

WESTERN UNIVERSITY
LONDON CANADA

Department of Psychology
Fall/Winter 2026

Psychology 3990G Section 001

Special Topics: Addiction Recovery

1 Calendar Description

Selected topics of current interest in Psychology. Topic available in Department. This year the course will involve material related to recovery from addiction. There will be information on the prevalence of addiction, why people do not seek help, but the focus will be on approaches and techniques that are used when people do enter treatment.

Antirequisites: Not Applicable

Prerequisite(s): Both Psychology 2801F/G (or one of Health Sciences 2801A/B, Psychology 2840F/G, Psychology 2855F/G) and Psychology 2811A/B (or one of Biology 2244A/B, Economics 2122A/B, Economics 2222A/B, Geography 2210A/B, Health Sciences 3801A/B, MOS 2242A/B, Psychology 2830A/B, Psychology 2850A/B, Sociology 2205A/B, Statistical Sciences 2035, Statistical Sciences 2141A/B, Statistical Sciences 2143A/B, Statistical Sciences 2244A/B, Statistical Sciences 2858A/B, the former Social Work 2207A/B), or the former Psychology 2820E, or both the former Psychology 2800E and the former Psychology 2810.

3 lecture hours; Course Weight: 0.5

Unless otherwise stated, students are responsible for ensuring that they have successfully completed all prerequisites prior to enrolling. Where prerequisites have not been met, the instructor may require the student to withdraw from the course. In accordance with Western policy, this decision is not subject to appeal.

In the event of a discrepancy between this outline and Senate or University policies, the latter shall prevail. The instructor reserves the right to modify elements of this course outline for pedagogical or operational reasons. Any such changes will be communicated to students in a timely manner.

2 Course Information

Instructor: Dr. Riley Hinson

Office and Phone Number: 6334 SSC, 519-661-2111 ext 84649

Office Hours: By appointment

Email: hinson@uwo.ca

Time and Location of Classes: Mondays, 9:30-12:30, TBD

Teaching Assistant: TBD

3 Course Materials

Addiction: A Human Experience, 4th Edition, (2027) by Rowena Ramnath and William Berry. While I will use this as the basis for lectures I may not cover everything that is in the book during the lectures, but you are responsible for everything in the book. While I will not indicate the book as required, it is strongly recommended that you purchase the book to ensure that you have access to all testable material. The estimated cost is xxxxx.

4 Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes

The following table outlines the course learning outcomes and how they are assessed.

Learning Outcome	Learning Activities	How Assessed
<i>1. Depth & Breadth of Knowledge</i> Memorize (M), describe (D) and apply (A) main concepts and principles related to drug use and addiction	Reading Class discussion Guest lectures	Oral Presentations of current news Contribution to Class Discussion (DA) Essay Questions on Tests
2. Knowledge and Application of Methodologies	Reading of literature	Oral/written reports
<i>3. Communication Skills</i> Communicate scientific information in oral and written forms.	Classroom activity	Contribution to class activity and Paper

5 Evaluation

The evaluation and testing formats for this course were created to assess the learning objectives as listed in section 4 and are necessary for meeting these learning objectives. All evaluations listed in this course outline are required components of the course and together account for 100% of the final grade. Weightings and assessment formats may be adjusted where required to

support course learning objectives, with appropriate notice to students.

- **Term Tests—Total of 52 Points:** There will be two in-class tests, one on February 1 and one on March 15. Each term test is worth 26 points. The term tests may involve any or all of multiple choice, short answer, and longer essay answer questions. **The second term test is designated as requiring formal supporting documentation. Students cannot use an undocumented absence for this designated assessment.**
- **Final Exam—30 Points:** Scheduled by the Registrar. May cover material from the entire term, but emphasis will be on material covered from March 22 to end of class. The Final Exam may involve any or all of multiple choice, short answer, and longer essay answer questions. The Final Exam will be worth 30 points.
- **Assignment--10 Points:** There will be one assignment. The assignment will involve writing a minimum 1000 word summary and discussion of an “in the News” article related to addition. I will have to approve each article. The paper will be posted to a portal on Brightspace for grading.
- **Attendance/Participation. 8 POINTS** Attendance will be taken at every class. The % of attended classes (must arrive on time and must not leave early) will be used to determine the number of marks earned in a very straightforward manner (% of class attended for full class time x 8).

Policy on Missing Coursework

Students who encounter extenuating circumstances affecting their academic responsibilities may submit a request for academic consideration in accordance with Western University’s Academic Consideration policies. Requests must be submitted through the [Student Absence Portal](#) and may require supporting documentation.

- There will not be make ups for either Test 1 or Test 2. If you miss Test 1 and are excused, 13 points will be added to the assignment and 13 points will be added to the Final. If you miss Test 2 and are excused, 13 points will be added to the assignment and 13 points will be added to the Final.
- If you fail to complete the assignment by the due day/time, a penalty of

20% (2 marks) will occur for each 24 hour period, or any part thereof, that the assignment is late. For example, if the assignment is due on a Monday at 23:00 hours, and you only submit it some time between 23:01 hours Monday and 23:00 Tuesday, there will be a 2 mark penalty. This then would occur again if you missed another 24 hour period, or any part thereof. After 5 missed periods, the grade on the assignment would be zero (0). In the case of extra points having been assigned to the assignment because of missed tests, then the penalty will be calculated as 20% of the possible marks. For example, if you are excused from Test 1 the assignment becomes worth 23 marks. Each missed 24 hour period, or any part thereof, would result in a penalty of 4.6marks, i.e. 20% of 23. Again, after 5 missed periods the mark would be zero (0).

