

## SYLLABUS

<b>COURSE TITLE</b>	<b>Psychology gone bad: mistakes and abuses of academic psychology, psychotherapy, and psycho-business</b>
<b>CREDITS</b>	2 ECTS
<b>LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION</b>	English
<b>DEPARTMENT/FACULTY</b>	Faculty of Education and Psychology
<b>LECTURER(S)</b>	dr Krzysztof Leoniak
<b>COURSE OBJECTIVES</b>	
<p>Students who successfully complete this course will have a basic knowledge of and insight into:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The student is able to apply critical thinking skills when confronted with scientific claims as well as to construct plausible oral arguments based on psychological studies.</li> <li>• The student recognizes the characteristics of scientific method and is able to distinguish it from pseudoscience.</li> <li>• The student is acquainted with basic psychological processes that underlie human judgment and decision making.</li> </ul>	
<b>PREREQUISITES</b>	none
<b>COURSE ORGANISATION –LEARNING FORMAT AND NUMBER OF HOURS</b>	
15 hours of lecture	
<b>COURSE DESCRIPTION</b>	
<p>The past decade has witnessed an increasing appreciation of, and concern for, the problem of pseudoscience in contemporary psychology. In recent years, a large number of pseudoscientific or otherwise questionable psychological practices and areas of study have either appeared on the scene or flourished with unabated vigor. Extrasensory perception (ESP), astrology, biorhythms, subliminal self-help tapes, polygraph (“lie detector”) testing, projective measures of personality (e.g., the Rorschach Inkblot Test), New Age psychotherapies (e.g., primal scream therapy, Rolfing), unvalidated herbal remedies for enhancing memory and mood, and suggestive therapeutic techniques (e.g., hypnosis, guided imagery) for recovering purported memories of child abuse and alien abductions comprise only a small subset of such domains in contemporary psychology.</p> <p>Throughout the course you will be given the tools to be able to differentiate between valid scientific claims and those made as a result of pseudoscience. The main emphasis of the course will be the development of critical thinking skills and a healthy skepticism when confronted with “scientific” claims. This course is also designed to introduce basic psychological processes that underlie human judgment and decision making that play a role in the persistence of beliefs in pseudoscientific claims. This course is also designed to introduce students to a number of psychological processes that underlie scientific methodologies and the persistence of belief in non-scientific claims.</p> <p>List of topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•The nature of science and the scientific method, differences between science and pseudoscience, characteristics of pseudoscience</li> <li>•How our thinking can go wrong: Heuristics and biases</li> <li>•Parapsychology: The history of extrasensory perception, spiritualism, psychic detectives, out-of-body experiences and any other quackery that comes with it</li> <li>•The uses and abuses of psychological assessment</li> <li>•Questionable or unsubstantiated psychotherapies</li> <li>•The (un)expected situations during presentation</li> </ul>	
<b>METHODS OF INSTRUCTION</b>	Lecture, discussion, didactic film, reading assignments, case studies,

	demonstrations										
<b>REQUIREMENTS AND ASSESSMENTS</b>	Active participation in classes One short presentation										
<b>GRADING SYSTEM</b>	Success in this course depends on attending class regularly, actively participating in class, and taking thorough notes. <b>Presentation:</b> The final assignment for the course will be in form of presentation. Students will be informed about it in advance (at the beginning of the course). Students will be provided with all the necessary materials.										
<b>TOTAL STUDENT WORKLOAD NEEDED TO ACHIEVE EXPECTED LEARNING OUTCOMES EXPRESSED IN TIME AND ECTS CREDIT POINTS</b>	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Activity</th> <th>Hours:</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Lecture</td> <td>15</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Preparation for classes (Reading, homework etc.)</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Preparing a presentation</td> <td>15</td> </tr> <tr> <td>ECTS</td> <td>2</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Activity	Hours:	Lecture	15	Preparation for classes (Reading, homework etc.)	20	Preparing a presentation	15	ECTS	2
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<b>STUDYMATERIALS</b>	<p><b>PRIMARY OR REQUIRED BOOKS/READINGS:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Witkowski, T. (2015). <i>Psychology gone wrong: The dark sides of science and therapy</i>. Universal-Publishers.</li> <li>Hughes, B. (2016). <i>Rethinking psychology: Good science, bad science, pseudoscience</i>. Macmillan International HigherEducation.</li> </ul> <p><b>SUPPLEMENTAL OR OPTIONAL BOOKS/READINGS:</b></p>										