

Introduction to Psychology (Winter 2012/2013) – Course Outline

Psychology 100 Section 003

Location: Buchanon A101

Tuesday and Thursday 2:00 - 3:20

Professor: Dr. P. Hewitt

Teaching Assistants: Ms. Janet Kaldas (jkaldas@psych.ubc.ca)

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Office: 3404 Kenny (822-5827)

Office Hours: By Appointment

Office Hours: TBA

Required Text: Weiten & McCann (2013). Psychology: Themes and variations.

Recommended: Study Guide for Weiten & McCann.

General Course Outline: The purpose of this course is to provide the student with an introduction to the scientific analysis of behaviour and mental activity from various perspectives including biological, individual, and social perspectives. The major topics to be covered include, theoretical perspectives, biological aspects of behaviour, perception, motivation, learning, memory, intelligence, personality, consciousness, social interaction, developmental processes, heredity and environmental influences, abnormal psychology, and therapeutic modalities.

Evaluation: Grades will be determined by the best 5 of 6 equally weighted tests (each of the five tests is worth 19.6%) as well as the Research Experience Component (worth 2%). The tentative dates for the tests are listed on the next page. It should be noted that the University will determine the date of the December test and the April test as they will be completed during the exam period. The tests will be 1 hour and 20 minutes in length and are noncumulative, meaning that the tests will cover only material that you have not yet been tested on. All tests will be composed of multiple choice items and short answer items (i.e, one or two paragraph answers) and will cover information from lectures, films, demonstrations, and textbook readings. Students are required to present student cards when writing tests.

Psychology Department's Policy on Grade Distributions and Scaling: In order to reduce grade inflation and maintain equity across multiple course sections, all psychology courses are required to comply with departmental norms regarding grade distributions. According to departmental norms, the mean grade in a 300-level class is 70 for a good class, 68 for an average class, and 66 for a weak class, with a standard deviation of 13). The corresponding figures for 100- and 200-level Psychology courses are 67, 65, and 63, with a standard deviation of 14. **Scaling** is likely to be used in order to comply with these norms; grades may be scaled up or down as necessary by the professor or department.

An opportunity for earning three additional percentage points by participating further in the Research Participation Component is possible. This will be discussed in detail during class by the teaching assistant. For now:

Research Experience Component (REC) – 2%

Psychology is an active and exciting scientific discipline. Many of the studies that you will learn about in this course were carried out at universities just like ours! As part of this course, you will be asked to complete a research experience component (REC) as way of introducing you, in a more hands on and interactive way, to cutting edge research in psychology. This REC will be worth 2% of your grade in the class and you are free to choose one of two options:

Participate in the Psychology Department Human Subjects Pool

Most students will choose to earn their research experience component by spending **four hours participating in psychology studies (worth .5% point for each hour)** through the Department of Psychology's Human Subject Pool (HSP) system. You can locate, create an account, and sign up for studies by going to <https://hsp.psych.ubc.ca>. **Please register in the system by the end of the first month of classes to have the opportunity to earn your first ½ hour credit with a brief online survey that will increase your eligibility for more studies.**

Once registered in the system, you will be able to browse through and select which studies you wish to participate in, sign up for an available timeslot, and confirm your accumulated credits afterward. At the end of the last day of class in April, the subject pool is closed. At that point, you will no longer be able to receive credits. I strongly urge you to participate in and confirm your credits long *before* the last week of class. It is preferable that you complete

half in term 1 and half in term 2 but that's not necessary. Further instruction on how to use the HSP online system can be found at <http://www.psych.ubc.ca/resguide.psy> in the document entitled "Subject Pool Information for Participants."

Alternative assignment: Library writing projects

As an alternative to participating in the Subject Pool, you can instead choose to complete four library writing projects (worth .5% point each). For this assignment, you will read and summarize four research articles. You must select a research article (not a letter to the editor, commentary, or review paper) published between 2000-present in the journal *Psychological Science* – one of the disciplines' leading journals. Each summary should be about 500 words and should describe the purpose, method and results of the study *in your own words*. Please see the "Subject Pool Information for Participants" document found at <http://www.psych.ubc.ca/resguide.psy> for further instructions. **If you choose the library option, you must, a) submit your summaries and a copy of the articles no later than 10 days before the end of classes, and b) submit each summary to turnitin.com.** If you don't have a turnitin account already (from a previous course), you will need to create a user account in Turnitin. For the library assignment the class ID is 2828541, password is *library*. See www.turnitin.com, and click on the "Training" link at the top of the page for detailed instructions on how to submit papers to Turnitin. **Any student who is suspected of plagiarism will, at a minimum, not be granted credit, and their course instructor will be notified. Further action may be taken at a departmental or university level.**

Extra credit (optional)

You may earn up to **3% extra credit** that will be added to your final grade. These extra credit points can be earned by doing up to six additional hours of study participation in the HSP (or summarizing another six additional journal articles for the library option) as described above as the research experience component of the course.

