

PSYC 101: INTRODUCTION TO BIOLOGICAL AND COGNITIVE PSYCHOLOGY

Summer 2008: Term 1

WHO, WHEN, AND WHERE

- Course Instructor:** Steven Barnes
Room 3535, Kenny Psychology
sjb@nervouscreation.com
Office Hours: Mondays 17:30 – 18:30, or by appointment.
- Course TA:** Anna Levin
Room 1910, Kenny Psychology
anna@psych.ubc.ca
Office Hours: By appointment.
- Schedule:** MW, 19:00 – 21:30, West Mall Swing Space Room 221
- Course Website:** <http://psyc101summer.nervouscreation.com/>
On this website you will find the following: Lecture slides (posted weekly), grades, course syllabus, and a collection of useful links related to the course. Check the course website frequently for updated information about required readings, changes in the course structure/dates, etc.

Notes: (1) Office hours might change through the term. Please check the course website for updated office hours; (2) Emails will be answered on weekdays during normal working hours. Please limit emailed questions to ones that can be answered briefly. For more complex questions, please come to my office hour or contact one of us to schedule an appointment to meet with you.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will introduce you to many of the major areas of the field of Psychology: the scientific study of behaviour. This course will examine some of the fundamental aspects of behaviour, by examining the biological basis of behaviour, the processes of sensation, perception, consciousness, learning and memory, and also the nature of language and thought.

The course materials will be presented as lectures, text materials, and videos.

EVALUATION

The following types of student evaluation will be used. The percentage weight that each item carries is given in parentheses.

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| (a) Midterm--Exam #1 (45%) | 26 May 2008 (in regular class time). |
| (b) End of Term--Exam #2 (55%) | During Exam Period (13,14 June 2008). |

Examinations:

The exams are not cumulative; that is, they cover only previously untested reading and lecture material. That is, Exam # 2 covers everything since the material covered in Exam # 1. That being said, you should be aware that the content presented later in the course does build on the content presented earlier on in the course.

The examinations will be composed of questions that use the multiple-choice format, and will be closed-book.

There will be topics covered in class that are not in the text and topics in the text that are not covered in class. You will be responsible for both in the examinations. That is, all readings and all lecture material will be tested.

The registrar's office schedules the end of term exams any time during the exam periods noted above. **Students are responsible for ensuring they are available throughout that period.**

You should bring picture I.D. (student card) to all examinations.

All multiple-choice questions on the exam will require that you use Scantron sheets to record your answers.

It is a university regulation (see the UBC Calendar) that students may not view their final examinations (in this course: the exam you will write during the June 13-14 examination period) without special written permission from the Dean's Office. During such a viewing students and professors are prohibited from discussing the grading. If you are unhappy with your grade on the final examination, you may officially request from the Registrar's Office (within 4 weeks of the announcement of the final grades) that your examination be remarked (see the UBC Calendar).

EXTRA CREDIT SCHEME

You can gain extra credit for this course (up to a maximum of 2%) by participating in accredited psychological experiments or by completing library projects.

Experimental Participation. You can earn **one** credit point (1%) for each hour of participation in experiments. Students are required initially to request a Human Subject Pool (HSP) user account using the self-creation tool, at <http://hsp.psych.ubc.ca>. You can then browse advertised experiments for credit, view available time slots, sign up for experiments, and register or check on the course credits you have earned. At the end of each term a credit summary will also be posted on the Psychology department website. The Research Participation System opens the first week of September for the Fall Term session.

Library Option. As an alternative to experimental participation, students may obtain extra credit by completing a library project. Such projects consist of reading and summarizing (in written form) a recent **peer-reviewed research article** in a journal published by the Association for Psychological Science (APS), the American Psychological Association (APA), the Canadian Psychological Association (CPA), or the Psychonomic Society. The article must have been published **within the last 12 months**, and the summary should be about **500 words** in length. The student will receive **one** credit point (1%) for each article summary. Article summaries, together with hard copies of summarized articles, must be submitted to Dr. Elizabeth Dunn, in Kenny 2013, at least **10 days before the end of classes in each term**.

COURSE TEXT

Required: Weiten, W. & McCann, D. (2007). *Psychology: Themes & Variations. First Canadian Edition*. Thomson Nelson.

