

PSY324H5F - The Science of Wellbeing

Delivery Method: **IN-PERSON**

Schedule: **FRI 12:00pm – 3:00pm**

Room Location: **DV2082 (Davis Building)**

Contact Information

Instructor:

Dr. Simone Walker

simone.walker@utoronto.ca

Office Hours: Wednesday 3pm-4pm

Office Location: DH4023

Teaching Assistants:

Jason Payne

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Melanie Munroe

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Contact Policy

- Please review the information on Quercus thoroughly before sending an inquiry.
- You can Quercus Inbox message (or email with the course code in the subject line) the instructor regarding personal questions/issues related (but not limited) to accessibility, accommodations, well-being, and class concerns.
- Quercus Inbox message/email should not be seen as an alternative to attending instructor or TA office hours.
- Content-related questions (e.g., clarification of concepts) should be asked during class or the instructor's weekly office hours.
- Questions that could benefit others should be asked during class or posted to the appropriate course discussion board on Quercus.
- Concerns regarding TA-issued grades should be directed to the appropriate TA during their office hours (see Quercus for TA office hour announcements).
- Final paper help will be available prior to the assignment due date (See Quercus for the TA assignment help hour announcements).

If you send an email, please use an official utoronto.ca account and make sure to put "PSY324" in the subject line.

For all inquiries sent during business hours, please allow 48 hours for a response (not including weekends or days that the university is closed) and remember to be polite and professional.

Course Description

What makes people happy? Does money buy happiness or do unhappy people not know where to shop? Are people in California happier than people in Ontario? Does marriage make men happier and women unhappier? This course reviews the scientific evidence regarding these and other questions about the determinants of happiness from an interdisciplinary perspective (psychology, economics, sociology, philosophy, & biology) that ranges from molecular genetics to cross-national comparisons.

Exclusion: PSY336H1

Prerequisite: PSY201H5/equivalent, 220H5/230H5

Reading Material

Assigned readings will be posted on Quercus

Learning Objectives

By the end of this course, students should be able to:

- Describe historical and contemporary approaches to well-being
- Develop insights into the behaviour and mental processes of one's self and of others
- Describe psychological research techniques and their assumptions
- Access and interpret the scientific literature on well-being
- Use scientific sources to critically evaluate claims in popular culture
- Communicate clearly and concisely
- Connect foundational principles of social psychology to modern-day, real-world applications.

Course Evaluation

In-class Participation (10% of final grade) – Ongoing throughout course

- Participation is based on active engagement during each synchronous class session (excluding lecture 1).
- In each class session there will be 10 questions of various types (e.g., survey/opinion, review based on previous lecture, concept check of current lecture material) that will be asked throughout or an in-class activity.
- Each response submitted and recorded via Top Hat (or scantron available from the instructor at the start of each class) is worth 1 participation point.
- At the end of each week, participation points will be posted on Quercus for students.
- At the end classes in December, participation % will be determined as follows:
 - 80-100 points in total recorded = 100% participation
 - 60-79 points in total recorded = 80% participation
 - < 60 points in total recorded = number of points recorded determines participation grade
- There is no make up for missing in-class participation. However:
 - A student can arrange with the instructor at least *48 hours before the missed lecture* to submit participation responses via an alternative means (no exceptions)
 - An optional survey will be available on Quercus toward the end of the course as an opportunity to earn up to 10 participation points outside of synchronous class time (NOTE: the maximum # of participation points that can be earned is 100).

Discussion Board Post (5% of final grade) – September 30th due by 11:59pm on Quercus

- Students will contribute to course online community by creating a discussion board post related to course content. See Quercus for detailed instructions and rubric.
- There is a -10% penalty per day late.

Midterm Test (30% of final grade) – October 21st

- The test be held during regular class time (12:10pm – 2:10pm) in DV2082.
- The test will cover all material associated with lectures 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5.
- See Quercus for detailed instructions.

