

Ethics in Psychology

Psychology 3814G, section 530
Course Outline 2019

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Office hours: Mondays 10- 11 am, Tuesdays 1 - 2 pm, and by appointment.

Class times: Mondays 11:30 am - 12:30 pm, Wednesdays 11:30 - 1:30 pm; room 19

Required reading

Package: *TCPS2 (2014): Cultivating a culture of research ethics* (revised second edition)
Government of Canada

Guidelines: *Ethical principles of psychologists and code of conduct* (2010) APA
Canadian code of ethics for psychologists – 4th ed. (2017) CPA

Coursepack: *Ethics in Psychology Readings* (2019).

Available from the UWO bookstore, package number M11828

These three sets of ethics guidelines will be provided to you in class at the start of term.

N.B. The Canada government guidelines package and APA and CPA codes booklets will be distributed free to students registered in this class. Copies of these materials will be distributed at lectures, during the first two weeks of classes. If you drop the course, you must return the package and booklet for use by another student. Code and guidelines are also available as resources on the course “Owl” site. The coursepack of readings must be purchased at the bookstore and is non-returnable.

Course Website and Emails

Registered students will see the course listed on the course Owl site. Information, handouts, PowerPoint slides, etc., will be posted to the course site. It is the student’s responsibility to check the site regularly. You are also required to have an active UWO email account and to use this or to link it to your regularly used email address. **Please note that the primary form of contact for this course will be announcements on Owl, also delivered as email.** You **must**, therefore, make sure that your UWO email account is functioning. Note also that official communications from the university are sent to students’ registered UWO email addresses. Not using UWO email is not considered an excuse for not receiving such notifications.

You are responsible for checking the course Owl site and your UWO email on a regular basis for information including requirements for this course. Not receiving an announcement because your email is over quota or a message did not forward from your UWO email account, or because you did not check your email in a timely fashion will not be accepted as an excuse for missing a deadline or failing to complete a course responsibility.

If you need to ask questions it is better to talk to me, so come and see me at classes or in my office. You may also telephone the Brescia number given above (if I am not in, leave a message). If you choose to use email to contact me, please note that a reply may not be immediate. I do have other responsibilities, and you need to allow time for an email to be received and dealt with; this usually will be within 24 hours.

(Information continues →)

Course Description

In this course we examine basic concepts of ethics, research and professional, for Psychologists.

This course will introduce concepts of ethics and cover different professional and research ethics guidelines, with more in-depth study of particular and current controversies. Topics may include research in human genetics, animal research and the concept of animal rights, professional relationships, and psychometry and reporting of test results. (UWO Calendar).

Antirequisite(s): The former Psychology 2814F/G.

Prerequisite(s): At least 60% in Psychology 1000 and registration in third or fourth year of a Major, Specialization, or Honors Specialization in Psychology, or permission of instructor.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, among other skills, students should (*Note: Competency levels in brackets*):

- have an understanding of the philosophical concepts underlying ethics in psychology and be able to relate these to research and practice in psychology.
Competencies: *Critical thinking (3-4); Inquiry and Analysis (3); Problem Solving (3)*
- be able to recognize and review the social and intellectual forces which drive/have driven the development of concepts of ethics and codes of conduct in psychology.
Competencies: *Communication (3); Critical thinking (3); Valuing (3)*
- be able to independently investigate and analyse the origins, and eventual structure, of codes of ethics within psychology.
Competencies: *Critical thinking (3); Social Awareness and Engagement (3); Valuing (3-4)*
- have the ability to critically assess research and writings in psychology from an ethical perspective.
Competencies: *Communication (3); Critical thinking (3); Inquiry and Analysis (3-4)*

Notes:

- (i) "Students may vary in their competency levels on these outcomes. They can expect to achieve these outcomes if they honor course policies, attend classes regularly, complete all assigned work in good faith and on time, and meet all other course expectations of them as students" (Nilson, 2010, p.37).
- (ii) For a full description of the Brescia Competencies, see: <http://brescia.uwo.ca/academics/brescia-competencies/>

