



PSYCHOLOGY 3893F (570)
Theory in Psychology
Fall/Winter 2025-2026

Instructor: Dr. Adrienne Sauder
Email: asauder5@uwo.ca

Course Information

Calendar Description:

An examination of theoretical approaches and major systems in psychology. In addition to examining the content of a variety of theories in psychology, this course will emphasize the role of theory in general as part of the scientific process.

Prerequisite(s): [Psychology 2840F/G](#) (or [Psychology 2801F/G](#), [Psychology 2802F/G](#), the former Psychology 2800E, the former Psychology 2820E, [Psychology 2830A/B](#), [Psychology 2855F/G](#) or [Psychology 2856F/G](#)) and third or fourth year Honours Specialization Psychology or Honours Specialization in Applied Psychology status, or registration in third year Psychology with a minimum average of 70% in all courses taken with no mark in any course less than 60%.

Antirequisite(s): [Psychology 3950F/G](#).

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.

Kings University College at Western University
Psychology 3893F (570)
Theory in Psychology
Fall 2025

Instructor: Dr. Adrienne Sauder

Email: asauder5@uwo.ca

Office Hours: Virtually by appointment

Course Description

This course will examine and critique the major intellectual frameworks that guide psychology. Students will explore a critical approach to theorizing in the field through an analysis of the social, historical, and cultural context of contemporary psychological knowledge.

Course Objectives

By completing this course successfully, students will:

1. Understand the dominant theoretical models in psychology
2. Understand the major social, historical, and cultural influences on the dominant theoretical models
3. Develop the capacity to evaluate, compare, and critique theoretical assumptions and their implications
4. Strengthen their ability to read deeply and thoughtfully
5. Envision a future for the field of psychology and their place in it

Class Format IN-PERSON

Structure of the Course

This course begins on Friday, September 5, 2025, and continues until Friday, December 5, 2025, 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/>).

This course primarily utilizes dialogic discourse as a teaching method, supplemented by group work and lectures, and is designed to promote engaged critical thinking. It is important to **complete all required readings, videos, and any other materials BEFORE CLASS** in order to best engage your colleagues in a discussion of various topics relating to theories in psychology. Students are expected to participate by asking relevant questions and/or by providing appropriate critiques and examples. The responsibility for a successful learning experience is shared by all the participants – students and professor alike. I am trusting that you will share in the responsibility in making this a successful learning experience.

Lecture slides will be posted on OWL each week. It is important to note that these lecture slides may be incomplete (i.e., they will contain some, but not all, of the information covered in lectures and/or the text). These lecture notes should not be relied upon as a replacement for attending lectures.

Texts and Readings

Required:

1. Walsh, R.T.G., Teo, T., & Baydala, A. (2014). *A critical history and philosophy of psychology: Diversity of context, thought, and practice*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press. (Cost \$70-95 depending on format)
2. Blume, A. W. (2020). *A new psychology based on community, equality, and care of the earth: An Indigenous American perspective*. Santa Barbara, CA: Praeger. Chapter 1. (Available free of charge through the King's library.)

Strongly Recommended Text:

American Psychological Association. (2020). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (7th ed.). (Cost \$45-65 depending on format)

Evaluation

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|----------------------------------|-----|
| 1. In-class Activities (8 of 10) | 15% |
| 2. Midterm Test (in-class) | 20% |
| 3. Essay | 35% |
| 4. Final Exam | 30% |

In-class Activities

Throughout the term there will be weekly opportunities to engage in thought-provoking and critical activities during class time, with notes/writings/reflections handed in at the end of class. You must submit at least 8 of these activities.

Midterm Test (in-class, 2 hours; October 17, 2025)

The midterm test will be short answer format and will cover all course content (readings, discussions, and lecture material) for Weeks 1-6.

Essay (2500 words; due December 5, 2025 by 11:30am)

Drawing on *A Critical History and Philosophy of Psychology* by Walsh, Teo, and Baydala (2014), plus a minimum of 5 additional scholarly sources, write a critical, well-supported essay that analyzes how the development of psychology has been shaped by historical events, cultural dynamics, philosophical traditions, and/or underlying power structures. Your essay should move beyond simply recounting a timeline of key figures or discoveries. Instead, your task is to critically examine the ways in which specific social, political, and epistemological contexts have influenced what counts as “valid” psychological knowledge. Further guidelines and suggested essay topics are available on OWL under Assignments.

***Instructions regarding assignments** - Evaluation for all assignments will include professionalism, academic integrity, and adherence to APA formatting (7th ed.). All written assignments turned into OWL via the assignment tab **must be in Word or PDF format (not any other format)**. If submitted in any other format, it will be marked as late and the student will be asked to resubmit.

Final Exam (3 hours)

This exam will be scheduled during the December exam period. This exam will consist of short answer and essay questions and will **cover material from the entire term**. Students are responsible for material covered in the lectures, any supplementary readings on OWL, the assigned chapters in our textbook, as well as in-class discussions.

Bonus Assignment (optional - 5%; due December 5)

In-class, with no powerpoint, present your paper by outlining your thesis and main arguments. This is an opportunity to share your thoughts, insights, and perspectives with your peers. Your presentation should be no longer than 5 minutes.

****Token****

All students have a “token” which can be used for a 2-day extension on the essay as long as Dr. Sauder is notified by email no later than the day the assignment is due (no explanation or documentation required).

Late Penalties

Normally, the only acceptable reasons for late or missed assignments are illness (for which a doctor’s note may be required) or extreme compassionate circumstances. Unexcused late assignments will be penalized as follows: Assignments handed in after 11:30am but no later than 11:55pm on the due date will lose 2%. Assignments handed in a day late will lose an additional 3%. After that, an additional 5% per day penalty will be applied and assignments will not be accepted more than 7 days after the due date unless prior arrangements have been made with the instructor.