“Does this really make us happy?” Final Paper (20%) – November 25th due by 11:59pm on Quercus

Students will explore a popular belief about what makes us happy of their choice. Students will be required to critically evaluate the scientific literature pertaining to that topic.

- See Quercus for detailed instructions & rubric
- Blank, corrupted or unreadable files or papers for another course will be assigned a score of zero.
- -10% penalty per day late

Final Examination (35% of final grade) – TBA, during December 2022 examination period

- The 2-hour final exam will be held during the time and in the location scheduled by the Registrar’s office.
- The exam is not cumulative. The exam will cover all material associated with lectures 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 & 11.
- See Quercus for detailed instructions.

In-Class Participation App – Course Join Code: 341632

In-class participation will be completed and submitted using the “Top Hat” (www.tophat.com) classroom response system. You will be able to submit answers in-class using wi-fi capable devices such as smartphones, tablets, and laptops. If you don’t have a such a device in-class, alternative means of completing in-class participation can be set up with the **instructor** before each class. Please see www.tophat.com/pricing for pricing options (you will need it for each lecture in this course). Please sign up and install the app before the first class if you can.

Here is the Top Hat Join Code: 341632

Plagiarism Detection Tool

Normally, students will be required to submit their course essays to the University’s plagiarism detection tool for a review of textual similarity and detection of possible plagiarism. In doing so, students will allow their essays to be included as source documents in the tool’s reference database, where they will be used solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism. The terms that apply to the University’s use of this tool are described on the Centre for Teaching Support & Innovation web site (<https://uoft.me/pdt-faq>).

Students who wish to opt-out of using the University’s plagiarism detection tool for the case study assignment must notify the instructor (via Quercus inbox message/email) no later than 5PM on September 16th. Upon receipt of notification, the instructor will request that the student provide all rough work (including, but not limited to, call numbers and/or URLs for all cited sources) when submitting their case study assignment.

Course Webpage

The website associated with this course is accessible via <http://q.utoronto.ca>

Note: You don't need to create a new login for Quercus; it already knows who you are. You just need your UTORid and password. This is the same login that gets you onto the wireless network with your laptop, and the same one that you use to check your email. If you're confused about your UTORid or don't remember your password, go to: <https://www.utorid.utoronto.ca/>

In order to access course material, monitor course information, and view your grades you must log into Quercus. If you have any general questions regarding Quercus, please visit the [help site](#).

Student Tech Requirements and Connection Tools

- [Recommended tech requirements for online learning](#)
- [UTM Library Learn Anywhere resource website](#)

IMPORTANT COURSE POLICIES **PLEASE READ**

Missed Test Special Consideration Request Process

Students who miss a test due to circumstances beyond their control (e.g. illness or an accident) can request that the Department grant them special consideration. Students must present their case to the Department (NOT the Instructor) by submitting a request via the online Special Consideration Request form at: <https://utmapp.utm.utoronto.ca/SpecialRequest>.

Important note: If you sit down and receive a test, you will **NOT** be able to receive special consideration.

If your request is approved by the department, redistribution will apply. The weight of the missed midterm test will be redistributed equally between the final paper and the final examination.

Extension of Time Special Consideration Request Process

Students who seek to be granted more time to complete their term work beyond the due date without penalty, owing to circumstances beyond their control (e.g., illness, or an accident), must do so by submitting a request **directly to the Instructor** for the period up to and including the last day of the term. The decision as to whether or not to apply a penalty for the specified period rests with the Instructor.

Students who seek to be granted more time to complete term work beyond the last day of the term must submit their request directly to the Department. This request covers the period following the last day of classes and ends the last day of the exam period. This is done by submitting a request via the online Special Consideration Request form at <https://utmapp.utm.utoronto.ca/SpecialRequest>. You are advised to seek advising by the departmental Undergraduate Counsellor prior to the deadline.