Make ups: Students unable to write a test at the designated time will receive a score of **ZERO** unless:

1. He or she was unable to attend due to things such as serious medical problems (not such things as a cold, sore stomach, headache, sore back), court appearance, or death in immediate family.
2. He or she provides the TA with a letter from the appropriate professional (on letterhead with the name, address, and phone number of the letter writer) that states: "Due to [reason], [your name] could not write the test scheduled for [test time and date]." In the case of medical reason, the statement: "In my opinion, the medical problem was so severe that [your name] would have been incapable of writing the test" and the signature of the physician should appear on the letter. The UBC Health Services will not provide letters so the student should use his or her private physician.
3. He or she notifies the TA in writing before the test or no later than 2 working days after the date of the assignment. All correspondence regarding the make-up must be made in writing to the TA who will forward information to the professor.
4. If it is determined that a student had a legitimate reason for missing the test, the zero grade can be used as the one test grade out of the six tests that is not included in the final mark.

Cheating: Cheating in any form will not be tolerated in any way. This includes but is not limited to dishonest or attempted dishonest conduct at tests (i.e., unauthorized use of books, notes, or other aids, communicating with others for purposes of obtaining information, copying from the work of others, and purposefully exposing or conveying information to other students taking the test), changing test answers once tests are marked, and handing in papers with sections prepared by others. Please review the UBC Calendar "Academic regulations" for the university policy on cheating, plagiarism, and other forms of academic dishonesty. Also visit www.arts.ubc.ca and go to the students' section for useful information on avoiding plagiarism and on correct documentation. Please see attached statement of the Psychology Department's Policy on Academic Dishonesty.

Marking: If you have what you perceive to be an error in marking on your test, you may apply within two days from the day the test was handed back in writing for a re-marking of your entire test. You must explain clearly, in your written request, why it is you believe the test should be re-marked and submit it the TA. Dr. Hewitt will determine whether the test will be graded again.

Class Attendance: Class attendance is critical, although there will be no roll call. If you miss class, you will miss important material that you are likely to be tested on. It is important to remember that material in lectures will not necessarily be contained in the textbook.

Preliminary and Tentative Course Schedule, WINTER 2012/2013

<u>General Topic</u>	<u>Relevant Chapters</u>
Introduction Scientific Method Test # 1 (Oct 4)	1 - 2
Biological Bases of Behaviour Sensation Perception Test # 2 (Nov 1)	3 - 4
Consciousness Learning Memory Test # 3 (TBA)	5 - 7
Language and Thought Intelligence Motivation and Emotion Test # 4 (Jan 31)	8 - 10
SPRING BREAK Feb 18 - 22	
Development Personality Stress and Coping and Health Test # 5 (March 7)	11 - 13
Psychological Disorders Treatment of Psychological Disorders Social Psychology Test # 6 (TBA)	14 - 16

Psychology Department's Position on Academic Misconduct

Cheating, plagiarism, and other forms of academic misconduct are very serious concerns of the University, and the Department of Psychology has taken steps to alleviate them. In the first place, the Department has implemented software that, can reliably detect cheating on multiple-choice exams by analyzing the patterns of students' responses. In addition, the Department subscribes to *TurnItIn*--a service designed to detect and deter plagiarism. All materials (term papers, lab reports, etc.) that students submit for grading will be scanned and compared to over 5 billion pages of content located on the Internet or in TurnItIn's own proprietary databases. The results of these comparisons are compiled into customized "Originality Reports" containing several, sensitive measures of plagiarism; instructors receive copies of these reports for every student in their class.

In all cases of suspected academic misconduct, the parties involved will be pursued to the fullest extent dictated by the guidelines of the University. Strong evidence of cheating or plagiarism may result in a zero credit for the work in question. According to the University Act (section 61), the President of UBC has the right to impose harsher penalties including (but not limited to) a failing grade for the course, suspension from the University, cancellation of scholarships, or a notation added to a student's transcript.

All graded work in this course, unless otherwise specified, is to be original work done independently by individuals. Do **not** use Google/Yahoo/MSN Search/etc. to find articles for assignments in this course. **Do** use any of the indexes and databases listed under Indexes and Databases, Subject Resources, OneSearch or Metasearch on the Library's website at <http://www.library.ubc.ca>. (Not sure which index to use? Click HELP on the library homepage at www.library.ubc.ca or try Subject Resources.)

If you have any questions as to whether or not what you are doing is even a borderline case of academic misconduct, please consult your instructor. For details on pertinent University policies and procedures, please see Chapter 5 in the UBC Calendar (<http://students.ubc.ca/calendar>).