GRADE DESCRIPTORS

A+	90–100	One could scarcely expect better from a student at this level
A	80–89	Superior work which is clearly above average
B	70–79	Good work, meeting all requirements, and eminently satisfactory
C	60–69	Competent work, meeting requirements
D	50–59	Fair work, minimally acceptable
F	below 50	Fail

Policy Re: Make-Up Exams and Extensions of Deadlines

If, on medical or compassionate grounds, you are unable to write a midterm test or final examination or complete course work by the due date, you should follow the instructions in the policy section of this document. In addition, you must demonstrate that there are compelling medical or compassionate grounds that can be documented **before** academic accommodation will be considered.

You should understand that **academic accommodation will not be granted automatically on request**. Instructors are under no obligation to offer more than one opportunity to write a make-up exam. Please note that any requests for discretion by the instructor will be decided on the basis of the issue that is brought to the instructor’s attention and the instructor’s obligation to ensure fairness to all students in the classroom. The instructor will not agree to any concessions or accommodations that would be unfair to the other students in the class.

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

AI and Chat GPT. King's is committed to fostering a culture of professionalism, honesty, and academic integrity, and all members of our community—faculty, staff, and students—have a role to play in promoting an ethical learning environment. Furthermore, through the work they submit for academic evaluation, students develop important habits of critical thinking, independent inquiry, and creativity. Thus, 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.

Within this course, use of artificial intelligence (AI) tools [such as Chat GPT] is not permitted for written work submitted for evaluation.

Western's scholastic discipline policy can be found [here](#).

Classroom Etiquette. It will be expected that all cell phones will be silenced during class time.

Tardiness and Early Departure from Class. We all contribute to the integrity of our learning environment and therefore it is important to arrive on time and to be fully present for the entire class time. Although it is understandable that occasionally circumstances can result in a few minutes' delay, **it is unacceptable (and rude) to habitually arrive late or leave earlier than the class is dismissed by the instructor.** Students with extenuating circumstances may advise the instructor in advance of these circumstances to request occasional accommodation if necessary. **Any accommodations requested will be granted on the basis of fairness to all students in the class.**

Email Etiquette. Email is for short answers or setting up appointments. If you have content- or course-based problems, please email me to set up an appointment. In the **email subject line**, please include the course that you are emailing about (PSYCH 3893F).

Please consider how you address me in your salutation. This is an academic class and I am your professor. Also, consider the tone of your email. I will respond to your email **within 2 business days**. If you have not heard from me **after 2 business days**, then please feel free to contact me again. I will not respond to emails over the weekend.

To ensure you have thoroughly reviewed the course syllabus and are familiar with its contents, please complete the following task: Before the start of our second class (on Sept 12, 2025), please send an email to Dr. Sauder that includes the title and artist of your favourite song from the 1990s. Ensure your name and the course code is in the email subject line. This brief task serves both as confirmation of your engagement with the syllabus and as an introduction to me about you and your musical preferences and will earn you a 2% bonus to your final grade. Failure to complete this task by the stated deadline will not result in any penalty.

Note on Changing Marks. Marks will not be changed.

If a student seeks to change their grade without legitimate ground for such changes they will be directed to the Academic Dean's Office.

I know students are in the habit of sharing and comparing marks. I don't encourage this because it just causes problems and competition between one another. Do not worry about what grades other students receive. Your work is not being graded against the quality of work that is presented by other students. Please do not tell the instructor how to grade other students. I will only discuss your marks with you, not another student's marks.

Drop Date

The final date to drop a half course without academic penalty is **December 1, 2025**.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Date	Topic and Readings
Week 1 – Sept 5	Course Organization & Introduction
Week 2 – Sept 12	Theory & Criticism Walsh et al., Ch. 1
Week 3 – Sept 19	Evolutionary Psychology Walsh et al., Ch. 4
Week 4 – Sept 26	Behaviourism Walsh et al., Ch. 5
Week 5 – Oct 3	Gestalt Walsh et al., Ch. 6
Week 6 – Oct 10	Social Theories Walsh et al., Ch. 7
Week 7 – Oct 17	**Midterm Test (in-class, 2 hours)
Week 8 – Oct 24	Applied and Professional Psychology Walsh et al., Ch. 8
Week 9 – Oct 31	Psychoanalytic Theories Walsh et al., Ch. 9
READING WEEK – Nov 1-9, 2025 – NO CLASS	
Week 10 – Nov 14	Hermeneutic to Transpersonal Theories Walsh et al., Ch. 10
Week 11 – Nov 21	Critical Theories Walsh et al., Ch. 12
Week 12 – Nov 28	Post-Colonial Theory Blume et al., Ch. 1
Week 13 – Dec 5	The Future of Psychology **Essay due **Bonus Assignment due (optional)
Dec 11-22	FINAL EXAM – Date To Be Scheduled

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 https://www.kings.uwo.ca/kings/assets/File/currentStudents/courses_enrollment/exams_and_tests/SMC-Feb-2025.pdf.

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://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/academic_consideration_Sep24.pdf

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 (under [Special Examinations](#)).

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://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/student-services/>

Students experiencing emotional or mental health distress can access services at King's University College: <http://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/campus-services/student-support-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/mental_wellbeing/

Academic Support Services at King's University College:

<https://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/academic-resources/>

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://www.kings.uwo.ca/about-kings/safe-campus/gender-and-sexual-violence/>

You can reach someone supports at Kings by emailing 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.

Further supports can be found on this website: <https://www.kings.uwo.ca/about-kings/safe-campus/gender-and-sexual-violence/>

See also 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://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/student-affairs/code-of-student-conduct1/>

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 http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

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 your 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/Originality Reports - 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.