

ORIGINAL COURSE IMPLEMENTATION DATE: REVISED COURSE IMPLEMENTATION DATE: COURSE TO BE REVIEWED (six years after UEC approval): Course outline form version: 10/27/2017

December 2024

OFFICIAL UNDERGRADUATE COURSE OUTLINE FORM

Note: The University reserves the right to amend course outlines as needed without notice.

Course Code and Number: PSYC 429	Number of Credits: 3 Course credit policy (105)						
Course Full Title: Heuristics, Biases, and Cr	ng						
Course Short Title: Heuristics, Bias, Crit The	ought artments may	v recommend a	short title	if one is needed. If left bl	ank one will be assigned)		
				short lille if one is needed. If left blank, one will be assigned.)			
Faculty: Faculty of Social Sciences		Department (or program if no department): Psychology					
Calendar Description:							
Examines the heuristics and biases that peop distorted understanding of the world. Techniq the students can develop metacognitive strate	ble use in the lues for minin egies for criti	eir thinking, and mizing such dist ical thinking.	how the u ortions wi	ise of these heuristics an Il be taught and applied t	d biases may lead to a o real-world issues, so that		
Note: Students with credit for PSYC 491T car	nnot take this	s course for furt	ner credit.				
Prerequisites (or NONE):	60 univers	ity-level credits	including PSYC 202 and PSYC 221.				
Corequisites (if applicable, or NONE):	NONE						
Pre/corequisites (if applicable, or NONE): NONE							
Antirequisite Courses (Cannot be taken for	additional c	redit.)	Special Topics				
Former course code/number: PSYC 491T			This course is offered with different topics:				
Cross-listed with:			\square No \square Yes (Double-click on box to select it as checked.)				
Dual-listed with:			If yes, different lettered courses may be taken for credit:				
Equivalent course(s):			□ No □ Yes, repeat(s) □ Yes, no limit				
(If offered in the previous five years, antirequ	isite course(s) will be	(The specific topic will be recorded when offered.)				
included in the calendar description as a note that students with credit for the antirequisite course(s) cannot take this course for further credit							
			Transfer Credit Transfer credit already exists: (See <u>bctransferguide.ca</u> .)				
I ypical Structure of Instructional Hours							
Lecture/seminar hours	45						
Tutorials/workshops				$0 \Box \text{ Yes } (If \text{ yes } fill in transfer credit form)$			
Supervised laboratory hours			Grading System				
Experiential (field experience, practicum, internship, etc		.)			0		
Supervised online activities			Letter Grades Credit/No Credit				
Other contact hours:		Expected Frequency of Course Offerings:					
	lotal hour	'S 45	Annuall	у			
Labs to be scheduled independent of lecture	hours: 🛛 N	No 🗌 Yes	(Every s	semester, Fall only, annu	ally, every other Fall, etc.)		
Department / Program Head or Director: Wayne Podrouzek				Date approved:	March 2018		
Faculty Council approval				Date approved:	April 2018		
Dean/Associate VP: Jacqueline Nolte				Date approved:	April 2018		
Campus-Wide Consultation (CWC)				Date of posting:	May 11, 2018		
Undergraduate Education Committee (UEC) approval			Date of meeting:	December 14, 2018			

Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Analyze the judgments of others to determine the heuristics and biases on which they are based.
- Critically analyze a range of issues with the aid of debiasing techniques.
- Analyze a range of cognitive tasks for their potential for bias.
- Apply basic Bayesian updating where appropriate.
- Analyze the fit between heuristics and situations to assess ecological rationality.

Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR)

Yes INO, PLAR cannot be awarded for this course because

Typical Instructional Methods (Guest lecturers, presentations, online instruction, field trips, etc.; may vary at department's discretion.)

NOTE: The following sections may vary by instructor. Please see course syllabus available from the instructor.

Typical Text(s) and Resource Materials (If more space is required, download Supplemental Texts and Resource Materials form.)							
	Author (surname, initials)	Title (article, book, journal, etc.)	Current ed.	Publisher	Year		
1.	Kahneman, D.	Thinking fast and slow	1st	Penguin	2011		
2.	Levitin, D.	Weaponized lies	1st	Penguin	2016		
3.	Gigerenzer, G.	Rationality for mortals	1st	Oxford University Press	2008		
4.	Dobelli, R.	The art of thinking clearly	1st	Harper	2014		
5.							

Required Additional Supplies and Materials (Software, hardware, tools, specialized clothing, etc.)

Typical Evaluation Methods and Weighting

Final exam:	25%	Assignments:	40%	Field experience:	%	Portfolio:	%
Midterm exam:	20%	Project:	%	Practicum:	%	Book review:	15%
Quizzes/tests:	%	Lab work:	%	Shop work:	%	Total:	100%

Details (if necessary):

Typical Course Content and Topics

Week 1: Introduction to the course and the topic

Week 2: General considerations regarding critical thinking, heuristics, biases, and the functions of beliefs

Week 3: Conventional critical thinking 1: Evaluating numbers and introduction to Bayes' theorem

Week 4: Conventional critical thinking 2: Evaluating verbal arguments and the nature of science

Week 5: System 1, System 2, and introduction to cognitive biases

Week 6: Overconfidence and prospect theory

Week 7: Story bias, framing, and fluency effects

Week 8: An ecological approach to heuristics

Week 9: Social psychological influences on thinking

Week 10: Ideology and bias

Week 11: Culture, individual differences, and cognition

Week 12: Existential bandaids

Week 13: Putting it all together