

Course Title: Proseminar for Health Psychology
Course Number: Psyc 6101, Fall 2014
Course Location and Time: Mon 10:00 - 10:50 am at LS 428

Instructor: Dr. Yuan Bo Peng

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Instructor web site: <http://www.uta.edu/psychology/faculty/peng.html>

Faculty Profile: <https://www.uta.edu/mentis/public/#profile/profile/edit/id/157/category/1>

Office Hours: T 1:00 - 2:00 pm, or by appointment

Section Information: Psyc 6101 -001

Time and Place of Class Meetings: Mon 10:00 - 10:50 am at LS 428

Course web site: <https://elearn.uta.edu/webapps/login/>

Course content

This course will provide the graduate students and faculty in the health psychology/neuroscience program with an opportunity to discuss information about the program, professional issues, and current research. Various aspects of professional topics such as ethical conduct, publishing, and grant-writing will be discussed most semesters from different angles to help enrich graduate students' training. The main goals of the course are: (1) To provide a forum in which students can be introduced and to discuss issues related to their future careers as professionals, and (2) To provide graduate students with an opportunity to present research ideas and/or findings from their own work and receive helpful feedback.

The learning objectives are:

- To become familiar with the multiple perspectives on research in the area of health psychology/neuroscience.
- To understand the various facets of research and professional issues in psychology health psychology/neuroscience.
- To identify and understand the ethical considerations in the practice of psychological research.
- To develop the skills necessary to become an effective public speaker.

Organization of the class

In each session we will discuss some topic relevant to the course goals. Discussions will be led by either a student (or a group of students), the instructor, or a guest speaker. Presentations will last between 20-35 minutes, after which we will have a "question & answer" period. The success of the course depends upon students' thorough and conscientious preparation of the presentations and on their engagement in an atmosphere of open inquiry. A schedule for the semester will be created during the first session of the semester.

Required textbook and course Material

There are no required textbooks for this course. Any materials such as research articles or presentations will be distributed by the discussion leader(s).

Description of major assignments

Due to the nature of the course the types of presentations will vary. Each semester students will have the opportunity to choose whether they will facilitate the discussion of a mutually agreed-upon topic with other students or individually present their research (e.g., proposals, theses, conference presentations, etc). There will be semesters

when some students will not have the opportunity to lead discussion or present research. Because of this, the main component of the grade will be based on class attendance.

Grade Distribution

Each evaluation will be scored from 0 to 100 and the final grade will consist of a weighted average of all components. Grades will be assigned based on the following distribution: A \geq 90%, B \geq 80%, C \geq 70%, D \geq 60%, F < 60%.

Grade Grievance Policy

Any appeal of a grade in this course must follow the procedures and deadlines for grade-related grievances as published in the current undergraduate / graduate catalog.

For graduate courses, see http://grad.pci.uta.edu/about/catalog/current/general/regulations/#grade_grievances.

Drop Policy

Please refer to university drop policy

(http://web.uta.edu/ses/recordsandregistration/content/student_services/default.aspx). Please also refer to the academic calendar <http://www.uta.edu/uta/acadcal.php>

Make-up Policy

A make-up opportunity for assignments may be given at the instructor's discretion, but only in those instances in which the absence is "excused." Excused absences include personal illness, emergencies in your immediate family, job interviews, and university sponsored trips among others. If possible, check in advanced before you make travel or other arrangements for planned absences. For unplanned absences, check with me as soon as possible via email or in person. I may require a doctor's note or a university-approved document (e.g., Dean's of Students, Department Chair, etc) to excuse absences. There will be no make-up opportunities for unexcused absences.

Attendance & Participation

Regular class attendance is essential for a comprehensive understanding of the subject matter. During class, please follow ordinary conventions of good manners and courtesy during the discussions. If you are dropped from this class for non-payment of tuition, you may secure an Enrollment Loan through the Bursar's Office. You may not continue to attend class until your Enrollment Loan has been applied to outstanding tuition fees

Americans with Disabilities Act

The University of Texas at Arlington is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of all federal equal opportunity legislation, including the *Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)*. All instructors at UT Arlington are required by law to provide "reasonable accommodations" to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of that disability. Any student requiring an accommodation for this course must provide the instructor with official documentation in the form of a letter certified by the staff in the Office for Students with Disabilities, University Hall 102. Only those students who have officially documented a need for an accommodation will have their request honored. Information regarding diagnostic criteria and policies for obtaining disability-based academic accommodations can be found at www.uta.edu/disability or by calling the Office for Students with Disabilities at (817) 272-3364.

Academic Integrity

It is the philosophy of The University of Texas at Arlington that academic dishonesty is a completely unacceptable mode of conduct and will not be tolerated in any form. All persons involved in academic dishonesty will be disciplined in accordance with University regulations and procedures. Discipline may include suspension or expulsion from the University.

"Scholastic dishonesty includes but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts." (Regents' Rules and Regulations, Series 50101, Section 2.2)

Students enrolled in this course are expected to adhere to the UT Arlington Honor Code:

I pledge, on my honor, to uphold UT Arlington's tradition of academic integrity, a tradition that values hard work and honest effort in the pursuit of academic excellence.

I promise that I will submit only work that I personally create or contribute to group collaborations, and I will appropriately reference any work from other sources. I will follow the highest standards of integrity and uphold the spirit of the Honor Code.

