

Course Syllabus

- Title:** Special Topics/Seminar in Psychology: PTSD  
PSY 4980 (Section 2)/6930 (Section 3)/7930 (Section 2)
- Term:** Spring 2015  
Thursdays 1:30-4:00pm
- Location:** University Hall #1610
- Credit Hours:** 3
- Instructor:** Jon Elhai, Ph.D.  
(419) 530-2829 (office)  
Jon.elhai@utoledo.edu (e-mail)  
[www.jon-elhai.com](http://www.jon-elhai.com)
- Office Hours:** Thursdays – 10:00am-11:00am  
University Hall (UH) – Room #1370
- Required Text:** Friedman, M. J., Keane, T. M., & Resick, P. A. (Eds.) (2014). *Handbook of PTSD: Science and Practice* (2<sup>nd</sup> edition). New York: Guilford Press (ISBN-13: 978-1462516179)

Selected course readings (see class schedule below for details) from:  
<http://bit.ly/1FgVTBz>

**Course Description:** This course examines the theory, research, and practice of psychology with regard to posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

Specifically, topics covered will include the history, psychopathology and comorbidity of PTSD; prevalence and risk factors for civilian- and combat-related PTSD; neurobiology of PTSD; assessment of PTSD in adults and children; prevention, pharmacological, and cognitive-behavioral treatment of PTSD.

**Course Outcomes:**

Students should understand the history, psychopathology and comorbidity of posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD); prevalence and risk factors for civilian- and combat-related PTSD; neurobiology of PTSD; assessment of PTSD in adults and children; prevention, pharmacological, and cognitive-behavioral treatment of PTSD.

**Course Policies and Procedures**

1. **Attendance:** It is the responsibility of each student to attend all classes, take all exams, and turn in all assignments on time. Class attendance is worth 10% of the final course grade. No excused absences will be allowed; however, you are allowed to miss up to two classes without penalty. **Please do not arrive late to class.**

2. Exams: There will be one midterm exam, and a non-cumulative final exam, consisting of multiple choice questions. Exam material are taken from the textbooks and lectures. Each exam is worth 30% of the final course grade. **No makeup exams will be given.** If an exam must be missed due to extremely extenuating circumstances, let the instructor know as soon as possible.

3. Research Paper and Presentation:

Write a 10-15 page research paper (not including the cover page, abstract, and references) on an area of trauma/PTSD (worth 30% of your final course grade). Include at least 10 references of your own finding (that is, in addition to those provided to you for class readings). References may come from mental health, psychology and psychiatry journals or books (start by searching PsycInfo). No more than 1 (non-PsycInfo) internet reference may be used. Do not waste space by generally discussing the PTSD diagnosis. Use quotes extremely sparingly. **Topics must be approved by the instructor beforehand.** Papers must be typed with a 12 pt. font, double-spaced, with 1 inch margins, and are due by **April 27**. Papers may be submitted early for corrective feedback. **Late papers will result in one letter grade loss per day** (unless you turned in the first draft early for corrective feedback). APA format is required for references (Please consult with the APA’s Publication Manual-4<sup>th</sup> of 5<sup>th</sup> Editions, or with the instructor if you are not familiar with APA style). Papers will be graded based on the following criteria: 1/3 for relevance, 1/3 for organization, 1/3 for accuracy.

You may alternatively write a proposal for conducting an empirical study in the area of trauma/PTSD.

Research papers will be presented to the class at the end of the semester by the student in 5 to 15 minute formats (and factors into the research paper grade). An outline or powerpoint presentation may be used. Reading directly from one’s concept paper is not acceptable.

● You **MUST** complete a web-based tutorial on plagiarism as part of your research paper, by **April 27**. Failure to complete the tutorial by that date will result in obtaining 0% on the research paper. To complete the tutorial, visit the following website:

<http://bit.ly/PlagTutorial>

4. Grading:

**Grade Composition**

Midterm Exam	30%
Final Exam	30%
Research Paper/Presentation	30%
<u>Class Attendance</u>	<u>10%</u>
Total	100%

**Grading Scale**

A	93-100	A-	90-92	B+	87-89
B	83-86	B-	80-82	C+	77-79
C	73-76	C-	70-72	D+	67-69
D	63-66	D-	60-62	F	< 60

No other grades will be given except as noted above. If the student is doing poorly in the course, it is the student’s responsibility to drop or withdraw from the course before the appropriate deadline. If it is too late to drop or withdraw from the course, a mark of “Incomplete” will not be assigned; rather the student will be assigned the actual grade earned.

