

INTRODUCTORY PSYCHOLOGY

COURSE SYLLABUS
PSY101/001 2009/10

COURSE MEETINGS
MWF's in Swing Space 221, from 9:00 to 9:50 am

INSTRUCTOR CONTACT INFORMATION

Instructor: Dr. Peter Graf
Office: Kenny 3110
Phone: 604.822.6635
Email: pgraf@psych.ubc.ca
Website: www.psych.ubc.ca/~pgraf/
Office Hrs: M 1-2 pm (or by appointment)

TEACHING ASSISTANT CONTACT INFORMATION

Please consult the course web pages for information about teaching assistants, their office location, office hours and contact information

COURSE OVERVIEW

Psychology is the scientific study of behavior and the mind. This course provides an overview of the study of psychology, focusing on historical and current issues and problems, the methods that are used for investigating them, the results that have been reported and the theories that explain them.

This course will change your mind and open your eyes. It will affect the way you think about people, situations and common objects. You will gain a new understanding of everyday mysteries like seeing, dreaming and remembering, as well as insights into moods, personality and relationships. You will learn about how research is done, and about the difference between good and bad research. Upon completing this course, you will know the basic subject matter of psychology, its approaches to gathering and evaluating evidence about the causes of behavior and the functioning of the mind. You will also gain insight into how psychological knowledge can be, and has been, applied to everyday situations in order to improve the quality of our lives and the world around us.



Required Text
Psychology 1st Canadian Edition
David G. Myers
2007 Worth Publishers

Optional Text
Study Guide for Text

OBJECTIVES

1. **To gain knowledge.** By completing this course, you will gain an understanding of major psychological approaches to the study of behavior and the mind, a grasp of the focal issues and problems addressed by psychology, an awareness of the origins of psychology as a science and of important milestones in its development, a familiarity with research findings, concepts and terminology, and an understanding of the scientific approach to research. Your mastery of knowledge about psychology will be evaluated most directly by means of in-class quizzes, tests and exams.
2. **To develop research values and skills.** This course is intended to stimulate your curiosity about human and animal behavior and their minds, to give you an appreciation for the scientific method and for its limitations and to help develop a critical attitude toward generalizations that appear in the scientific literature and in the popular press.
3. **To advance your personal development.** A systematic introduction to psychology will increase your understanding of your own behavior as well as of the behavior of other people. You will also gain an understanding of some of the forces that act upon people (e.g., guilt, shyness, low self-esteem, social pressures) and perhaps limit your and their freedom when making choices.

INSTRUCTION/LEARNING METHODS

We will use three complementary instructional methods: Readings from the text, lectures, videos and demonstration exercises. The text and lectures are an efficient means for communicating basic knowledge. You will get the most out of the lectures if you read the assigned chapters ahead of time (see the attached schedule of readings to find out what is planned for each week). The videos are intended to highlight the real-life context of psychology, and occasional exercises provide a modicum of hands-on experience with research.

An ancient Chinese proverb says: *I see and I forget, I hear and I remember, I do and I understand*. Is this true? Research has shown that some students learn by seeing/reading, some by hearing/listening, and some by doing. More important, we know that most students learn best when they employ all three forms of learning, and when they practice what they hope to master.

CLASS WEBSITE

Please visit the class websites often. We will use the websites to post lecture notes, information about in-class tests and exams, grades, as well as any questions/issues that arise in the course of the term.

CLASS ATTENDANCE

Class attendance is critical. We do not take a roll call, but you will miss valuable information if you choose not to attend class. Videos will be shown only once and they are not available for review/previous in the library. The lectures and videos will cover materials that are not covered in the text, and any of these materials may be included on the tests and exams. Most importantly, there will be 5 surprise quizzes; they will be announced only in class at the lecture immediately preceding their occurrence. If you must be absent from class for any reason, it is your responsibility to ensure that you obtain high quality notes from one of your classmates and that you learn about all assignments and quiz dates. Get to know your classmates today!

CLASS CONDUCT

Please arrive on time and don't leave early; in a large class either arriving late or leaving early is noisy and irritating.

Please turn off your cell phone or pagers. Do not come to class to talk, to eat, to sleep, to read the newspaper, watch videos, play games, etc.

GRADING / EVALUATION

Your grade in this course will be based on your performance on the best 4 of the 5 quizzes, one in-class test, and a cumulative Xmas exam.

Each quiz will be worth 5% (4 * 5% = 20%); the in-class test will be worth 35%; the Xmas exam will be worth 45% of your course grade.

The in-class test will be held on Friday October 23, 2009. Mark your calendar today.

The Xmas exam & end-of-year exam will be held during the examination periods. **DO NOT BOOK ANY HOLIDAYS & DO NOT MAKE ANY WORK COMMITMENTS UNTIL YOU KNOW THE EXAM SCHEDULE.**

Each test and exam may include both multiple choice and short-answer questions; the quizzes will consist entirely of multiple choice questions. Questions will be taken from both the text and lectures. Materials from the text that are not covered in lectures, as well as materials from the lectures that are not covered in the text, including videos shown in class, are fair game for inclusion

on the tests and exams. For this reason, if you must be absent from class for any reason, make sure you obtain high quality notes from one of your classmates.