UT Arlington faculty members may employ the Honor Code as they see fit in their courses, including (but not limited to) having students acknowledge the honor code as part of an examination or requiring students to incorporate the honor code into any work submitted. Per UT System *Regents' Rule* 50101, §2.2, suspected violations of university's standards for academic integrity (including the Honor Code) will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. Violators will be disciplined in accordance with University policy, which may result in the student's suspension or expulsion from the University.

Student Support Services Available

UT Arlington provides a variety of resources and programs designed to help students develop academic skills, deal with personal situations, and better understand concepts and information related to their courses. Resources include tutoring, major-based learning centers, developmental education, advising and mentoring, personal counseling, and federally funded programs. For individualized referrals, students may contact the Maverick Resource Hotline by calling 817-272-6107, sending a message to resources@uta.edu, or visiting www.uta.edu/resources.

Final Review Week: A period of five class days prior to the first day of final examinations in the long sessions shall be designated as Final Review Week. The purpose of this week is to allow students sufficient time to prepare for final examinations. During this week, there shall be no scheduled activities such as required field trips or performances; and no instructor shall assign any themes, research problems or exercises of similar scope that have a completion date during or following this week *unless specified in the class syllabus*. During Final Review Week, an instructor shall not give any examinations constituting 10% or more of the final grade, except makeup tests and laboratory examinations. In addition, no instructor shall give any portion of the final examination during Final Review Week. During this week, classes are held as scheduled. In addition, instructors are not required to limit content to topics that have been previously covered; they may introduce new concepts as appropriate.

Emergency Exit Procedures: Should we experience an emergency event that requires us to vacate the building, students should exit the room and move toward the nearest exit. Please be aware the nearest exit/emergency exit when you in your first class. When exiting the building during an emergency, one should never take an elevator but should use the stairwells. Faculty members and instructional staff will assist students in selecting the safest route for evacuation and will make arrangements to assist handicapped individuals.

E-Culture Policy: The University of Texas at Arlington has adopted the University "MavMail" address as the sole official means of communication with students. MavMail is used to remind students of important deadlines, advertise events and activities, and permit the University to conduct official transactions exclusively by electronic means. For example, important information concerning registration, financial aid, payment of bills, and graduation are now sent to students through the MavMail system.

All students are assigned a MavMail account. Students are responsible for checking their MavMail regularly. Information about activating and using MavMail is available at <http://www.uta.edu/oit/email/>. Communication about the course material and related announcement will be only through UTA mail system.

There is no additional charge to students for using this account, and it remains active even after they graduate from UT Arlington.

Student Feedback Survey

At the end of each term, students enrolled in classes categorized as lecture, seminar, or laboratory will be asked to

complete an online Student Feedback Survey (SFS) about the course and how it was taught. Instructions on how to access the SFS system will be sent directly to students through MavMail approximately 10 days before the end of the term. UT Arlington's effort to solicit, gather, tabulate, and publish student feedback data is required by state law; student participation in the SFS program is voluntary.

Make-up Exam Policy: There is no provision for taking a make-up exam in this course unless documentation for a University-approved excuse (see Catalog) is received within one week of the exam date. All make up tests will be offered during the "dead week", the week before the Final Exam Week. Make up test is ONLY for those students who miss the first two tests, for a valid reason. It is the student's responsibility to remember the day for makeup test.

Bomb Threats: If anyone is tempted to call in a bomb threat, be aware that UTA will attempt to trace the phone call and prosecute all responsible parties. Every effort will be made to avoid cancellation of presentations/tests caused by bomb threats. Unannounced alternate sites will be available for these classes. Your instructor will make you aware of alternate class sites in the event that your classroom is not available.

***Library Information:** Andy Herzog is the Psychology Librarian: Central Library, RM. 313; Tel: 817-272-7517; email at amherzog@uta.edu. You will find useful research information for psychology at <http://www.uta.edu/library>.

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| Library Home Page..... | http://www.uta.edu/library |
| Subject Guides..... | http://libguides.uta.edu |
| Subject Librarians..... | http://www.uta.edu/library/help/subject-librarians.php |
| Database List | http://www.uta.edu/library/databases/index.php |
| Course Reserves | http://pulse.uta.edu/vwebv/enterCourseReserve.do |
| Library Catalog..... | http://discover.uta.edu/ |
| E-Journals..... | http://liblink.uta.edu/UTAlink/az |
| Library Tutorials | http://www.uta.edu/library/help/tutorials.php |
| Connecting from Off- Campus | http://libguides.uta.edu/offcampus |
| Ask A Librarian..... | http://ask.uta.edu |

The following URL houses a page where we have gathered many commonly used resources needed by students in online courses: <http://www.uta.edu/library/services/distance.php>

Finally, the subject librarian for your area can work with you to build a customized course page to support your class if you wish. For examples, visit <http://libguides.uta.edu/os> and <http://libguides.uta.edu/pols2311fm>. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Coordinator for Information Services, Suzanne Beckett, at sbeckett@uta.edu or at 817.272.0923.

ACES: The Annual Celebration of Excellence by Students (ACES) symposium is a university-wide, daylong event scheduled for March each year. ACES displays the best of our students' research and creativity, where both undergraduate and graduate students present the research they have done with faculty mentors. Please attend this event to learn more about the outstanding research done at this university, and your opportunities to get involved with it.