

Psychology 335

Gambling and Decision Making
University of British Columbia
Dr. Luke Clark



Lecture 1 (7th September 2022)

ORIENTATION



a place of mind

THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

First things first

- Navigating Canvas (syllabus)
- Pandemic principles. The mask mandate has been revoked but students may continue to wear masks by choice. If you are sick, stay home - we have a duty of care towards each other.
- Non-registered students. Syllabus also available at cgr.psych.ubc.ca/Teaching



Your instructor

Dr Luke Clark

Director of Centre for Gambling
Research at UBC

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Your Teaching Assistant

Lucas Palmer

Graduate Student in Psychology,
working on gambling design
features and replicability



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Guest Lecturer

Dr Gerald Thomas

Director for Alcohol and
Gambling Policy at BC Ministry
of Health

Classes on gambling policy



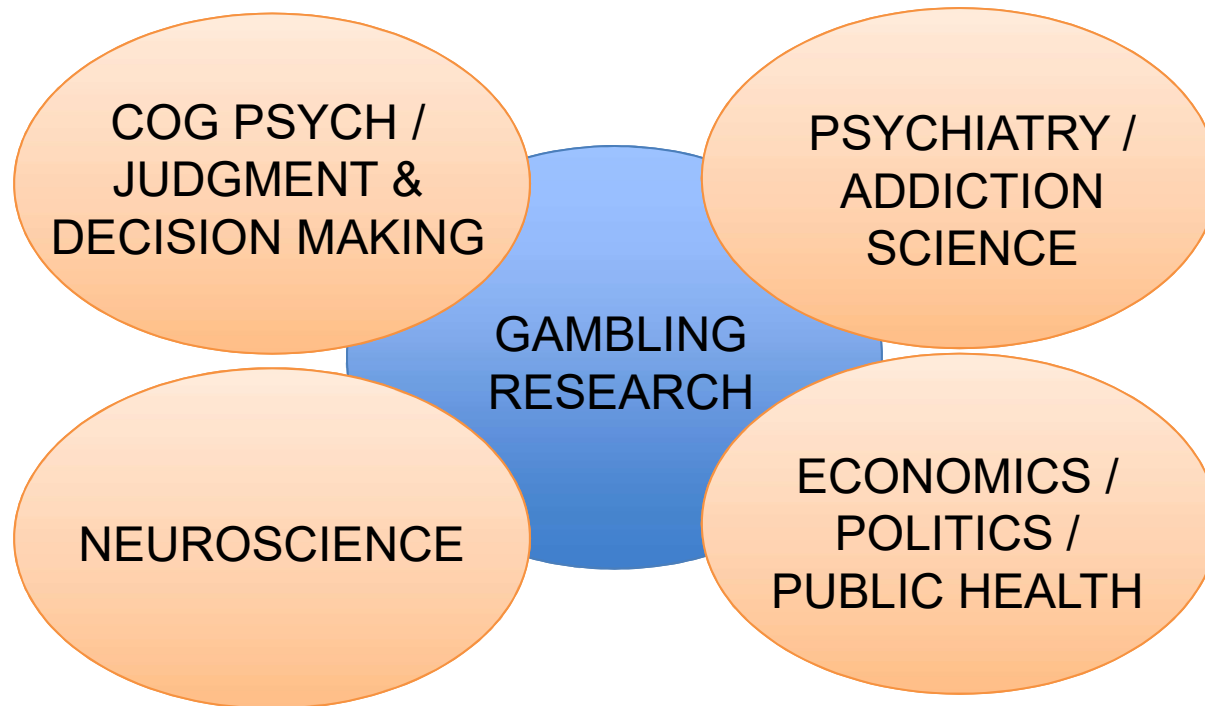
Dr Alex Price

Senior Researcher, Responsible
Gambling Council (Toronto)

Classes on public health



Inter-Disciplinary Topic!



Course Assessment

Midterm 1 & 2 (20% each) 12 Oct, 7 Nov

Online, MCQ + short answers
Key concepts quizzes (50 min)

Written Assignment (Media Report; 20%)

Don't worry about this in week 1 ;-)
Submit report: 14 Nov.

Final Test (20% of course grade)

In person, 2 longer answers from choice of 4

Participation Credit:

10% from Discussion Threads

10% (10 of 12 quizzes) from Set Reading Quizzes



Attendance, Videos, and Readings

- Classes will be recorded and available to watch outside of class time. A couple of classes (e.g. Monday 12th Sept) will be posted as pre-recorded classes.
- ***Why attend classes in person?*** This course is designed for in-class attendance, which offers many pedagogical benefits. You cannot participate in exercises and Q&A from the recordings. Through the term I will invite your feedback on how to best make use of the recordings.
- ***Why read the set readings?*** Quizzes on the readings = 10% of grade. The readings will broaden your knowledge, useful for longer answers on Final Test (20%). Details in the readings that are not covered in class (inc. references) are *not* examinable (e.g. on midterms)



Tests and Academic Integrity

- Academic integrity is one of the main concerns around online assessments, and something I take very seriously
- Assessments are set up to best accommodate all students and respect privacy – e.g. webcams are not required.
- But to be clear: I expect students to submit their own work & to not share test questions. You will submit an honor pledge. I will use Canvas analytics and plagiarism checkers to maintain integrity.



Your success is important

If you are facing difficulties that put your academic success at risk, please reach out.

- Contact me or your TA by email, and/or arrange an individual Zoom
- Talk to a UBC counsellor or doctor if you are experiencing health difficulties. students.ubc.ca

If I have concerns about your academic progress or wellbeing, I may use Early Alert to connect you with an expert advisor who can offer support to help students get back on track.

- Only specialized UBC advisors would be able to access these concerns, & Early Alert does not affect your academic record



Things to be doing in Week 1

- Download and read the Syllabus & Course Schedule.
- Put the times of the Midterms & Written Assignment deadline in your calendar.
- Discussion Thread (not assessed): What motivated YOU to take this course?
- Graded Discussion Thread: introduce yourself to your group
- Read the set reading: Li et al (2019) in Modules (it's short, and it's about video gaming) and take the Set Reading quiz by Friday 16th



Possible topics to investigate for the graded thread

Why do gamblers play if they understand that “the house always wins”?

Is it valid (or useful) to think about behaviours being *addictive*? How can neuroscience help make this decision?

Are some forms of gambling more harmful (more addictive) than others? How might we evaluate whether a new form of gambling is likely to be dangerous?

How should our society offer gambling in a way that balances the revenue and personal freedom, with the harms that some people experience?

