ORIGINAL COURSE IMPLEMENTATION DATE: September 2019

REVISED COURSE IMPLEMENTATION DATE:

COURSE TO BE REVIEWED (six years after UEC approval)**:** December 2024

Course outline form version: 10/27/2017

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 Critical Thinking

Course Short Title: Heuristics, Bias, Crit Thought

(Transcripts only display 30 characters. Departments may recommend a short title 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 people use in their thinking, and how the use of these heuristics and biases may lead to a distorted understanding of the world. Techniques for minimizing such distortions will be taught and applied to real-world issues, so that the students can develop metacognitive strategies for critical thinking.

Note: Students with credit for PSYC 491T cannot take this course for further credit.

Prerequisites (or NONE):	60 university-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 credit.)*

Former course code/number: **PSYC 491T**

Cross-listed with:

Dual-listed with:

Equivalent course(s):

(If offered in the previous five years, antirequisite course(s) will be included in the calendar description as a note that students with credit for the antirequisite course(s) cannot take this course for further credit.)

Typical Structure of Instructional Hours

Lecture/seminar hours	45
Tutorials/workshops	
Supervised laboratory hours	
Experiential (field experience, practicum, internship, etc.)	
Supervised online activities	
Other contact hours:	
Total hours	**45**

Labs to be scheduled independent of lecture hours: ☒ No ☐ Yes

Special Topics

This course is offered with different topics:

☒ No ☐ Yes *(Double-click on box to select it as checked.)*

If yes, different lettered courses may be taken for credit:

☐ No ☐ Yes, repeat(s) ☐ Yes, no limit

(The specific topic will be recorded when offered.)

Transfer Credit

Transfer credit already exists: *(See **bctransferguide.ca**.)*

☒ No ☐ Yes

Submit revised outline for rearticulation:

☐ No ☐ Yes *(If yes, fill in transfer credit form.)*

Grading System

☒ Letter Grades ☐ Credit/No Credit

Expected Frequency of Course Offerings:

Annually

(Every semester, Fall only, annually, 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 ☐ No, 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