

Psychology 100: Dr. Coren 2007—2008

Section 008 (8 AM, T & Th – Swing Space 221)

Section 009 (9:30 AM, T & Th – Swing Space 221)

Textbook:

Psychology, by David G. Myers, Worth Publishers (8th edition). Please be sure to use the 8th edition since there have been significant revisions since the 7th edition. There is also a study guide to accompany the addition which is of value if you feel that you need additional help in learning the material.

Office Hours:

Most problems should be referred to the teaching assistant for this course. If she can not resolve the problem she will refer it to Dr. Coren. Up to date office hours (time and location) can be found by checking the *online syllabus* at www.psych.ubc.ca under undergraduate course materials.

Course Teaching Assistant(s):

Section 008:

TA in charge- Nicol Dorfan

e-mail dorfan@interchange.ubc.ca

Location: 1709 Kenny Psychology Building

Office hours: Thursdays 11 – 12 (check online syllabus)

Section 009:

TA in charge- Mandy Chen

e-mail mandy@psych.ubc.ca

Location: 1904 Kenny Psychology Building

Office hours: (check online syllabus)

Coordinating TA

– Janet Mah

e-mail: mahjwt@psych.ubc.ca

Should you have a problem that your TA cannot respond to or which requires the direct attention or assistance of your professor, I am usually in my office during most days. The best days to come by are midweek (Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday), since my field research occasionally overlaps the end or beginning of the week. It is usually best to work through your TA who will refer matters to me if they require my intervention. You can also speak to me immediately before and after class sessions.

Dr. Coren's Contact Information

Office: 3535 Kenny Psychology Building

Phone: 604-822-6458

General Description of This Course

This course is designed to introduce you to Psychology as a science. It will include materials that illustrate how research is done in psychology, and how the data are viewed and analyzed. It will then deal directly with the biological bases of behavior (after all we are living creatures). It will next investigate how information is acquired from the external world, which will involve the processes of sensation and perception. These topics naturally lead to a discussion of the nature and function of consciousness. We will next turn to the issues of learning, memory, consciousness, language and problem solving, including material on how to apply learning principals to your everyday educational tasks. At this juncture we will also introduce material dealing with motivation and human emotions. Human mental abilities, IQ and testing will also be discussed about here. Once these basic processes have been treated, we will turn to the more interactive facets of behavior, including personality and psychological development. After we treat normal behavior patterns we will introduce the conception of abnormal behavior and its treatment. We will end the course with a treatment of social psychology, plus a consideration of how psychological principles affect the operation of our society as a whole. Thus it should be clear that this is intended to be a broad ranging survey of the field of psychology, in order to introduce you to many of its aspects.

Readings and Lectures

You will be responsible for reading the materials in the text in the order shown on the schedule that follows. The text contains much material that will not be covered directly in the lectures. You are, however, still responsible for that material. On the other hand, there is much material that will be covered in the lectures that will not appear in the readings. Every text is, by necessity, always several years out of date in its coverage, and somewhat limited in its scope, hence the lectures will cover material which the text does not, or can not, include. In any event, you will generally find that if you have done the reading BEFORE the lectures, the material given in class will be clearer and more easily retained. If you put off the reading assignments until just before the exam, however, you are committing academic suicide.

Classroom Demonstrations

Basically, the classroom time is designed to provide an enrichment experience. Whenever possible, I will use audio-visual techniques to provide material not available in the text. We will also use classroom time to clarify some of the concepts introduced by the book, by providing you with an opportunity to experience many phenomena. This means that some of the classroom time will often be used to actually demonstrate concepts, findings and phenomena that cannot be adequately described in any text. Some in-class 'mini-experiments' will be conducted, and a variety of audio visual aids will be employed. *Whenever demonstration data is collected from you in class, we will ask you to identify yourself with your student number* (this can be found on your library card, or on several of your registration documents). To assure your anonymity, we will post your scores next to your student number.

