

Introduction to Psychology

Lecture Room F213

Mon/Wed: 12:30 am - - 1:50 pm - Sections 1-6

Mon/Wed: 2:00 pm - - 3:20 pm - Sections 7-12



Instructor: Dr. Darren Campbell

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Laboratory Instructor: Rachel Norman

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Office Hour: Tue/Thu 11:30 am - 1:30 pm, & other times by appointment

Room: A222

Phone: 705-474-3450 Ext 4400

Required Text

Passer, Smith, Atkinson, Mitchell, & Muir. (2014). *Psychology: Frontiers and Applications*, 5th Cdn Ed. Toronto, CA: McGraw-Hill Ryerson.

Course Objectives and Content

The purpose of this survey course is to increase your understanding of psychology. PSYC 1106 stresses *biological* and *environmental* explanations of *thoughts, feelings, and actions*.

Lectures will focus on *psychological theories and methods, neuroanatomy and neurophysiology, the senses, sleep and dreaming, classical and operant conditioning, and memory*.

By the end of the course, you will be able to:

1. identify the key characteristics of the foundational theories of psychology,
2. contrast psychological explanations of human and animal behaviour (broadly defined),
3. derive real-world implications of psychological theories and findings, and
4. recognise core Psychology findings on biology, perception, consciousness, learning, and memory.

Labs offer *small-group* instruction where students develop a concrete understanding of *the scientific method in psychology* through "hands-on" experiences. The labs also allow you to refine your *oral and visual presentation skills*. Early labs focus on *design and statistical analysis*. Later labs focus on student *presentations* on select psychology topics.

By the end of the lab portion of the course, you will be able to:

5. demonstrate simple data analysis skills, and
6. present a summary of psychological findings reflecting content comprehension, oral communication skills, understanding of visual presentation techniques, and interactive communication skills.

<u>Evaluation</u>		
Mid-Term Exam 1		16% (including, but not limited to, chapters 1, 2, 3)
Mid-Term Exam 2		16% (including, but not limited to, chapters 4, 5, 6)
Final Exam		30% (including, but not limited to, all 8 chapters)
Online Open-Book Chapter Quizzes	8%	(8 chapters each worth 1%)
Lab Assignments	12%	(4 assignments @ 3% each)
Lab Presentation	10%	
Lab Presentation related activities	8%	
Bonus (optional)	3%	(Research Part., TED write-ups, Individual topic)

Letter Grades

"A" – (80-100%) "B" – (70-79%) "C" – (60-69%) "D" – (50-59%) "F" – (0-49%)

For performance descriptions for each letter grade see the Nip. U. link below

<http://www.nipissingu.ca/calendar/regulations/academic/Pages/Evaluation-and-Grading-System.aspx>

Note 1: If your final score is 69.7%, you earned a grade of 69% not 70%. You need a 70.0% or higher to earn a 70% or higher.

Note 2: To reward improved learning, if you score substantially higher (+20% or greater) on the final exam than you did on the mean of your two midterms, then I will increase the weighting of the final exam to 40% from 30% and reduce the weighting of each midterm to 11% from 16%.

Exams

Exam questions will reflect all textbook material assigned and the information discussed in the lectures and labs, including exercises, assignments, and videos up to the time of the exam.

Midterm Exams 1 & 2 (16% each) ~50 - 65 questions including textbook, lecture, & lab content. Midterm Exams must be taken in the lecture section in which the student is registered. Attending the wrong lecture section to write the exam will result in a zero.

Final Exam (30%) ~ 120 - 160 questions on content covered throughout the whole course (comprehensive)

Make-up exams ONLY will be permitted for medical or compassionate reasons with appropriate documentation. Make-up exam format will differ from the original. If you cannot write the make-up exam in a timely manner, you will receive a zero. Strict university rules make this difficult.

Online Assignments (Total 8%)

For each textbook chapter you will have the opportunity to complete a multiple-choice quiz focused on the chapter content. These assignments will be administered online through Blackboard with a specific and limited time-window in which to complete the quiz. Each quiz will be worth 1% of your final mark.

Grade Monitoring

Keep track of your marks and save your assignments. Grades will be posted periodically. If your posted grades do not match your own records, contact us immediately. Supply us with the supporting documentation (graded feedback) to get your grades corrected. Keep your records and assignments until you have your official final grade.

Lab (Total 30%)

Rachel will provide you with detailed instructions, rules, and deadlines regarding the lab components of the course. This information also will be posted on the course website.

Questions

This syllabus, handouts, and the course websites are an important resource for basic information, especially scheduling of classes, due-dates, et cetera. Blackboard also will be very informative.

Communications

For quick Face-to-Face Meetings:

Dr. C.: Before or After lectures (any section)

R.N.: Before or After labs (any section)

If you wish a personal, confidential meeting, contact either myself or Rachel to arrange a mutually convenient meeting time.

