

Psychology 101 - Section 1

Course Syllabus

Course Meetings

MWF's in Buch A106 – 9:00 – 9:50

Instructor and TA contact information

Instructor: Dr. Scott Sinnett
Office: Kenny 3010
Phone: 604-822-0069
Email: ss@psych.ubc.ca
Office hrs: M 3:00 – 4:00

TA

TBA

Textbook

Psychology: The Adaptive Mind (3rd Canadian Edition) by D. Stephen Lindsay, Delroy L. Paulhus, & James S. Nairne.

Course Description

Psychology is the scientific study of behaviour and mind. This course is designed to introduce an overview of the field and will focus on many of the theories and methodologies used to scientifically study the many areas of psychology. As this is an introductory course, we will introduce and discuss the major areas of psychology ranging from clinical to experimental, to social, and to biological psychology. Upon completion of this course you should have an understanding of how research is conducted, how psychologists evaluate and understand behaviour, how psychology is applied to many common everyday situations, and of course, a clear picture of the diverse field of psychology.

Student's Responsibilities

You will be responsible for all the material covered in the both the textbook and the lectures. You will notice a degree of overlap between the textbook and

lectures. Having said that, you are responsible for material that is not covered in class, but is in the text. Likewise, there will be much material in the lectures that is not covered in the textbook, in addition to supplementary material and examples that will clarify some of the more difficult material in the textbook. Thus, if you would like to obtain a good grade in this course, it is imperative that you come to class. It is highly recommended that you read the reading assignments before class, as this will help you to more clearly understand the lecture.

Evaluation

Your grade will be based on 4 examinations. Specifically, there will be 1 midterm given during each semester and a 'final' exam at the end of each semester (the Christmas and April exams). Each exam will be worth 25% of your grade and be non-cumulative (i.e., you will be responsible for only the material that you have not been tested on yet). The exams will be timed and due to class size, entirely multiple choice.

When you arrive for an exam, make sure you have your student number and a dark lead (2HB) pencil. On days when there is an exam, no lecture will be given. Make sure you arrive on time, as no extra time will be given. This is especially important for the midterms, as you will have only the allotted class time to complete the exam.

Psychology Department's policy on Grade Distribution 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.

Make-up exams

Let us first begin by saying that there will absolutely be NO make-up exams. If you fail to come to an exam, you will be given a zero. The only exception to this rule is if you have a valid written medical excuse. The student health centre will provide them for the Christmas and End-of-year exams. A note from a physician must state the date of your illness.

Extra Credit

You have the opportunity to earn up to 4 extra credit points by participating in research being conducted in the Psychology Department. This is a good way to

not only earn extra credit, but to also participate in psychological experiments that highlight how psychologists experimentally investigate behaviour. These bonus points will be added to your scaled score. The rate of credit is ½ credit for every ½ hour of participation. The human subject pool website is <http://hsp.psych.ubc.ca>.

More information on the subject pool, including guidelines for participants, researchers, and instructors can be found at <http://www.psych.ubc.ca/resguide.psy>. Additional information will be given in class.

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>).

Physical or Learning Disabilities

UBC is committed to equal opportunity in education for all students, including those with documented learning or physical disabilities. If you have a disability that affects your performance on exams or in the classroom, please contact the disability resource centre in Brock Hall 1040, 1874 East Mall, Phone: 604-822-5844.

Approximate Class Dates, Required Readings and Topics

Week	Beginning	Required Reading	Topic
Week 1	Sept 5	(Prologue)	Introduction
	Sept 7	Chapter 1	What is Psychology?
Week 2	Sept 10	Chapter 2	Research Methods
Week 3	Sept 17	Chapter 3	Biological Processes
Week 4	Sept 24	Chapter 3	Biological Processes
Week 5	Oct 1	Chapter 4	Sensation
Week 6	Oct 10	Chapter 4	Perception
Week 7	Oct 15	Chapter 5	Mid term exam this week Consciousness
Week 8	Oct 22	Chapter 5	Consciousness
Week 9	Oct 29	Chapter 6	Learning
Week 10	Nov 5	Chapter 6	Learning
Week 11	Nov 14	Chapter 7	Memory
Week 12	Nov 19	Chapter 7	Memory
Week 13	Nov 26	Chapter 8	Thought and Language