Examinations

Your grade will be based upon 4 exams (actually 2 midterms, the Xmas and the Final exam). The exams will be timed objective exams, which are in a multiple-choice format. Each midterm will be worth 25% of your grade and Xmas and Final exams are also worth 25% toward your final grade.

Examinations are noncumulative. Each exam will cover only the material that you have not yet been tested on. Material covered in the exams is about equally divided between the readings and the lecture material. All instructors reserve the right to normalize grade distributions in a class. In this course a global guessing correction is applied to the exams. The nature of this guessing correction makes it to your advantage to put a response for every question, even if you have to guess. If you can eliminate even one of the response alternatives as being clearly wrong, such guessing will ultimately put you well ahead of the correction factor.

When you arrive for exams you must have with you a pencil (not a pen). It should have dark lead, such as No. 2 or HB. This is because the exams will be machine scored whenever possible. **In addition you will need your student number,** which can be found on your library card. On days when there is an examination there will be no lecture. Exams will begin 5 minutes after the scheduled starting time for class. *Be sure to arrive on time since no additional time is given to students who arrive late.*

Subject Credit

In addition to exams you will be given the opportunity to earn up to 4 extra credit points by participating in the ***Psychology Subject Pool***. You will be given more information about this option in class. In general these points are obtained by participation as a subject in laboratory experiments in psychology. You can sign up for these, during the day, on the main bulletin board in the Kenny, Psychology Building. Occasionally either I, or other department members, may bring sign up sheets to class. The credits are assigned as ½ point for each ½ hour of participation. You will receive further information about the operation of the subject pool sometime in the second or third week in the course and this will include information on how to enter your subject credits. Your credits are added directly to your final grade at the end of the course.

Important Note

Introductory classes of this size add certain constraints on the way in which I must teach the course. One such constraint is that there will be no (for emphasis let us repeat the word **NO**) make up exams in this course. This means that if you miss an exam you will simply lose the number of points associated with it. Your grade will therefore be computed as if that particular entry was a zero. The only exceptions to this are validated medical excuses. Such excuses must be in the form of a written note from your doctor or from student health, attesting to the fact that on the day of the exam you were too ill to be expected to function reasonably. Please note, that although the Student Health Service will provide such validations for Xmas and Final exams, they will not provide these for midterms, hence in the event of a missed midterm your medical excuse must be obtained from a private physician. If you should have a personal or psychological trauma which is of such a magnitude that you would be forced to miss an examination such as excuse must be accompanied by a written letter of explanation from your psychiatrist, psychologist, or student counselor. Exams missed due to a death in the family must be validated by a letter from the attending physician or clergyman. In the absence of such written verification you will not be excused. All medical excuses must be personally presented to the professor as soon as you are able to return to class for a make up to be scheduled. This means that if you are planning a love tryst, divorce, bankruptcy, or a dream vacation, you had best schedule these events so that they do not conflict with your examination schedule, which is listed above. If you do miss the exam you will also miss the points that it represents -- the choice, of course, is yours.

Course Outline

On the next two pages you will find the specific outline of the course on a session-by-session basis. Date refers to the day when the topic will be started. Topics refer to the contents of the lecture and readings. Topics are followed by a number in parentheses. That number is the number of lectures that will be used to deal with that subject matter. Most commonly, topics are dealt with in a 2 lecture block. All readings are drawn from the textbook. Please note that the order of topics and readings differs from that of the text. Also notice that the dates of the examinations have been included. Note, the text book has a "Review and Reflect" Box at the end of each chapter. If you take the time to answer the first question in each box (answer is in the Appendix), these can be a good learning aid. The second question is designed to connect the material to the real world and to make you think—that is the main aim of education, after all, so try these also.

