



**PSYCHOLOGY 2021B (670)**  
**Addictive Behaviours**  
**Summer 2026**

Instructor: Dr. Corey Isaacs  
Email: [cisaacs3@uwo.ca](mailto:cisaacs3@uwo.ca)

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**Course Information**

**Calendar Description:**

Overview of addictive behaviors and issues concerning addiction. Addictive aspects of drug use, gambling, eating, exercise, sex, playing video games, and Internet use will be considered as well as psychological research, explanations for, and treatment of addictive behaviours.

**Prerequisite(s):**

**Antirequisite(s):**

**Extra Information:** 3 lecture hours.

**Course Weight:** 0.50

**Breadth:** Category A

**Subject Code:** PSYCHOL

Notice: Unless you have either the requisites for this course (fulfilment of pre-requisites, no anti-requisite conflicts), or special permission from your Dean to enrol in it, you may 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.

**King's University College**  
**Psychology 2021B (670)**  
**Addictive Behaviours**  
**Summer 2026**

**Course Information:**

Course: Psychology 2021B (670)  
Instructor: Dr. Corey Isaacs  
Email: cisaacs3@uwo.ca  
Office hours: by appointment, via Zoom

**Course Description:**

Overview of addictive behaviors and issues concerning addiction. Addictive aspects of drug use, gambling, eating, exercise, sex, playing video games, and Internet use will be considered as well as psychological research, explanations for, and treatment of addictive behaviours.

**Course Learning Outcomes:**

By the end of this course, successful students should have achieved the following outcomes:

- Identify and describe key concepts, principles, and overarching themes in psychological research on addiction.
- Interpret and critically evaluate psychological research on addiction.
- Apply psychological theories and concepts to the understanding of addiction and recovery.
- Communicate ideas clearly and concisely, in language accessible to a non-specialist audience.
- Recognize the limits of one's own knowledge and knowledge in the field of psychology.

By the end of this course, students should understand the basic theories, methods, and findings in the field of addiction and recovery. It is also expected that students will learn to think critically about psychological topics and will become more informed consumers of psychological research.

**Mode of Instruction:**

Online asynchronous

This class is designed to be asynchronous, meaning we will not have a regular, mandatory time when the entire class must be online. All exams, however, will be administered synchronously online, and will be proctored remotely with Proctortrack.

This course begins on Monday, June 15, and continues until Saturday, July 24, honouring all important dates derived from University approved guidelines and academic policies (<https://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/academic-resources/academic-dates-and-events/>).

The course is designed to structure and guide some self-paced elements as well as offer interactive opportunities for community learning. Each student brings their own knowledge,

experience, and interests to our learning community; we will build on that and use our course material (readings, lessons, etc.) to amplify learning for everyone.

### **Course Textbooks/Materials:**

Morgen, K. (2024). *Substance Use Disorders and Addictions (2nd Edition)*. Sage Publications, Inc.

The textbook may be purchased in a variety of formats, including paperback (9781071885086) and etextbook (9781071885086). You may purchase an online etextbook access code via the Western Book Store website or directly from the publisher's website:

<https://collegepublishing.sagepub.com/products/substance-use-disorders-and-addictions-2-281961>

This is a fully online course that will use King's learning platform, OWL, and other educational resources based on the needs of the course. As such, students must have a reliable internet connection and computer that are compatible with online learning system requirements, including the use of Proctortrack for exams.

### **Methods of Evaluation:**

**Exams (70%):** This course includes two exams, which will be administered synchronously online using ProctorTrack. The midterm exam (worth 30% of your course grade) will assess course content from weeks 1 to 3, and the final exam (worth 40% of your course grade) will assess course content from weeks 4 to 6. The final exam is not cumulative—that is, you will not be responsible on the final exam for material that was tested on the midterm exam.

**Online Discussions (30%):** There will be a total of eight online discussion forums throughout the course, and you will be required to participate in any FIVE of the chapter discussions to earn your Online Discussions grade (worth 30% of your course grade). You can choose to participate in up to all eight of the chapter discussions, in which case your best five discussion forum grades will be used to calculate your Online Discussions grade.