Email and Voicemail

We are conscientious about replying promptly. Email is preferred. If you use voice mail, make sure to enunciate your name and the complete phone number clearly.

Note: There are hundreds of students in my Introduction to Psychology sections! For commonly raised questions, I will post answers on Blackboard rather than provide each person with a detailed response.

Good Emails: asking about the course content or raving about how you love the course

Bad Emails: asking questions such as

“What did we do in class?” → check Blackboard powerpoint postings

“Did I miss anything important in class?” → Yes. Of course!

“When is my next lab?” → check your lab syllabus or Blackboard

“Can I have an extension on my presentation because my goldfish died?” → No.

I will focus my attention on responding to good questions, and may not respond to bad emails.

Ask Questions!: If you are confused about something, many other students also likely are confused.

Proper and Fair Behaviour

We all prefer a positive classroom environment that supports learning and fair evaluations. Disruptive behaviour, such as talking during lectures, watching videos, and engaging in social media activities is unacceptable. Together, we will respond to such disruptive behaviour.

Lectures

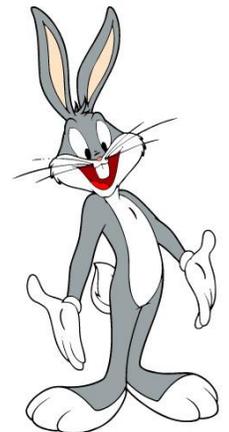
Powerpoint slides of the lectures will be posted on Blackboard. The slides will not include copyright materials. Lectures will include select textbook material, important content not in your textbook, and interactive participation. In other words, it is important and useful for you to attend the lectures.

Course Goals

I hope and expect that you will enjoy Psychology. But, just as importantly, I hope and expect that you will develop a greater understanding and insight into the complexities of human (and animal) behaviour!

Tentative Lecture Schedule and Important Dates

<u>Date</u>	<u>Readings</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>BB Chapter Quiz</u> Go online for dates
Sep 9	Syllabus	Admin / Introductions	
Sep 14	<i>Chapter 1</i>	<i>Psychological Perspectives</i>	1
Sep 16		continued	
Sep 21	<i>Chapter 2</i>	<i>Research Measurement & Design</i>	2
<i>Last Day to Register for FA or FW courses</i>			
Sep 23		continued	
Sep 28	<i>Chapter 3</i>	<i>BioPsych</i>	3
Sep 30		continued	
Oct 5		Finish Up	
Oct 7	Midterm 1	Worth 16%	
<i>Oct 12-16</i>	<i>Thanksgiving Day & Study Week</i>		
Oct 19	<i>Chapter 4</i>	<i>Genetics & Evolution</i>	4
Oct 21		Continued	
Oct 26	<i>Chapter 5</i>	<i>Sensation / Perception</i>	5
Oct 28		continued	
Nov 2	<i>Chapter 6</i>	<i>Consciousness</i>	6
Nov 4		continued	
<i>Nov 6</i>	<i>Last Day to withdraw from FA courses</i>		
Nov 9		Finish Up	
Nov 11	Midterm 2	Worth 16%	
Nov 16	<i>Chapter 7</i>	<i>Learning</i>	7
Nov 18		continued	
Nov 23		continued	
Nov 25	<i>Chapter 8</i>	<i>Memory</i>	8
Nov 30		continued	
Dec 2		continued	
Dec 7		Finish Up	
<i>Dec 8-20</i>	<i>Final Examination Period</i>	Final Exam 30%	



Your Final Exam will be given in the final examination period, and you must be available for it.

Extra Marks Options

There is an opportunity to earn extra credit (maximum of 3%) in this course. Extra credit will be added to your final grade. All Option 1 extra credit participation must be completed on or before **Friday, December 4th, 2015**. All Option 2 and Option 3 extra credit assignments must be completed on or before **Monday, November 30th, 2015**. Each of these options are described below.

Options 2 and 3 are graded assignments. They are not simple participation marks. For Options 2 and 3 to increase your chances of getting the full credits, follow the instructions carefully and ask questions. If you choose Options 2 and 3, you also may want to complete additional extra credit activities to ensure you get the full 3%. You are free to participate in as many of these options as you like.

Option 1: Participation in research

You may volunteer to participate in research experiments that are being carried out by researchers at Nipissing University who have registered to participate in the SONA system. Each experiment will have details about what it entails and how many credits you will receive for participating. In this class, you can earn up to a maximum of 3% extra credit which will be added to your final grade at the end of the term. **Please note: 1 credit = 1 hour of research credit = 1%. So, 0.5 credits = 0.5 hours of research credit = 0.5%.** Research experiments are accessed via an online system called SONA. **To use this system, you first must enroll yourself as a user.**

To enroll in SONA, go to:

<https://nipissingu.sona-systems.com/Default.aspx?ReturnUrl=%2f>.