Winter Term

Date	Topic	Reading
Sept 6	Introduction to Psychology (2)	Prologue
13	Experimentation and Statistics (3)	Chapt 1
25	Biological basis of behavior (3)	Chpt 2
Oct 4	Sensory processes (2)	Chpt 5
11	Perception (3)	Chapt 6
23	<i>Mid Term Exam (bring a pencil and know your student ID)</i>	
25	States of Consciousness (2)	Chpt 7
Nov 1	Learning and Conditioning (3)	Chpt 8
13	Memory (3)	Chpt 9
15	**** No Class ****	
27	Thought and Language (2)	Chpt 10
29	** Last lecture of term **	

XMAS EXAM (check University schedule for date, time and place--be sure to bring a pencil and know your student ID)

Spring Term

Date	Topic	Reading
Jan 8	Motivation (3)	Chpt 12
17	Emotion (2)	Chpt 13
24	Intelligence and Mental abilities (2)	Chpt 11
31	Personality (3)	Chpt 15
Feb 12	Psychological Development (3)	Chapters 3 & 4
19 and 21	**** No class -- University Spring Reading Break ****	
28	<i>Mid Term Exam (bring a pencil and know your student ID)</i>	
Mar 4	Conflict, stress and coping (3)	Chpt 14
13	Abnormal Psychology (2)	Chpt 16
20	Methods of Therapy (3)	Chpt 17
Apr 1	Individual and Group Social Behavior (4)	Chpt 18
10	*** Last lecture of course ***	
Final Exam	(check university schedule for date, time and place--be sure to bring a pencil and know your student ID)	

Final Note and Caution

Psychology is the science of behavior, and since we are all behaving organisms, it is an intrinsically interesting and exciting subject. In this course you will find much information that will help you understand yourself and others. It will also provide you with some exciting new ways of viewing the world around you. The classroom demonstrations, which are a factor that distinguishes this section from most of the other introductory sections, will provide you with specific information about your own personality, cognitive abilities and behavioral patterns. Thus, this course should prove to be fun, as well as informative, as you will see.

There is, however, a caution that must be given before we start this course. Psychology is a subject that deals with the characteristics that are common across all normal human beings; it is

also a subject that has much to say about how individuals and groups of individuals differ from each other. If you feel that you will be offended by data that indicates that males and females may have different behavior patterns and different mental capacities; if you feel that you may be offended by data that says individuals of different races may have different behavioral predispositions and perhaps different patterns of abilities; if you feel offended by discussion of evolutionary approaches and theories; if you feel that you may be offended by data describing sexual practices or differences in sexual orientations and the possible basis for these differences; if you feel that you may be offended by data that says that some socially relevant behaviors, such as aggression and even criminality, may be genetically encoded; if you feel that you may be uncomfortable in learning that normal people (like you), who are generally kind, sympathetic and moral in their actions, may also have the capacity and the predisposition to do hurtful and uncaring things, including the murder and mutilation of other human beings, then this is **NOT** the course for you. Psychology will tell you *what the research indicates is factually true*, or is most likely to be true based upon our current state of knowledge as derived from systematic experiments and observations. Some of these things may not make you happy, some of these things may disagree with your political and religious beliefs while other facts may disagree with what you wish were true. Some of this data and some of this information may make you personally uncomfortable. Truth is often uncomfortable, like the truth that we must all grow old and die. If you are looking for comfort, and happy facts, then you should take a course in music or art appreciation, or something else other than Introductory Psychology. If, however, you are looking for information about how and why people behave as they do, or you want to learn how various identifiable groups of people are the same and how they differ, then this course is the way to start. As always, choice is yours.

Further information about academic regulations, course withdrawal dates and credits can be found in the University Calendar. You are encouraged to read this material.

If you run into trouble and need information about studying, preparing for exams, note taking or time management, free workshops and advice are available from the Student Resources Center, which can be reached through the School and College Liaison Office at 604-822-4319.

Remember to check the online course outline at www.psych.ubc.ca for any schedule changes and for the latest information on office hours and locations.

Important Note

Students registered with the Disabilities Resource Center should speak to Dr. Coren by or before September 15. Failure to do so may result in a refusal of any academic accommodations.

