

Location: Wednesday, 6:05-8:45 pm, AH116

Course Dropbox: adjacent to C866

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Course Description:

By definition, Psychology includes the study of information processing (or how people think), motivation, and how we learn. For over 100 years, the field has carried out research into thinking, and developed models about how we process information. We have developed a good understanding of what motivates us in various settings, and we understand how people learn and integrate new information. For many reasons (inertia, reward structures, politics etc.), too little of this research has been used to inform teaching and learning practices in formal education. This module will explore various research findings from psychology, and their possible application to formal education. It is assumed that you will have a solid background in psychology, and so the class will be largely student led. Each class will consist of talks about educational and psychological principles. During the week, you will be required to write a short (≈ 500 words) blog post about a psychological principle (or educational practice), as well as comment on a number of your peer's blog entries. You should note that this is NOT a lecture-based course. The course is not suitable for students who cannot commit to attending every class and to spending a significant amount of time each week outside of class working on evidence based learning.

Prerequisite Courses and Background Preparation:

Psychology 2030 and Psychology 2330. Recommended background: Psychology 2320.

Required Text:

There are no required texts for this class.

Course Rules and Regulations:

You are expected to attend and arrive on time for every class. Should you have an ongoing situation that prevents you from arriving at the class on time, please speak to your instructor prior to the end of add-drop. You are encouraged to bring your laptop or tablet to class. As an adult, you are expected to show respect and consideration to your peers in this class, both in person and online.

NB. All students are expected to be familiar with Part 4 of the current University of Lethbridge Calendar that governs Academic Regulations, Policies, and Program Requirements. In particular, all students should be familiar with Sections 5 and 9 <http://www.uleth.ca/ross/academic-calendar/2015-16>.

Students with Special Needs:

If you have a documented condition that prevents you from fully participating in this course, including evaluation procedures, it is your responsibility to contact your instructor regarding your individual situation. Please note that no accommodations will be given without official notification from the Accommodated Learning Centre (<http://www.uleth.ca/ross/accommodated-learning-centre/>).

Course Information Online:

Moodle (moodle.uleth.ca) Login is the same as email login (do not use @uleth.ca), password is the same: All course information will be available from the Moodle LMS system and students will be able to track their standing in the course by accessing the Moodle gradebook. All students are expected to be aware of copyright regulations.

Email: Other than posts to Moodle and the class blog, my primary method of communicating with you for general notices and points of interest to supplement course material will be via in-class announcements or by email. Please check your U of L email account on a regular basis, or have that account forwarded to your preferred provider. Please do your best to remember to do regular housekeeping of your U of L account so that you do not miss important notices due to a full mailbox.

NB: Email Policy

Please note that your instructor is not required to reply to any email that is not sent from your U of L account unless it is an emergency situation.

Blogs: Your blogs will be hosted on WordPress, a public social media website. If you are uncomfortable with your writing being available in a public manner, you may need to find an alternative class to take.

Assessments:

Weekly Blog Posts (100% total). Your weekly blog posts (due Friday at midnight), and the comments you make on other's blogs (due Tuesday at midnight), will

constitute 100% of your class grade. The weightings and requirements are as follows (further details will be available on Moodle):

BLOG (due)	Topic	Weighting (%)
1 (15/01)	Free	5
2 (22/01)	Free	5
3 (29/01)	Free	5
4 (5/02)	Free	10
5 (12/02)	Free	10
6 (26/02)	Topic	10
7 (4/03)	Topic	10
8 (11/03)	Topic	10
9 (18/03)	Topic	15
10 (1/04)	Synthesis of Topic	15
11 (8/04)	What you have learned	X (5)

Grading Scheme:

Letter grades will be assigned to each blog post (A, B, C, D, F) and the individual comments for the week (A, B, C, D, F), with an average of the weeks work calculated and posted every week. The final grade for the semester will be calculated based on your weighted weekly grades.