### **Academic Consideration:**

**Exams:** Students who fail to write an exam at the scheduled time will receive a grade of zero unless they receive academic consideration from their Academic Dean's office. **The Midterm Exam is the designated course component that is exempt from the 'undocumented absence' academic consideration policy.** Final Exams are always exempt from the 'undocumented absence' academic consideration policy. That is, you may NOT use the 'undocumented absence' option on the Student Absence Portal to be excused from either of the exams.

**There will be a makeup midterm exam at 12:00 – 1:30 PM on Saturday, July 11.** If a student is absent from both the midterm exam and the makeup exam with permission from their

Academic Dean's office, that portion of their course grade may be reassigned to the final exam. **There will be a makeup final exam at 12:00 – 2:00 PM on Saturday, August 8.**

**Online Discussions:** Because students are only required to participate in any five of the eight online discussions throughout the term and you have the ability to participate in extra discussions and drop your lowest grades, you will not be excused from this assessment except in rare instances of ongoing medical or compassionate circumstances. Waiting until the last five weeks to participate in the online forums will not change this, except with formal academic consideration from your Academic Dean's office.

**Academic Integrity / Remote Proctoring:**

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy: [http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/scholastic\\_discipline\\_undergrad.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf)

Use of Chat GPT or other AI services is prohibited in all assessments, including forums and examinations. Unauthorized use of AI will be subject to academic discipline.

Tests and examinations in this course will be conducted using a remote proctoring service. By taking this course, you are consenting to the use of this software and acknowledge that you will be required to provide personal information (including some biometric data) and the session will be recorded. Completion of this course will require you to have a reliable internet connection and a device that meets the technical requirements for this service. More information about this remote proctoring service, including technical requirements, is available on Western's Remote Proctoring website at: <https://remoteproctoring.uwo.ca>.

**Schedule of Classes, Readings, Assessments:**

*Assessment Schedule*

Midterm Exam                      10:00 – 11:30 AM on Saturday, July 4  
- Makeup Midterm Exam      10:00 – 11:30 AM on Saturday, July 11  
Final Exam                              TBA  
- Makeup Final Exam            see Brightspace  
Online Discussions                  Weekly from Sunday at 12:01 AM – Saturday at 11:59 PM

<b>Week/Date</b>	<b>Readings</b>	<b>Topics</b>
June 15 – 19	Chapter 1	Psychopharmacology & Neuropsychology
June 22 – 26	Pages 15 - 22	Clinical Cases: Overview
	Chapter 2	Interview, Screening, and Assessment
June 29 – July 3	Chapter 3	Diagnostic Issues

	Chapter 4	Treatment Modalities & Client Placement
	Pages 117 - 133	Clinical Cases: Assessment & Diagnosis
<b>Saturday, July 4</b>	<b>MIDTERM EXAM (Weeks 1 – 3)</b>	
July 6 – 10	Chapter 5	Motivational Interviewing
	Chapter 6	Cognitive Behavioral Therapy
July 13 – 17	Chapter 7	Family Counseling Interventions
	Chapter 8	Existential Counseling
	Pages 203 - 217	Clinical Cases: Interviewing & Counseling
July 20 – 24	Chapter 9	Recovery
	Chapter 10	Relapse Prevention
	Pages 255 - 257	Clinical Cases: Recovery & Relapse Prevention
	<b>FINAL EXAM (Weeks 4 – 6)</b>	

## Department of Psychology Policies Related to AI Tools

### 1. Policy on the Use of Generative AI Tools

**The Department of Psychology expects that students will submit work that is truly their own, completed without external assistance (human or artificial).**

**The use of generative AI tools (such as ChatGPT) is not permitted for any submitted coursework unless express permission has been granted by your instructor.**

Students **should not have AI tools write any part of their assignments or papers, either by copying and pasting or by paraphrasing the output.** Unauthorized use of AI constitutes an academic offence and will be subject to academic discipline.

**Additional information:** Students can use AI tools to clarify questions they have about course content (e.g., you can ask ChatGPT about a course concept to help with your understanding), but students should be aware that the response may be inaccurate or inconsistent with the course content. Asking your instructor is a more effective strategy. Students should note that information provided by AI tools such as ChatGPT can include mistakes, inaccuracies, biases, and outdated information. Whenever these tools are used, students should cross-verify the information provided to them. This means verifying that the sources used by AI exist and have been accurately summarized, consulting multiple original and reputable up-to-date sources to verify information, and being cautious of bias that could be present in the information provided.

