The final exam for this course is worth 20% of your grade. You will have two hours to complete the exam, which is based on lecture content, and material from the text by Stanovich.

The exam will require you to answer 25 multiple choice questions (drawn from the text by Stanovich and/or lecture), and to write one long essay (worth 25 marks). The four possible essay questions on the exam are found below, so that you may reflect on how best to answer them. Two questions will be drawn from a hat at the beginning of the exam. *You must then choose and answer only one of the two questions that are drawn.*

For the essay, I am looking for the usual criteria in terms of good arguments, paragraph structure, sentence structure, word usage, and punctuation. Make sure that your answers are written clearly and concisely! You may not bring notes or books to the final exam—only a typewritten sheet with an APA reference list (that you will include in your writing). You may list the references for each essay separately, so that you might use the references as reminders of the evidence you will incorporate into your answer. My suggestion would be to create an outline, and then to actually write out the essay in its entirety during preparation. Recreate the outline during the exam—this, along with the references, will help you remember what to write.

Please prepare answers that will take approximately 45 minutes per essay to write out (approximately **five - eight** paragraphs per essay). There is more than one correct way to answer each question. For questions that specify a minimum of two peer reviewed articles, you may use more than two (there is no maximum number). Good luck!

1. Our in class debate addressed the very difficult issue of assisted dying in Canada, with a focus on whether those with severe and untreatable forms of mental illness should be allowed to seek assistance in ending their lives if they suffer from intolerable psychological pain. Canada has a new law that allows for physician assisted dying for situations where a person has a "grievous and irremediable medical condition". Do you think the law should be extended to persons with intolerable psychological conditions (as is allowed in Belgium)? Why or why not? Provide evidence from a minimum of two peer reviewed articles to back up your argument and explain your answer.

2. In the last couple of years, there have been significant outbreaks of measles across Canada, and the United States. The measles virus can result in serious complications, including meningitis, hearing loss, and, in rare cases, death. It is an airborne virus that may be spread when an infected person coughs. Up until quite recently, measles had been eradiated in many areas of the world (including Canada) through extensive vaccination.
    According to the news media, the majority of children who have contracted the disease have not been vaccinated, supposedly because their parents believe that the vaccine is

associated with the development of autism. This belief likely originated, and has been propagated (to the point where it is still believed today) by the publication of the measles, mumps, and rubella journal article by Wakefield et al (1998) in the Lancet, despite the fact that the article was recently retracted, and Wakefield's work deemed fraudulent.

   Some of these parents, however, seem to be coming forward with less simplistic arguments, citing vaccine complications, inadequate testing for side effects, and fears of pharmaceutical influence in the now extensive schedule of vaccinations routinely given to babies and small children.

    As a result, some public health officials have reacted strongly, publically calling these parents irresponsible, and calling for mandatory vaccinations of all children. They state that vaccines are safe (period—no explanation or acknowledgement of side effects provided).

Do you think that vaccines should be mandatory for all children (except those who have exigent medical conditions that render them unable to tolerate vaccines)?

Be sure to incorporate evidence from a minimum of two additional peer reviewed articles into your answer. (The two links below re the Wakefield article are provided for your perusal; however, you will need to find at least two additional peer reviewed articles).

http://briandeer.com/mmr/lancet-paper.htm

http://www.bmj.com/content/342/bmj.c7452

3. As addressed in our mock trial, Canada is proposing to legalize marijuana by 2017. Over the past five years, several jurisdictions, including the U.S. states of Washington and Colorado, have decriminalized and/or legalized recreational marijuana use. These two states, for example, now allow licensed stores to sell products containing THC (the active ingredient in marijuana), and allow individuals to consume these products (albeit not in public places).
Clearly, this is a contentious issue, with those opposed to the new laws citing beliefs that marijuana acts as a 'gateway drug' to harder substances such as cocaine and heroin. In addition, new evidence suggests that marijuana use may be linked to the onset of psychosis (i.e. early symptoms of schizophrenia) in those who may be susceptible to the disorder.
On the other side of the debate, some have argued that marijuana is no more harmful than alcohol or cigarettes, and that medicinal uses of the drug confer many benefits to those who suffer from intractable pain, and other more specific medical conditions.

Should marijuana be legalized in Canada? Why or why not? Prepare a clear and detailed argument, incorporating at least two peer reviewed sources to substantiate the points you make.

4. John Iodannis (professor of medicine and public health policy at Stanford University) argues that most published research findings are false. Provide a critical overview of his ideas, addressing whether you agree with him (why or why not), and what you think the implications of his work are, for science, and more particularly for the field of psychology. What do you think the scientific community, and the field of psychology, should do in response to these criticisms? Incorporate examples wherever possible, and cite at least two peer reviewed articles in the context of your answer.