



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

Instructor: Dr. Lynne Jackson  
Email: [ljacks4@uwo.ca](mailto:ljacks4@uwo.ca)

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**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.

*King's and Western University are located on the traditional lands of the Anishinaabek, Haudenosaunee, Lūnaapéewak, and Chonnonton peoples.*

This land acknowledgement reminds us that we are on colonized land. In this course we are asked to consider how coloniality and decoloniality are relevant to theory in psychology. We are also asked to consider how the many forms of diversity that students bring to class is a resource and strength.

## 1. INSTRUCTOR CONTACT INFORMATION

Dr. Lynne Jackson

Email: [lynne.jackson@uwo.ca](mailto:lynne.jackson@uwo.ca)

Course website: <https://owl.uwo.ca/portal>

## 2. OFFICE HOURS

Immediately after class or by appointment (one hour per week).

## 3. 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.

## 4. LEARNING OUTCOMES

By competing this course successfully, students will:

- understand the key contributions of the dominant theoretical models in psychology
- develop the capacity to evaluate, compare and critique theoretical assumptions and their implications
- understand the major social, historical, and cultural influences on the dominant theoretical models in psychology
- develop the ability to engage actively in a group learning environment
- strengthen the ability to read deeply and thoughtfully
- envision a future for the field of psychology and their place in it

## 5. MODE OF INSTRUCTION

This is an in-person class and it will follow a seminar format. All class members are required to complete readings each week before class and come to class prepared to engage in discussion. Classes will focus on discussion of themes from the readings.

## 6. REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS

Students are required to read all articles, chapters and other material listed in the course schedule (see item #8 below). All readings are available free of charge through the King’s library or on the course website. Readings must be done before class each week.

## 7. METHOD OF EVALUATION

Item	% of Final Grade	Due Date
Facilitated discussion	25	TBA
Quizzes	25 (Best 8 of 10 @ 3.125% each)	See schedule below
Written Assignment #1	25	Feb. 11 in class
Written Assignment #2	25	April 8 in class

*Facilitated discussion.* Each student will guide the discussion in one portion of one class. The student will (i) present one paper that uses or is related to the theoretical framework assigned for that week, (ii) guide discussion of it, and (iii) submit discussion notes to the instructor prior to the assignment date. Details about the requirements of this assignment will be provided on the course website. Any student who misses class on the day of their scheduled facilitated discussion by either (a) receiving a formal recommendation for consideration from the Office of the Dean, or (b) using the policy on undocumented absence will, at the instructor’s discretion, either have the assignment rescheduled or write an expanded assignment on Feb. 11 or April 8, which will be re-weighted accordingly. Any student who misses their facilitated discussion outside of these parameters will receive a grade of zero on the assignment.

*Quizzes* will be written in class. They will have mixed format (e.g., multiple choice, fill in the blank, true-false, short answer). Students will have 10 opportunities to write 8 quizzes and so the policy on undocumented absence does not apply and students must complete at least 8 quizzes to receive full marks on this component of the course grade. Students who complete more than 8 quizzes will receive the 8 highest marks. Accommodations involving extra time for tests will be granted in class using the principal of universal design. This means that all students will receive the flexibility that some may require. Any student who has another type of accommodation should consult the instructor as soon as possible.

*Written Assignments* will be completed in class. Each assignment will involve a scholarly written reflection on course material of about 1500 words. The reflection will involve responses to questions posed by the instructor. The questions will be based on course material covered prior to the assignment date and will be provided on the course website no later than one week prior to the assignment date. Any student who misses class on Feb. 11 (assignment #1) by either (a) receiving a formal recommendation for consideration from the Office of the Dean, or (b) using the policy on undocumented absence will write an expanded (3000-word) assignment on April 8 and it will be re-weighted accordingly. Any student who misses class on Feb. 11 outside of those parameters will receive a grade of zero on assignment #1. Students may not use the policy on undocumented absences for written assignment #2 on April 8.