5. Academic Honesty: Department of Psychology Statement on Academic Honesty - Academic honesty is expected from students enrolled in courses and programs offered by the Department of Psychology; violations of this expectation will not be tolerated.

Violations of the expectation of academic honesty include, but are not limited to:

- \* Obtaining or attempting to obtain a copy of an examination prior to its administration.
- \* The unauthorized use of study material or textbooks during an examination.
- \* Obtaining unauthorized assistance from and giving unauthorized assistance to another individual during an examination or completion of an assignment.
- \* Plagiarism in written assignments. Plagiarism includes: (a) using, copying or paraphrasing another author's materials without appropriate acknowledgment through quotation and citation; (b) unauthorized collaboration in the preparation of reports, term papers, or theses.

In accordance with the Policy Statement in the University Catalog, instructors have the responsibility and right to bring cases of alleged dishonesty to department, college, and university administrative units. Students involved in academic dishonesty may expect to receive a grade of F on specific assignments, as well as in the course where the assignment was made.

Student Behavior - Students are expected to follow University policy with regards to proper conduct in the classroom, as detailed in the University of Toledo Student Handbook (See <http://www.utoledo.edu/studentaffairs/dos/> for details.) Disciplinary action for violation of these policies will be decided on a case by case basis and will be in accord with University policy.

6. **Class Communication:** the Instructor will communicate to students by email about class announcements, changes to the course schedule (including class cancellations), and grades. **It is the student's responsibility to check their UT email account daily for such announcements.**

7. **Additional Ground Rules:** 1) Grade disputes must be submitted in writing in order to be considered. 2) Grievances about the course and/or TA or instructor should be brought up with that individual first in order to resolve the matter, prior to discussing the matter with the department/university's administration.

Any student who feels s/he may need academic accommodations or access accommodations based on the impact of a documented disability should contact and register with Disability Services during the first week of class. Disability Services is the official office to assist students through the process of disability verification and coordination of appropriate and reasonable accommodations. Students currently registered with Disability Services must obtain a new accommodation memo each semester.

8. Office of Accessibility. Students registered with the Office of Accessibility for a disability must discuss possible accommodations with the Instructor during the first week of class in order to allow such accommodations to occur. All paperwork for all of the semester's exams must be submitted to the Instructor during the second week of the course in order to allow accommodations.

9. **Title IX.** Title IX makes it clear that violence and harassment based on sex and gender are Civil Rights offenses subject to the same kinds of accountability and the same kinds of support applied to offenses against other protected categories such as race, national origin, etc. If you or someone you know has been harassed or assaulted, you can find the appropriate resources here ...

Complaints can be reported online:

UT's Title IX coordinator: <https://www.utoledo.edu/offices/oid/title-ix/index.html>

Other resources:

UT's Student Counseling Center: <https://www.utoledo.edu/studentaffairs/counseling/>

UT Campus Police: <https://www.utoledo.edu/depts/police/index.html>

UT Sexual Assault Education and Prevention Program: [www.utoledo.edu/studentaffairs/SAEPP](http://www.utoledo.edu/studentaffairs/SAEPP)

YWCA Battered Women's Shelter: [www.ywcanwo.org/](http://www.ywcanwo.org/)

**Schedule of Classes and Readings:** (The assigned chapter should be read **before** each class)

Week of	Required Reading	Lecture Topic
1/12	(None)	Introduction
1/19	Book Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4	History of PTSD
1/26	Book Chapters 5, 6, 8 Article #1	Overview of PTSD
2/2	Book Chapters 9, 11, 12, 13	Overview of PTSD
2/9	Book Chapters 7, 18	Child and Adolescent PTSD
2/16		Adult Crime-Related PTSD
2/23	Articles #2 and #3 Article #4	Combat PTSD Disaster PTSD
3/2		<b>MIDTERM EXAM</b>
3/9		<b>SPRING BREAK</b>
3/16		<b>NO CLASS – INSTRUCTOR TRAVELING</b>
3/23	Book Chapters 20, 21 Articles #5 and #6	Assessment of Adult PTSD
3/30	Book Chapters 10, 14, 15, 16	Biopsychology of PTSD
4/6	Book Chapters 23, 24, 26, 27 Article #8	Cognitive-Behavioral Treatment of PTSD
4/13	Book Chapter 22	Debriefing for PTSD
4/20	Book Chapters 28, 29, 30 Article #9	Other Issues (Health, Cultural, etc.)
*4/27	(None)	Student Presentations

**F 5/8** **FINAL EXAM: 2-4PM (TENTATIVE)**

**Note:** This syllabus may be appended by the instructor if necessary. Students are responsible for any changes made.

\* **Final Research Papers Due Today; Extra credit must be completed by today.**