Once there, click "**Request an account here**" located in the lower left-hand corner of the screen just below "**New Participant?**" You will then be prompted to enter some basic information about yourself. You will also be asked to submit an "**xxxxxx@community.nipissingu.ca**" email address. You **MUST** use your Nipissing email address for this. Once completed, you will be sent an email with password.

When you are looking at the full list of experiments that you are eligible for, simply click an experiment, and information will be displayed about the length of the study, what the study entails, and where the study takes place. If you choose to participate **YOU MUST** click on "**view available time slots,**" and **register for a timeslot that fits in your schedule.** You cannot simply show up at a time without having registered for that timeslot.

If you need to cancel the time you have signed up for, you must login to the system and cancel your time as many hours in advance as required by the particular experiment (often it is 24 hours but this time can differ by experiment so make sure to note this information when signing up). Failure to do so will be counted as a "no show." **After two "no shows," your access to the system will be blocked, and you will not be able to participate in any further experiments for the remainder of the semester.**

When you sign up for an experiment you will receive an email confirmation with the date, time, and location of the experiment. It is also a good idea to **write down the date, time, location of the experiment** and the experimenter's name and email address.

Option 2: View TED talks and write a 1-page summary (single-space, 12-pt font)

You may select one or more of the TED talks listed below to view and write a 1-page summary of the talk.

In your full one-page summary, you must include the following:

- 1) describe the main points of the talk (i.e., the take-home messages),
- 2) identify the theoretical perspective(s) that underlie the talk (e.g., cognitive, behavioural, evolutionary),
- 3) identify the primary outcome / dependent variable(s) and predictor / independent variable(s),
- 4) identify which section of the textbook reviews the topic covered in the talk.

If the TED talk take-home message is *the same* as that of the textbook information:

- 5a) describe how the TED talk exemplifies (illustrates) the textbook message.

If the TED talk take-home message *differs from* that of the textbook:

- 5b) describe how it differs. [Are the findings and interpretation complementary or contradictory to that described in the textbook and how so?]

Each summary will be worth 0.5 or 1% (depending on the length of the video). The score will be added to your final grade.

http://www.ted.com/talks/stuart_firestein_the_pursuit_of_ignorance.html 1%

http://www.ted.com/talks/sherwin_nuland_on_electroshock_therapy#t-52833 1%

http://www.ted.com/talks/miguel_nicolelis_a_monkey_that_controls_a_robot_with_its_thoughts_no_really.html 1%

https://www.ted.com/talks/russell_foster_why_do_we_sleep#t-526285 1%

http://www.ted.com/talks/elizabeth_loftus_the_fiction_of_memory.html 1%

http://www.ted.com/talks/laura_carstensen_older_people_are_happier.html 0.5%

http://www.ted.com/talks/angela_lee_duckworth_the_key_to_success_grit.html 0.5%

Option 3: Psychology Special Topic Powerpoint Presentation and Verbal or Written Summary**Worth 3%**

Your general task is to construct a small powerpoint presentation on a psychological topic of interest. You also will need to provide a verbal presentation of the powerpoint slides to me or submit a 2-page written summary to accompany the powerpoint presentation.

Tasks:

- 1) You will talk to me about potential topics of interest and get my general approval by **October 5th, 2015**.
- 2) You will construct a brief outline and simple draft of your proposed powerpoint presentation. This draft should include a description of the general question / topic of interest, a list of the key concepts involved, preliminary definitions of each concept, and potential ways in which you could investigate / answer your topic questions.
- 3) You will email me the outline/draft by **October 19th, 2015**. We will identify a common meeting time to clarify your topic and give you final approval of your outline and topic.

For the presentation, you will construct a powerpoint presentation composed of 10-15 informative and interesting slides that

- a) introduce and describe your topic
- b) comment on two key theories, models, or biological explanations most relevant to this topic
- c) define the key terms and concepts
- d) describe a descriptive study, a correlational study (your key concept & a potentially relevant explanatory variable), and an experimental study - three ways to investigate your topic. [These study descriptions should illustrate how you can generate insight or greater understanding into your topic.]
- e) identify which of these three designs you prefer and explain what insight or information it gives you that the other designs do not about this topic

If you choose to present your powerpoint presentation to me,

- 4a) you will email your powerpoint presentation and schedule a presentation time no later than **November 18th, 2015**.

If you choose to submit a two-page written summary with your powerpoint presentation,

- 4b) you will email me your powerpoint presentation and the two-page written summary no later than **November 30th, 2015**.

Two-page Written Summary details:

This two-page summary should be in sentence and paragraph format. It should be written in 12-point Times New Roman font, double-spaced, and the pages need to have 2.54 cm (1 inch) borders.

You need a separate title page with the title, author, date, Course name (Introduction to Psychology (PSYC1106), Assignment name (Lecture Powerpoint Assignment), and professor name (Dr. Darren Campbell).