Supporting Documentation

The University is temporarily suspending the need for a doctor's note or medical certificate for any absence from academic participation. However, you are required to use the Absence Declaration tool on ACORN found in the Profile and Settings menu to formally declare an absence from academic participation. The tool is to be used if you require consideration for missed academic work based on the procedures specific to our campus/department.

Missed Final Exam or Extension of Time beyond exam period

Missed final exams or for extensions of time beyond the examination period you must submit a petition through the [Office of the Registrar](#) and follow their procedures.

Penalties for Lateness

A penalty of 10% per calendar day (i.e., including weekends and holidays, during which students are not able to submit term work) up to and including the last day of classes, will be applied by the Instructor. After the last day of classes, the penalty of 10% per calendar day will be applied by the Undergraduate Counsellor on behalf of the Department. No penalty will be assigned if request for special consideration, described above, was successful.

Academic Guidelines

It is your responsibility to ensure that you have met all prerequisites listed in the UTM Calendar for this course. If you lack any prerequisites you WILL BE REMOVED from the course up until the last day to add a course. Further information about academic regulations, course withdrawal dates and credits can be found in the [University of Toronto Mississauga Calendar](#).

You are encouraged to read this material. If you run into trouble and need advice about studying, preparing for exams, note taking or time management, free workshops and advice are available from the Robert Gillespie Academic Skills Centre at 905-828-5406.

AccessAbility Services

The University provides academic accommodations for students with disabilities in accordance with the terms of the Ontario Human Rights Code. This occurs through a collaborative process that acknowledges a collective obligation to develop an accessible learning environment that both meets the needs of students and preserves the essential academic requirements of the University's courses and programs. Students requiring academic accommodations for learning, physical, sensory, or mental health disabilities or medical conditions should contact the [AccessAbility Office](#) (2037B Davis Building), 905-828-3847.

Privacy and Copyright Disclaimer

Option 1: Notice of video recording and sharing (Download and re-use prohibited)

This course, including your participation, will be recorded on video and will be available to students in the course for viewing remotely and after each session. Course videos and materials belong to your instructor, the University, and/or other sources depending on the specific facts of each situation, and are protected by copyright. Do not download, copy, or share any course or student materials or videos without the explicit permission of the instructor. For questions about recording and use of videos in which you appear please contact your instructor.

Academic Honesty and Plagiarism

Academic integrity is essential to the pursuit of learning and scholarship in a university, and to ensuring that a degree from the University of Toronto Mississauga is a strong signal of each student's individual academic achievement. As a result, UTM treats cases of cheating and plagiarism very seriously.

[The University of Toronto's Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters](#) outlines behaviours that constitute academic dishonesty and the process for addressing academic offences. Potential offences include, but are not limited to:

In papers and assignments:

1. Using someone else's ideas or words without appropriate acknowledgement.
2. Submitting your own work in more than one course without the permission of the instructor.
3. Making up sources or facts.
4. Obtaining or providing unauthorized assistance on any assignment.

On tests and exams:

1. Using or possessing unauthorized aids.
2. Looking at someone else's answers during an exam or test.
3. Misrepresenting your identity.

In academic work:

1. Falsifying institutional documents or grades.
2. Falsifying or altering any documentation required, including (but not limited to) doctor's notes.

With regard to remote learning and online courses, UTM wishes to remind students that they are expected to adhere to **the Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters** regardless of the course delivery method. By offering students the opportunity to learn remotely, UTM expects that students will maintain the same academic honesty and integrity that they would in a classroom setting. Potential academic offences in a digital context include, but are not limited to:

Remote assessments:

1. Accessing unauthorized resources (search engines, chat rooms, Reddit, etc.) for assessments.
2. Using technological aids (e.g. software) beyond what is listed as permitted in an assessment.
3. Posting test, essay, or exam questions to message boards or social media.
4. Creating, accessing, and sharing assessment questions and answers in virtual "course groups."
5. Working collaboratively, in-person or online, with others on assessments that are expected to be completed individually.