## 8. CLASS SCHEDULE

Jan. 7	<i>Topic:</i> Course organization <i>Reading:</i> Handouts on OWL
PART 1: PERSPECTIVES ON THEORY	
Jan. 14	<i>Topic:</i> Why theory? (Quiz #1) <i>Readings:</i> 1) Karpov, Y.V. (2014). Introduction: “There’s nothing more practical than a good theory.” In Y.V. Karpov (Ed.), <i>Vygotsky for educators</i> (pp. 1-10). Cambridge University Press. 2) Mosher, J. K. (2024). “There’s nothing so good as a practical theory”: Some aphorisms for doing good therapy. <i>Journal of Humanistic Psychology</i> , 64(3), 443. doi: <a href="https://doi.org/10.1177/0022167819872307">https://doi.org/10.1177/0022167819872307</a>
Jan. 21	<i>Topic:</i> Critical Theory (Quiz #2) <i>Reading:</i> Grzanka, P.R. & Cole, E.R. (2021). An argument for bad psychology: Disciplinary disruption, public engagement, and social transformation. <i>American Psychologist</i> , 76 (8), 1334-1345.
Jan. 28	<i>Topic:</i> Cultural & De-Colonial Theories (Quiz #3) <i>Reading:</i> Blume, A.W. (2020). <i>A new psychology based on community, equality, and care of the earth: An Indigenous American perspective</i> . Santa Barbara, CA: Praeger. Introduction, Chapters 1 and 2
Feb. 4	<i>Topic:</i> Neo-liberalism and Psychology - Student Guided Discussions (Quiz #4) <i>Reading:</i> Merhej, R. (2025). The impact of neoliberalism on psychological research and practice. <i>Theory and Psychology</i> , 35(1), 78-97.
Feb. 11	Written Assignment #1
Feb. 18	READING WEEK, NO CLASS
PART 2: CLASSIC THEORIES & CURRENT TRENDS	
Feb. 25	<i>Topic:</i> Psychodynamic theories (Quiz #5) <i>Reading:</i> Gaztambide, D. (2020). From Freud to Fanon to Freire: Psychoanalysis as a liberation method. In L. Comas-Diaz & E.T. Rivera (Eds.), <i>Liberation psychology: Theory, method, practice and social justice</i> (pp. 102-126). American Psychological Association.
March 4	<i>Topic:</i> Current trends - Student Guided Discussions (Quiz #6) <i>Reading:</i> Friedman, C. (2025). A gay old time: Evolving psychoanalytic paradigms of (homo) sexuality. <i>Psychoanalytic Inquiry</i> , 45(10), 908-922.
March 11	<i>Topic:</i> Behaviourism & Humanism (Quiz #7) <i>Reading:</i> Martin, J. (2017). Carl Rogers’ and B.F. Skinner’s approaches to personal and societal improvement: A study in the psychological humanities. <i>Journal of Theoretical and Philosophical Psychology</i> , 37 (4), 214-229.
March 18	<i>Topic:</i> Current trends - Student Guided Discussions (Quiz #8) <i>Reading:</i> Harris, R. & Hayes, S.C. (2019). <i>ACT made simple: An easy-to-read primer on Acceptance and Commitment Therapy</i> . Chapters 1 and 2 (pp. 10-36).
March 25	<i>Topic:</i> Evolutionary and social theory (Quiz #9) <i>Reading:</i> Cooke, L. (2022). <i>Bitch</i> . New York: Basic Books. (Introduction, pp ix – xxi)
April 1	<i>Topic:</i> Current Trends: Student Guided Discussion (Quiz #10) <i>Reading:</i> Narvaez, D. et al. (2022). Evolving evolutionary psychology. <i>American Psychologist</i> , 77(3), 424-438. <a href="https://doi.org/10.1037/amp0000849">https://doi.org/10.1037/amp0000849</a>
April 8	Written Assignment #2

Note: Changes to the above schedule will be announced in class and on the course website.

**Within this course, use of artificial intelligence tools such as Chat GPT is not permitted for preparing any written work submitted for evaluation. Unauthorized use of AI will be subject to academic discipline.**

## 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](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](https://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/academic_consideration_Sep24.pdf)

Friday Make-Up Exams may only be written with the instructor's consent

## **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/](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](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.

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](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](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](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.