### 2. Policy on Use of Translation Tools\*

**The Department of Psychology views the unapproved use of translation or language applications as an academic offence.**

Any usage of translation applications or language generation by students to complete specific assigned work for this course **must be approved** by the instructor **prior** to submitting the work **and noted by the student in the submitted work** itself.

Writing text and then feeding it into a computer application to improve or translate your own words, changing a few words, and then submitting this text as if it was your own **constitutes plagiarism.** You must compose text, choose words, construct logic flow, structure sentences and paragraphs to organize, synthesize, interpret information with your own mind. When you borrow language or ideas from another person or from a machine this must be acknowledged with quotation marks and/or citations.

#### **Why do we have this policy?**

- Translation is intellectual work and produces intellectual property, thus any text which is translated must cite the translator.
- Psychology endeavors to advance students' linguistic, analytic, and reasoning competencies – this can not happen outside of specific language competencies.
- Earning a university degree signals that an individual has advanced literacy and communicative skill in the language of instruction at the university; this is English at King's University College at Western University. If translation machines are used by students without regulation, we will have no way of certifying whether these competencies exist and fewer mechanism for encouraging students to do the hard work to develop them.

\* *Based on the policy developed by the Department of Child and Youth Studies*

# King's University College General Course Policies 2025-2026

## **1. Academic Accommodations, Consideration for Absences**

### **Academic Accommodation (Accessibility)**

Accessibility Services works to ensure that academic programs are accessible to all students, and supports students who may have a condition related to, but not limited to, vision, hearing, mobility, different ways of learning, mental health, chronic illnesses, chronic pain, autism spectrum disorder, ADD/ADHD, and temporary conditions (beyond short-term academic consideration). Accessibility Services provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive assessment. The accommodation policy can be found here [Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities](#). Information on Accessibility Services at King's can be found [here](#).

### **Academic Consideration for Student Absence**

If a student is unable to meet a course requirement due to substantial but temporary extenuating circumstances (medical or compassionate), they should follow the procedures below.

In some cases, where instructors have built flexibility into their assessments, this flexibility will already address consideration needs.

Requests for academic consideration should be directed to the Academic Advising Office of your faculty/college of registration. Requests must be made as soon as possible and no later than 48 hours after the missed assessment.

As a rule, documentation is required for academic consideration. For academic consideration requests on medical grounds, the Student Medical Certificate is available at [here](#).

Students are permitted one academic consideration request without supporting documentation per term per course. Instructors may designate one assessment per half-course weight as requiring formal supporting documentation. Please refer to the course outline for each course. For further information, please see:

<https://mykings.ca/intranet/app/#/academics/academic-advising/academic-consideration-requests-and-student-absence-portal>

### **Absences from Final Examinations**

If you miss the Final Exam, contact the Academic Advising Office of your faculty/college of registration as soon as you are able to do so. They will assess your eligibility to write the Special Examination (the name given by the University to a makeup Final Exam).

You may also be eligible to write the Special Exam if you are in a “Multiple Exam Situation” (e.g., more than 2 exams in 23-hour period, or more than 3 exams in a 47-hour period).

If a student fails to write a scheduled Special Examination, the date of the next Special Examination (if granted) normally will be the scheduled date for the final exam the next time this course is offered. The maximum course load for that term will be reduced by the credit of the course(s) for which the final examination has been deferred. See the Academic Calendar for details [https://academicsupport.uwo.ca/accessible\\_education/exams/index.html](https://academicsupport.uwo.ca/accessible_education/exams/index.html).

Please note, Friday Make-Up Exams may only be written with the instructor's consent.

## **Religious Accommodation**

Students should consult the University's list of recognized religious holidays, and should give notice in writing to the instructor and Academic Advising Office if a course requirement will be affected by a religious holiday/observance. Notice must be given as early as possible, and no later than two weeks prior to an examination, and one week prior to a midterm test date. It is the responsibility of such students to inform themselves concerning the work done in classes from which they are absent and to take appropriate action.