All suspected cases of academic dishonesty will be investigated following procedures outlined in **the Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters**. If you have questions or concerns about what constitutes appropriate academic behaviour or appropriate research and citation methods, you are expected to seek out additional information on academic integrity from your instructor or from other **institutional resources**.

Academic Rights

You, as a student at UTM, have the right to:

- Receive a syllabus by the first day of class.
- Rely upon a syllabus once a course is started. An instructor may only change marks' assignments by following the University Assessment and Grading Practices Policy provision 1.3.
- Refuse to use turnitin.com (you must be offered an alternative form of submission).
- Have access to your instructor for consultation during a course or follow up with the department chair if the instructor is unavailable.
- Ask the person who marked your term work for a re-evaluation if you feel it was not fairly graded. You have up to one month from the date of return of the item to inquire about the mark. If you are not satisfied with a re-evaluation, you may appeal to the instructor in charge of the course if the instructor did not mark the work. If your work is remarked, you must accept the resulting mark. You may only appeal a mark beyond the instructor if the term work was worth at least 20% of the course mark.
- Receive at least one significant mark (15% for H courses, 25% for Y courses) before the last day you can drop a course for H courses, and the last day of classes in the first week of January for Y courses taught in the Fall/Winter terms.
- Submit handwritten essays so long as they are neatly written.
- Have no assignment worth 100% of your final grade.
- Not have a term test worth more than 25% in the last two weeks of class.
- Retain intellectual property rights to your research.
- Receive all your assignments once graded.
- View your final exams. To see a final exam, you must submit an online Exam Reproduction Request

within 6 months of the exam. There is a small non-refundable fee.

- Privacy of your final grades.
- Arrange for representation from Downtown Legal Services (DLS), a representative from the UTM Students' Union (UTMSU), and/or other forms of support if you are charged with an academic offence.

Equity Statement

The University of Toronto is committed to equity and respect for diversity. All members of the learning environment in this course should strive to create an atmosphere of mutual respect. As a course instructor, I will neither condone nor tolerate behaviour that undermines the dignity or self-esteem of any individual in this course and wish to be alerted to any attempt to create an intimidating or hostile environment. It is our collective responsibility to create a space that is inclusive and welcomes discussion. Discrimination, harassment and hate speech will not be tolerated. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns you may contact the UTM Equity and Diversity officer at edo.utm@utoronto.ca or the University of Toronto Mississauga Students' Union Vice President Equity at vpequity@utmsu.ca.

Course Outline

Please note that this outline is subject to change depending on the needs of the class (we may need additional time to cover a topic). Any changes to the syllabus will be announced in class one week before. However, the assignment and test dates are fixed.

| Date | Topic | Readings | Work Due |
|------------------------|---|-----------------|---|
| September 9 | Introduction to Course. Theoretical Perspectives | #1 & #2 | |
| September 16 | Measurement & Research Methods | #3 | |
| September 23 | Personality & Biological Basis of Well-Being | #4 & #5 | |
| September 30 | Cognitive Basis of Well-Being | #6 | Discussion Board Post Due by 11:59pm on Quercus |
| October 7 | Culture & Well-Being | #7 | |
| October 14 | READING WEEK – NO LECTURE | | |
| October 21 | Mid-Term Test (Lectures 1-5 & associated materials) | | |
| October 28 | Religion, Spirituality & Well-Being | #8 | |
| November 4 | Money, Economics & Well-Being | #9 & 10 | |
| November 11 | Work, Lifestyle & Well-Being | #12 & #13 | |
| November 18 | Social Relationships & Well-Being | #14 | |
| November 25 | Well-Being Interventions | #15 | Final Paper Due by 11:59pm on Quercus |
| December 2 | Public Policy & Well-Being | None | |
| December 9 – 20 | Final Examination (Lectures 6-11 & associated materials) | | |

Final Exam: It is the student's responsibility to be available for the entire exam period.