GRADE SCALING

Faculties, departments and schools reserve the right to scale grades in order to maintain equity among sections and conformity to university, faculty and department or school norms. Thus, please note that the unofficial grades you will receive from me – the instructor – might be changed by the faculty, department or school. Grades are not official until they appear on the student's academic record.

If necessary, the grades from this course will be scaled (curved) to obtain an average between 65 and 67%, with an SD of 12%.

MAKE-UP TESTS & EXAMS

Quizzes, the in-class test and the Xmas exam will be given on the scheduled dates only. There will be no make-ups. If you fail to write a test or an exam, you will receive a grade of zero. **There will be no re-writes for quizzes. Re-writes for the test and exam will be granted only if you provide a valid written medical excuse.** If you require a written medical excuse, the Student Health Centre will provide them for Xmas & End-of-year exams. For the in-class test, you must obtain a written note from a physician. The medical note must state the date of your illness. No exceptions will be made.

EXPERIMENTAL PARTICIPATION CREDITS

One way to learn more about psychology is to be a participant in ongoing research projects. You may earn up to 6 points of credit (toward your grade in this course) by participating in approved experiments that are posted on hsp.psych.ubc.ca. These extra credits will be added to your final course grade, after any scaling that may have been applied.

PHYSICAL OR LEARNING DISABILITIES

UBC is committed to equal opportunity in education for all students including those with documented physical disabilities or learning disabilities. If you have a disability that affects your learning or performance on tests or exams please contact the Disability Resource Centre in Brock Hall 1040, 1874 East Mall, Phone: 604.882.5844.

CHEATING

Because cheating is a serious offense, your quizzes, test and exam will be scrutinized for evidence of cheating. You are cheating if you copy answers from another person's quiz, test or exam or when you let someone else copy from you. If you are not protecting your work during a quiz, test or exam, you are creating an environment for cheating. All incidences of cheating will be reported to the head of the Department of Psychology. Please read the UBC policy on academic misconduct.

QUESTIONS & PROBLEMS

Further information about academic regulations, course withdrawal dates & credits can be found in the UBC calendar. 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 Recruitment & Advising Office which can be reached through the School and College Liaison Office at 604.822.4319.

This schedule is a topic-by-topic outline of the course. The dates refer to the approximate calendar date when we will begin to cover each new topic. The date for the In-class test is fixed – **NOTE THIS DATE AND REMEMBER IT.** All chapter references are to Myers Psychology: 1st Canadian Edition.

LECTURE & TEST/EXAM SCHEDULE

Note: Quizzes will be scheduled from time to time; the date for each quiz will be announced in class at the lecture immediately preceding each quiz.

Week of	Reading Assignment	Topic Description
Monday September 7, Labor Day, No classes ... the University is Closed		
Sep 9	Myer preface	Buy and peruse the text and study guide. Consider buying/sharing the study guide; it gives lots of examples of test questions. In class, we will review the course outline, discuss participation in research.
Sep 14	Meyer prologue	Topic: An historical introduction to psychology, placing psychology in context Activities: Introspection, the clinical bias in psychology & contemporary neuroscience.
Sep 21	Myers #1	Topic: The tactics of psychology. The lectures will provide an overview of research methods used in psychology, as well as give a brief introduction to independent and dependent variables, to measurement scales, and to descriptive statistics. Movie: Understanding Research (if time permits)
Sep 28	Myers #1	Continued with an emphasis on stats Activity/Demo: Making inferences from small and large samples
Oct 5	Myers #2	Topic: Neuroscience & Behavior ... the hardware side of psychology ... from neurons to the brain, from structure to function. Activity/Demo: The speed of neural transmission
Monday October 12: Thanksgiving Day, No classes ... the University is Closed		
Oct 12	Myers #3	Topic: Nature, Nurture & Human Diversity
Oct 19	Myers #3	Continued & Review (if time permits) <b style="text-align: right;">In-Class Test: Friday October 23, 2009
Oct 26	Myers #4	Topic: Development through the Lifespan
Nov 2	Myers #5 & 6	Topic: Sensation and Perception
Nov 9	Myers #7	Topic: States of Consciousness The mind awake & asleep
Wednesday Nov 11: Remembrance Day, No classes ... the University is Closed		
Nov 16	Myers #8	Topic: Learning, Forming habits & overcoming them
Nov 23	Myers #9	Topic: Memory
Nov 30		Continued
		Friday December 4, 2009: Last day of classes
Xmas Examination Period: December 8 – 22 2009		

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 4.5 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. 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>) and read the University's Policy 69 (available at <http://www.students.ubc.ca/calendar/index.cfm?tree=3,54,111,0>).