

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of this class, you should be able to demonstrate knowledge and understanding representing appropriate breadth and depth in the following areas. These learning objectives will be met through class lectures, assigned readings, class discussion, student class presentations, and completion of a final paper.

1. Describe concepts and principles underlying the scientific method.
2. Develop critical thinking skills.
3. List the features of pseudoscience and how pseudoscientific claims differ from scientific claims.
4. Recognize common errors in thinking (heuristics, confirmation bias, etc.) that make people susceptible to pseudoscience.
- 5.

Policy Statement on Non Discrimination on the Basis of Disability (ADA). The University is an equal opportunity educational institution. Please read The University's Policy Statement on

Coordinator. The Title IX Office will then contact you regarding your rights, your option to participate in the investigation, interim safety measures and/or academic accommodations, and the need to proceed with an investigation (even if none is requested). Your participation in the process is voluntary. You may call 419.530.3152 to file a complaint or visit the following website

It is rude and distracting for students to use electronic devices in class (for placing or receiving calls and/or text messages and email); therefore, please refrain from using electronic devices in class (e.g., cell phones, etc.). Cell phone use in class will not be tolerated. Laptops and tablets

discussion about the example in class. This is a pass/fail assignment. If completed, your lowest quiz grade will be replaced with a 100.

/Pseudoscience 20% of your final grade). For this assignment, you are to summarize a recent news item (obtained through a newspaper or magazine article, website, social media, television program, etc.) that involves some kind of claim or discovery. This claim may be a scientific or pseudoscientific claim. Your news item cannot be a topic that is covered during the class. You will be required to turn into the instructor a 2-page summary of the claim and your evaluation of the validity of the claim. If you believe that the claim is grounded in sound scientific methodology, your summary should clearly justify this argument. If you believe that the claim is pseudoscience, then your summary should clearly indicate how you came to this conclusion (i.e., how does it meet the criteria for pseudoscience). You will then briefly present your news item to the class. Other students will ask questions and engage in a discussion about the news item. Your presentation should be 15-20 minutes in length. You are welcome to use any type of media (PowerPoint slides, videos, handouts) with your presentation. You will sign up for a presentation date and time during the first class. You will need to let the instructor know what news item you will be covering at least two weeks prior to your presentation. The presentation will account for 10% of your final grade and the written assignment will account for 10% of your final grade.

Final Paper (20% of your final grade). Each student is required to write one 5-page paper for this course. The paper is worth 20% of your final grade. The purpose of this writing assignment is to assist you in applying what you have learned in the course. It will also give you the opportunity to receive feedback on your writing style and ability. The paper is due on December 10, 2019, by 6:00 PM. Please do not wait until the last minute to do the paper.

The paper will be on one of four topics that will be posted on Blackboard during the second week of class. You will be required to use critical thinking skills to thoroughly evaluate the topic. Specific requirements for each topic will be described on Blackboard. A rubric describing how your grade on the paper is determined will also be presented on Blackboard. Your paper should not exceed 5 pages of text (does not include title page or reference list) double-spaced, 1-inch margins, 12-point Times New Roman font. A physical copy of the paper should be turned in to the instructor before or after class. Emailed papers will not be accepted. The paper should include a title page that includes the paper title, your name, the course name and section number, the instructor's name, and the submission date.

It is expected that you will consult outside sources when you write your papers. These sources are expected to be peer-reviewed sources. You are required to have at least 4 sources cited in the text of your paper that come from peer-reviewed publications. Wikipedia is not a reliable source. It is very important that you do not cite statements that are not your own. Plagiarism will not be tolerated. Make it clear where you obtained the information. Your paper should include a reference section. **Check out this website to learn more about how to cite your references in accordance with the American Psychological Association:**

<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/>

GRADING

Midterm Grades

Midterm grades are assigned the 8th week of class and are used to assist students with determining their academic standing. Attendance is also recorded during the 8th week to meet state and federal laws regarding financial aid disbursement. Please note, if you are not

attending class it could affect your financial aid (scholarships, grants, loans or Federal Work Study). If you decide you are not going to attend this class (or any other class you have registered for), you must formally withdraw (drop) from the course. You can do this by logging onto the myUT portal, clicking on the "Student" tab, and then under "My Toolkit" click on Register/Drop/Withdraw. Your midterm grade will be calculated based on assignments up until the 8th week of class. This may or may not include the class presentation depending on when it is scheduled.

Your final grade will be determined based on your performance on the following:

Assignment	Total Assigned	% of each	Total Percentage
Participation	---	---	20%
Weekly Quizzes	12	4%	40%
"Science/Pseudoscience in the News" Summary and Presentation	1	20%	(two quizzes dropped)