There is no make up of attendance/participation marks. If you are excused by Academic Counselling from some classes, then the % of attended class will be based on all other classes. Undocumented absences cannot be used for missed classes in terms of the attendance marks.

Because this is an essay course, as per Senate Regulations, you must pass the essay component to pass the course. That is, the average mark for your written assignments must be at least 50%.

This course is exempt from the Senate requirement that students receive assessment of their work accounting for at least 15% of their final grade at least three full days before the date of the deadline for withdrawal from a course without academic penalty.

The Psychology Department follows Western's grading guidelines:
https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/general/grades_undergrad.pdf

Course grades within the Psychology Department are expected to be distributed around the following averages:

70% 1000-level to 2099-level courses
72% 2100-2999-level courses
75% 3000-level courses
80% 4000-level courses

In the event that course grades are significantly higher or lower than these averages, instructors may be required to make adjustments to course grades. Such adjustment might include the normalization of one or more course components and/or the re-weighting of various course components.

Policy on Grade Rounding

Course grades are rounded to the nearest whole number. No additional assignments will be offered to enhance a final grade. Requests to change a grade because it is needed for a future program will not be considered.

6 Assessment/Evaluation Schedule

Final Exam	30%
Term Test 1	26%
Term Test 2	26%
Assignment	10%
Attendance and Participation	8%

7 Class Schedule

The actual topic for each class is subject to change, but changes will be posted via announcements on Brightspace. Each topic may also be supplemented with material not in the text book. PP slides will be posted to Brightspace for any such material.

Jan	4	Introduction to Class/Brief Presentation of Addictive Substances and Behaviors
Jan	11	Chapters 1 and 2
Jan	18	Chapters 2 and 3
Jan	25	Chapters 3 and 4

Feb 1 Test 1

Feb	8	Chapters 5 and 6
Feb	15	No Class, Reading Week

Feb	22	Chapters 6 and 7
Mar	1	Chapter 7 and 8
Mar	8	Chapters 8 and 9
Mar	15	Test 2
Mar	22	Chapters 10 and 11
Mar	29	Chapters 11 and 12
Apr	5	Chapters 13 and 14

8 Academic Integrity

Scholastic offences are treated seriously at Western University. Students are expected to understand and comply with the University's standards of academic integrity. Scholastic offences may result in penalties up to and including expulsion from the University. Please read [Western's Scholastic Offences](#) policy for definitions and examples of Scholastic offences.

Statement on Use of Electronic Devices

You may use laptops during class. Term tests and the Final will be completed on your laptop using some word processing platform (Word). The completed document will be submitted to a designated portal on Brightspace. The term tests and Final will be open book for written or printed notes. **Electronic notes cannot be used.** There will be physical monitoring of laptop screens by proctors during the term tests and Final.

Plagiarism Detection Software

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 Western and Turnitin.com.

Use of AI

This course is designed to develop your own critical thinking, writing, and analytical skills. Accordingly, the use of generative artificial intelligence (AI) tools (e.g., ChatGPT, Claude, Copilot) to generate course content is **not permitted**, unless explicitly authorized by the instructor for a specific assignment. All use of artificial intelligence tools must comply with Western University's academic integrity standards.

Students may not use AI tools to:

- Generate written text, arguments, analyses, or interpretations
- Draft or rewrite assignment responses
- Paraphrase substantial portions of source material
- Create references or cite sources not independently verified

Limited, non-substantive uses of AI (e.g., spelling or grammar checks) may be permitted only if they do not alter the intellectual content of the work. Any permitted use must be explicitly disclosed. All submitted work must represent the student's own thinking and independent effort. Students are fully responsible for verifying the accuracy, originality, and integrity of any material they submit. Unauthorized or undisclosed use of AI constitutes a potential scholastic offence and will be handled in accordance with Western University's policies on academic integrity. Students are responsible for ensuring that all work complies with Western's scholastic integrity standards.

Multiple Choice Exams

Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams will be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating.

9 Academic Accommodations and Accessible Education

Western University is committed to providing an accessible learning environment. Students with disabilities or medical conditions requiring accommodation are encouraged to contact Accessible Education as early as possible. Accommodations will be implemented in accordance with University policy. Please review [Western's policy on academic accommodations](#) for student with disabilities. Accessible Education provides supports and services to students with disabilities at Western. If you think you may qualify for ongoing accommodation that will be recognized in all your courses, visit [Accessible Education](#) for more information. Email: aeu@uwo.ca Phone: 519 661-2147

10 Absence & Academic Consideration

Please review Western's policy on [Academic Considerations](#):

11 Other Information

Helpful Websites

- Western's academic policies are available at the [Office of the Registrar](#).
- Departmental policies are available at the [Psychology Department website](#).
- Learning supports available at [Learning Development & Success](#).

Well-being

Western University provides a range of supports to promote student well-being. Students are encouraged to seek assistance when needed. Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to [Health and Wellness at Western](#) for a complete list of options about how to obtain help. Please contact the course instructor if you require material in an

alternate format or if you require any other arrangements to make this course more accessible to you.

Grade Appeals

If you wish to appeal a grade, please read the [policy documentation](#) on requests for relief. Please first contact the course instructor. If your issue is not resolved, you may make your appeal in writing to the Undergraduate Chair in Psychology (psyugrd@uwo.ca).

Copyright Statement

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