Evaluation

There will be one two-hour test and a final exam, based on the lectures and assigned readings. The test and exam will consist of multiple-choice questions and short essay questions and are not cumulative. One main assignment will be required: an approx. 20 min. group presentation on an ethical issue. The presentation will be done in class (see page six of outline for a list of activity dates). Further information regarding this assignment will be given during classes, at the start of term. Attendance at in-class discussions is mandatory. Answers to set questions or a synopsis and critique of the assigned article are to be handed in at discussions two to five. Discussion one will be an in-class discussion of ethics codes, including that of the Tri-Council, with no paper due. For discussions two, three, four, and five marks will be given for discussion participation; i.e., attendance and paper. *Note: the short assignments, in-class discussions and other activities are designed to offer students a variety of learning experiences.*

Mark distribution

Mid-term test	28%
Final exam	30 %
Discussion papers	32 % (i.e., 8% each)
Presentation	10 %

Note: Due to the UWO regulation regarding the date by which 15% of marks must be given to students, you **must** ensure that you complete both discussion papers two and three as scheduled, before the February reading week.

N.B. The Research Ethics section of the course requires that you have done the on-line tutorial of the

Tri-Council Statement “Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans” (TCPS); see the Government of Canada Panel on Research Ethics (PRE) website, found at www.ethics.gc.ca. Choose whether to see the site in English or in French. On left hand side of the Panel on Research Ethics homepage you will see a menu, with headings for sections in purple. About halfway down that menu is the heading “Education”. The first sub-section under that heading is “TCPS 2 Tutorial”; click on that link. The tutorial is stated as taking about two hours, but probably does not require this amount of time. You can “save” and return to the tutorial, breaking it down into shorter instalments if you prefer. At the conclusion of the tutorial you will be able to print off a certificate acknowledging completion of the tutorial. If you have done the tutorial already for another class you do not have to repeat the tutorial. Bring the certificate or a copy with you to class. “Computer/printer problems” will not be considered a valid excuse, so if you do not have a certificate plan to do the tutorial in time!

This course is designated as an essay course. Senate regulations for a half-year essay course include:

- The guidelines for the minimum written assignments refer to the cumulative amount of written work in a course but excludes written work in examinations.
- An essay course must normally involve total written assignments (essays or other appropriate prose composition, excluding examinations) as follows: ...
- Half course (2000 and above): at least 2500 words and must be so structured that the student is required to demonstrate competence in essay writing to pass the course.
- The structure of the essay course must be such that in order to pass the course, the student must exhibit some minimal level of competence in essay writing and the appropriate level of knowledge of the content of the course.
- The term "essay" is to be understood broadly to include many of the reports, reviews, summaries, critiques, and some laboratory reports that are currently assigned, as well as essays in the strictest sense. The essential point is that the assignments involve assembling information and argument and presenting it in connected prose.

In keeping with university regulations, failure to attend a test or exam **will result in a mark of zero**, unless documentary evidence of extenuating circumstances is provided. Social events, travel plans, vacations, misreading the test schedule or sleeping in are not legitimate reasons for missing a test. Only under special circumstances will a student be allowed to write a make-up test. The instructor must be notified of any such case as soon as possible, and the student request a make-up. If the instructor allows a make-up test, the student will be expected to write the test within a week or two after the missed test.

There will be no re-taking of tests/examinations nor extra work available for the purpose of improving grades. You must plan to study and prepare well in advance of examinations. The course involves a fair amount of reading on your own. It is best to read set materials before the corresponding lectures. You are advised to attend every lecture - especially as in this course attendance for discussions is mandatory. If you are unable to attend a discussion session, arrange to be excused in advance. Missing lectures is the responsibility of the student. Should you be absent you are advised to find out what material you missed and make arrangements to catch up on that material.

It is pointless to come to any instructor at the end of the term to plead for a higher grade on grounds that you had problems (personal or academic). Deal with problems as soon as they arise - see someone, take action - no-one will think less of you for doing so; in fact it shows intelligence and sense of personal responsibility.

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For academic accommodation to be considered for any course component worth less than 10% of the final course grade, it is the responsibility of the student to approach the course instructor(s) in a timely fashion. Documentation may be required to be submitted to the academic advisor. If documentation is required, the request for accommodation will be decided by the academic advisor in consultation with the instructor. If documentation is not required, the instructor will make the final decision. The policies governing requests for academic accommodation for course components worth 10% or more of the course grade are outlined in the Academic Policies section included at the end of the course outline. It is the student's responsibility to be familiar with these policies and regulations.