## **2. Support Services**

Accessibility, Counselling and Student Development at King’s University College:

<https://mykings.ca/intranet/app/#/student-supports-and-services>

Students experiencing emotional or mental health distress can access services at King’s University College: <https://mykings.ca/intranet/app/#/student-supports-and-services/personal-counselling>

Good2talk is a good online and phone 24/7 resource for students and is available in English, Mandarin, and French: <https://good2talk.ca>, 1-866-925-5454

MentalHealth@Western provides a complete list of options about how to obtain help: <https://www.uwo.ca/health/psych/index.html>

Academic Support Services at King’s University College:

<https://mykings.ca/intranet/app/#/academics/academic-advising>

## **GBSV Support:**

King’s is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence and providing compassionate support to anyone who has gone through these traumatic events. If you have experienced sexual or gender-based violence (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts at: <https://mykings.ca/intranet/app/#/student-supports-and-services/campus-safety-and-reporting/gender-and-sexual-violence>

You can reach someone supports at Kings by emailing [Care@kings.uwo.ca](mailto:Care@kings.uwo.ca) or calling 519-930-4640 to reach a social worker who can offer help.

You can also reach Western's Gender-Based Violence & Survivor Support Case Manager by [email](#) or by calling 519-661-3568.

See also [https://www.uwo.ca/health/student\\_support/survivor\\_support/get-help.html](https://www.uwo.ca/health/student_support/survivor_support/get-help.html)

University Students' Council offers many valuable support services for students, including the health insurance plan: <http://westernusc.ca/services/>

### **3. Statement on Use of Electronic Devices**

**Use of Electronic Devices:** Unless explicitly stated otherwise, you are not allowed to have a cell phone, or any other electronic device, with you during tests or examinations. Unauthorized possession of such a device during a test or examination constitutes an academic offence.

**Use of Laptops, Tablets, and Smartphones in the Classroom:** King's University College at Western University acknowledges the integration of new technologies and learning methods into the curriculum. The use of electronic devices such as laptop computers, tablets, or smartphones can contribute to student engagement and effective learning. At the same time, King's recognizes that instructors and students share jointly the responsibility to establish and maintain a respectful classroom environment conducive to learning.

The use of electronic devices by students during lectures, seminars, labs, etc., shall be for matters related to the course at hand only. Students found to be using electronic devices for purposes not directly related to the class may be subject to sanctions under the Student Code of Conduct; see <https://mykings.ca/intranet/app/#/student-supports-and-services/campus-safety-and-reporting/student-code-of-conduct>

Inappropriate use of electronics (e.g., laptops, tablets, smartphones) during lectures, seminars, labs, etc., creates a significant disruption. As a consequence, instructors may choose to limit the use of electronic devices in these settings. In addition, in order to provide a safe classroom environment, students attending in-person class sessions are strongly advised to operate laptops with batteries rather than power cords.

### **4. Statement on Academic Offences**

King's is committed to academic integrity. Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, is posted at [here](#).

It is expected that students will submit work that is truly their own, completed without external assistance (human or artificial) except as explicitly permitted by the course instructor. Check with you instructor on what tools, including generative AI (ChatGPT, translation tools, grammar-checking tools) are permitted in the course. Because a tool is permitted in one course, that does not mean it is permitted in other courses.

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; see [https://elearningtoolkit.uwo.ca/tools/OriginalityReports - TurnItIn.html](https://elearningtoolkit.uwo.ca/tools/OriginalityReports-TurnItIn.html).

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.

## **5. Copyright of Course Material**

Lectures and course materials, including PowerPoint presentations, tests, outlines, and similar materials are protected by copyright. Faculty members are the exclusive owner of copyright in those materials they create. Students may take notes and make copies for their own use. Students may not allow others to reproduce or distribute lecture notes and course materials publicly (whether or not a fee is charged) without the express written consent of a faculty member.

Unauthorized sharing of class content is subject to academic discipline.

Similarly, students own copyright in their own original papers and exam essays. If a faculty member wishes to post a student's answers or papers on the course website, they should ask for the student's written permission.

## **6. Use of Recordings**

Participants in this course are not permitted to record the sessions, except where recording is an approved accommodation and/or the participant has the prior written permission of the instructor. Unauthorized recording and/or sharing of class content is subject to academic discipline.

## **7. Policy on Attendance**

Any student who, in the opinion of the instructor, is absent too frequently from class or laboratory periods in any course, will be reported to the Dean of the Faculty offering the course, after due warning has been given. On the recommendation of the department concerned, and with the permission of the Dean of that Faculty, the student will be debarred from taking the regular examination in the course.