I have negotiated a custom course package with the publisher of this text that contains only those readings that will be assigned for this course (i.e., approximately half of the text). This will save you the cost of purchasing the entire text. That custom course package is available from UBC bookstore.

If you wish to purchase the entire text (new or used), you can do so via UBC bookstore or some other book dealers.

From time to time, the text may be supplemented by other readings to facilitate your understanding of the course materials. Please attend class and check the course website to obtain more information about these readings.

Optional: Any additional learning aids associated with the textbook (e.g., Study Guide, Concept Chart, Online Study Aid: 'Thompson Now') are optional. Although they can be useful in directing your attention to important materials and enhancing your understanding and retention of the materials, you will never be examined on any materials in these optional reading materials.

OUTLINE OF TOPICS:

The course topics will be covered according to the following schedule (chapter numbers in parentheses refer to assigned readings from the Weiten & McCann text):

- DAY 1 (May 5):* **Course Outline and Organization.
Psychology of 1st Year (Chapter 1, pages 31-37; The Internet preface of the textbook; Appendix D).**
- DAY 2 (May 7):* **The Evolution of Psychology (Chapter 1, remainders).**
- DAY 3 (May 12):* **Psychological Research (Chapter 2).
Basic Statistical Methods (Appendix B).**
- DAY 4 (May 14):* **Biopsychology (Chapter 3).**
- May. 19th: Victoria Day. University closed.*
- DAY 5 (May 21):* **Evolutionary Bases of Behaviour (Chapter 3 cont'd).
Overview of Exam #1.**
- DAY 6 (May 26):* **Exam #1.**
- DAY 7 (May 28):* **Sensation & Perception (Chapter 4).**
- DAY 8 (June 2):* **Consciousness (Chapter 5).**
- DAY 9 (Jun 4):* **Learning Processes (Chapter 6).**
- DAY 10 (Jun 9):* **Human Memory (Chapter 7).**
- DAY 11 (Jun 11):* **Language & Thought (Chapter 8).
Overview of Exam #2.**

EXAM PERIOD (Evening of June 13, or June 14): Exam #2.

Note: On occasion it will be necessary for a topic to be extended into a prior or subsequent day.

WITHDRAWAL DATES

If you wish to withdraw from this course without any record of the course on your transcript, you must do so on or before **9 May 2008**. If you wish to withdraw with a "W" on your transcript, you must do so before **23 May 2008**.

GRADING AND ATTENDANCE

Grading. The marks for each exam will be posted on the course web site (see the “Grades” tab) with the student numbers, but not the names, of the students. Students have the right to request that their own grade is not posted (an e-mail to the instructor will suffice). Such students can come to the office hours to see their own grades. Students who wish to inspect their exams may do so by visiting the teaching assistant during office hours.

All faculties, departments and schools at UBC reserve the right to scale grades in order to maintain equity among sections and conformity to university, faculty, departmental or school norms. Students should therefore note that the faculty or department might change an unofficial grade given by the instructor. Grades are not official until they appear on a student’s academic record. With regard to this grading practice, 1st and 2nd year courses in Psychology are obliged to achieve a grade average at the end of the course of between 63 – 67 %. Therefore, although this seldom occurs, grades may be scaled to meet this requirement.

Attendance. In this course, material that is taught in class may be different from or supplement the text material. It is, therefore, essential that you attend classes and it is a good idea to read ahead in the text. If, however, you do have to miss a class you are responsible for getting class notes from another student. If Exam #1 is missed, a medical note from a physician is required in order to qualify for a make-up exam. Please hand that Doctor’s note in to the instructor as soon as you return to school. If Exam #2 is missed, you must apply through the Registrars office in order to receive a make-up exam. Please refer to the UBC Calendar for details of ‘academic concession.’

The University accommodates students with disabilities who have registered with the Disability Resource Centre. The University also accommodates students whose religious obligations conflict with attendance or scheduled tests or exams. Please let the instructor know in advance, preferably in the first few weeks of class, if you will require any accommodation on these grounds. Other absences for varsity athletics, family obligations or other similar commitments are not part of University policy and students should not assume they will be accommodated. Please discuss this with the instructor before the withdrawal dates—see above.

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 the 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.universitycounsel.ubc.ca/policies/policy69.html>).

Last Modified: May 5, 2008.