Late policy

Due dates in this course will be strictly enforced. Work to be turned in (hard copy required) is due at the class meeting. Items that are submitted after a class has ended will be considered late and subject to a 10% mark deduction. For example, for a Wednesday due date:

Work submitted later than 15 min. beyond start of class on Wednesday or later that day: -10%
Work submitted Thursday: -20%
Work submitted Friday: -30%
== etc. ==

All work submitted after a class meeting has ended must be delivered to me personally, either at my office or at a subsequent class. DO NOT put papers under my office door; papers found there will not be accepted. As noted above, you are expected to submit assignments in class, on the due dates as per this course outline. Students should not submit late assignments to the Brescia welcome desk staff or staff at the Hive; this is not their responsibility.

As noted, late submission of assignments will result in a penalty of 10% of assignment mark per day and late submissions will not be marked after the fifth day, unless evidence of extenuating circumstances has been provided. All submissions must be typed or clearly hand-written. Illegible handwritten submissions will not be accepted. Failure to hand in an assignment will result in a zero for that portion of the course evaluation. Note that you cannot get those marks any other way, and the discussions are a required component of the course (see above), so at least attempt these assignments!

Please see also the UWO regulations on *Accommodation for Medical Illness - Undergraduate Students* in the Academic Handbook (available at <http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/medical.pdf>). These university regulations will be followed. The class discussions and papers, at 8% each, come under policy regarding "work worth less than 10% of the overall grade in a course". If you have a valid reason for missing one of the discussions you should let me know - in advance if possible (e.g., doctor's appointment; interview) - and request accommodation. In such cases medical or other documentation will not normally be required for this course.

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Expectations for Behaviour

Because this course includes discussion of ethical principles and often contentious issues, students attending this course are expected to behave in a mature and respectful fashion in class.

Note that by signing up for this course you are considered to have agreed to:

(i) Maintain respect of other's opinions during discussions. This means allowing others to speak and to present their opinions without ridicule or denigration. You are free to disagree entirely with any other person, but must respect the rights of others to hold opposing views.

(ii) Treat as confidential any personal disclosures made within the class and/or during discussions.

These rules have been laid down not to restrict free discussion and expression of opinion, but to allow that freedom and expression. As Voltaire is reputed to have said (although actually it was Voltaire biographer Evelyn Beatrice Hall, 1906): *I disapprove of what you say, but I shall defend to the death your right to say it.* Individuals also must feel comfortable to disclose personal information during discussions without fear of becoming a source of gossip.

Contacts

Be warned, I may not check email throughout day. As noted above, if you need to talk to me, it is better to come and see me at classes or in my office. You may also telephone the Brescia number given above (if I am not in, leave a message). If you do choose to use email, please note: (i) a reply may not be immediate, and (ii) general questions sent *via* email will be answered in class, for the benefit of all, especially in the case of questions where the information has already been provided in some other form; e.g. "When is the next test?". That information is provided on the course outline and will be reiterated in class.

Senate Regulations

Senate regulations require that students' attention be directed to the information regarding issues such as plagiarism and course antirequisites. See the policies and regulations pages at the end of this outline, and check the UWO calendar for further details.

Note: In Psychology you are expected to follow the American Psychological Society (APA) guidelines for writing and for acknowledgement of sources, and to use APA referencing format. Further information on use of APA style will be given in class. There is also a copy of the APA style manual on reserve in the Brescia library.

Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you will be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

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PROVISIONAL TOPIC OUTLINE – note that we move ahead/get behind of absolute dates in the term.
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N.B. See relevant coursepack references, by week, for each topic/issue.

<u>Week</u>	<u>Date</u> <i>Mon. Wed.</i>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Issues</u>
1	Jan 7 & 9	Introduction - concepts of ethics; theoretical bases	<i>What are "ethics"?</i>
2	Jan 14 & 16	Construction of codes - APA/CPA/Tri-council. Discussion 1: Jan. 16th - Comparison of codes	<i>What codes are and how they were developed.</i>
<u>Research Ethics</u>			
3	Jan 21 & 23	Research ethics: Overview; Bioethics Bioethics - human enhancement	<i>Drug trials & results.</i> <i>Genetic engineering</i>
4	Jan 28 & 30	Animal research. Discussion 2: Jan 30th - Animal rights in research	<i>"Animal rights".</i> Codes + coursepack references
5	Feb 4 & 6	Human research.	<i>"Subjects" or "participants" ?;</i> <i>Confidentiality.</i>
6	Feb 11 & 13	Vulnerable populations Discussion 3: Feb. 13th - Discussion of "consent"	<i>Consent; Assent and Dissent.</i> Codes + coursepack references; (e.g., Cappel, 2006)
7	Feb 18 & 20	Reading week - no classes	
8	Feb. 25	Vulnerable populations, cont.	
	Feb. 27	Mid-term Test – topics covered and references used to date.	
<u>Professional Ethics</u>			
9	Mar 4 & 6	Professional ethics: Overview; Diagnoses Discussion 4: Mar. 6th - Issues of "labelling"	<i>DSM - uses and abuses</i> Bersoff (2008) references
10	Mar 11 & 13	The "ethic of care"	" "
11	Mar 18 & 20	Professional relationships	<i>Violations of professional boundaries.</i>
12	Mar 25 & 27	Testing and other professional services. Discussion 5: Mar. 27th - Professional relationships	<i>Reporting of results.</i> Various references - coursepack.
13	April 1 st Wed. Apr. 3	Testing, cont. Student presentations - <i>Small group, ~ 20 min. presentations on particular guidelines, issues, violations, etc.</i>	
14	Mon. Apr. 8	== presentations, cont. (if needed) ==	
April 11 - 30 UWO exam period - Final Exam , date TBA, topics/refs. from second half of course.			

Note: Additional material may be distributed in class also - for reading and/or in-class discussions.

2018-19 BRESCIA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE ACADEMIC POLICIES AND REGULATIONS

1. POLICY REGARDING MAKEUP EXAMS AND EXTENSIONS OF DEADLINES

When a student requests academic accommodation (e.g., extension of a deadline, a makeup exam) for work representing 10% or more of the student's overall grade in the course, it is the responsibility of the student to provide acceptable documentation to support a medical or compassionate claim. All such requests for academic accommodation **must** be made through an Academic Advisor and include supporting documentation.

Academic accommodation for illness will be granted only if the documentation indicates that the onset, duration and severity of the illness are such that the student could not reasonably be expected to complete her academic responsibilities. Minor ailments typically treated by over-the-counter medications will not normally be accommodated.

Students must submit their documentation along with a request for relief specifying the nature of the accommodation being requested no later than two business days after the date specified for resuming responsibilities. In cases where there might be an extended absence or serious issue, students should submit their documentation promptly and consult their Academic Advisor for advice during their recovery period. Whenever possible, students who require academic accommodation should provide notification and documentation in advance of due dates, examinations, etc. Appropriate academic accommodation will be determined by the Dean's Office/Academic Advisor in consultation with the student's instructor(s). Academic accommodation may include extension of deadlines, waiver of attendance requirements for classes/labs/tutorials, arranging Special Exams or Incompletes, re-weighting course requirements, or granting late withdrawals without academic penalty

Please note that personal commitments (e.g., vacation flight bookings, work schedule) which conflict with a scheduled test, exam or course requirement are **not** grounds for academic accommodation.

A UWO Student Medical Certificate (SMC) is **required** if a student is seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds. This documentation should be obtained at the time of the initial consultation with the physician/nurse practitioner or walk-in clinic. A SMC can be downloaded from:

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf. The student must request documentation sufficient to demonstrate that her ability to meet academic responsibilities was seriously affected. Please note that under University Senate regulations documentation stating simply that the student "was seen for a medical reason" or "was ill" is **not** adequate to support a request for academic accommodation.

The full policy on requesting accommodation due to illness can be viewed at:

http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_12

2. ACADEMIC CONCERNs

If you feel that you have a medical or personal challenge that is interfering with your work, contact your instructor and Academic Advisor 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 academic accommodation on medical or compassionate grounds are not normally considered.

If you think that you are too far behind to catch up or that your work load is not manageable, you should consult your Academic Advisor. If you consider reducing your workload by dropping one or more courses, this must be done by the appropriate deadlines (refer to the Registrar's website, <http://brescia.uwo.ca/academics/registrar-services/> or the list of official sessional dates in the Academic Calendar, see the Sessional Dates tab at <http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/index.cfm?SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=>). You should consult with the course instructor and the Academic Advisor who can help you consider alternatives to dropping one or more courses. *Note that dropping a course may affect OSAP eligibility and/or Entrance Scholarship eligibility.*

3. ABSENCES

Short Absences: If you miss a class due to a minor illness or other problems, check your course outline for information regarding attendance requirements and make sure you are not missing a test or assignment.

Cover any readings and arrange to borrow notes from a classmate. Contact the course instructor if you have any questions.

Extended Absences: If you have an extended absence, you should contact the course instructor and an Academic Advisor. Your course instructor and Academic Advisor can discuss ways for you to catch up on missed work and arrange academic accommodations, if appropriate and warranted.

It is important to note that the Academic Dean may refuse permission to write the final examination in a course if the student has failed to maintain satisfactory academic standing throughout the year or for too frequent absence from the class or laboratory

(http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=5&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#SubHeading_68).

4. SCHOLASTIC OFFENCES

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at:

http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_20 .

Students are responsible for understanding the nature of and avoiding the occurrence of plagiarism and other academic offences. Note that such offences include plagiarism, cheating on an examination, submitting false or fraudulent assignments or credentials, impersonating a candidate, or submitting for credit in any course without the knowledge and approval of the instructor to whom it is submitted, any academic work for which credit has previously been obtained or is being sought in another course in the University or elsewhere. Students are advised to consult the section on Scholastic Discipline for Undergraduate Students in the Academic Calendar.

If you are in doubt about whether what you are doing is inappropriate or not, consult your instructor, the Academic Dean's Office, or the Registrar. A claim that "you didn't know it was wrong" is not accepted as an excuse.

The penalties for a student guilty of a scholastic offence (including plagiarism) include refusal of a passing grade in the assignment, refusal of a passing grade in the course, suspension from the University, and expulsion from the University.

Plagiarism:

Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence.

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>).

Computer-marked Tests/exams:

Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating. Software currently in use to score computer-marked multiple-choice tests and exams performs a similarity review as part of standard exam analysis.

5. PROCEDURES FOR APPEALING ACADEMIC EVALUATIONS

All appeals of a grade must be directed first to the course instructor. If the student is not satisfied with the decision of the course instructor, a written appeal is to be sent to the School Chair. If the response of the Chair is considered unsatisfactory to the student, she may then submit a written appeal to the Office of the Dean. If the student is not satisfied with the decision of the Dean, she may appeal to the Senate Review Board Academic (SRBA), if there are sufficient grounds for the appeal. For information on academic appeals you can consult your Academic Advisor or see the Student Academic Appeals – Undergraduate in the

Academic Calendar

http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_14.

Note that final course marks are not official until the Academic Dean has reviewed and signed the final grade report for the course. If course marks deviate from acceptable and appropriate standards, the Academic Dean may require grades to be adjusted to align them with accepted grading practices.

6. PREREQUISITES

Unless you have either the prerequisites for a course or written special permission from the Dean to enroll in it, you will be removed from the course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisite(s).

7. SUPPORT

Support Services

The Brescia University College Registrar's website, with a link to Academic Advisors, is at <http://brescia.uwo.ca/academics/registrar-services/>. The website for the Student Development Centre at Western is <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/>.

Mental Health and Wellness

Students may experience a range of issues that can cause barriers to your learning, such as increased anxiety, feeling overwhelmed, feeling down or lost, difficulty concentrating and/or lack of motivation. Services are available to assist you with addressing these and other concerns you may be experiencing. You can learn more about mental health and wellness at Brescia at <http://brescia.uwo.ca/life/mental-health-wellness/>. Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Health and Wellness at Western, http://uwo.ca/health/mental_wellbeing/index.html, for information about how to obtain help for yourself or others.

Sexual Violence

All members of the Brescia University College community have a right to work and study in an environment that is free from any form of sexual violence. Brescia University College recognizes that the prevention of, and response to, Sexual Violence is of particular importance in the university environment. Sexual Violence is strictly prohibited and unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Brescia is committed to preventing Sexual Violence and creating a safe space for anyone in the Brescia community who has experienced Sexual Violence.

If you or someone you know has experienced any form of Sexual Violence, you may access resources at <http://brescia.uwo.ca/life/sexual-violence/>.

Portions of this document were taken from the Academic Calendar, the Handbook of Academic and Scholarship Policy and the Academic Handbook of Senate Regulations. This document is a summary of relevant regulations and does not supersede the academic policies and regulations of the Senate of the University of Western Ontario.