

PSYC-1000-005
Introduction to Psychology

The University of Winnipeg
Fall/Winter 2017-2018
Tues/Thurs
Time: 8:30am – 9:45am
Room: 4M47

Instructor: Dr. Mike Lee
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COURSE OBJECTIVES:

- To become aware of the major psychological approaches to the study of behaviour.
- To become aware of the major aspects of behaviour investigated by psychologists.
- To become familiar with the contributions of major figures in the field.
- To become familiar with major research findings and theories of the field.
- To become conversant in the unique language of psychology.
- To learn the methodology of psychology and its limitations.
- To become an informed consumer of psychological information.
- To gain self understanding and a greater understanding of others.
- To recognize ways to apply psychological findings to everyday life.
- To learn to appreciate the necessity of a multi-level explanation of behaviour.
- To become fascinated by the study of behaviour and mental processes!

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course is intended to introduce the student to the major areas of psychology, and is a requisite for all other courses in psychology. No prior knowledge of psychology is assumed, and so the course can serve as either a first course for psych majors/minors or as a taste of the field for non-majors. Major subfields of study within psychology that will be examined will include history, developmental, neuroscience, sensation, perception, learning, cognition, memory, personality, abnormal psychology, clinical, and social psychology. As you will learn, there is probably more to psychology than you ever realized! We will explore from a variety of domains how psychologists theorize about and conduct research in answering questions about human nature, particularly, individual and group behaviour and mental processes. From this one course, many of you who decide to continue in psychology will probably get a good idea of what areas of psychology interest you the most. Given the vast amount of material to be covered in this course, our goal is breadth, not depth! But we should delve into all of the areas sufficiently enough for you to undertake a good foundational understanding of all the basic areas that define psychology as a whole.

Generally speaking, psychologists are scientists who are trying to understand human behaviour ... why do humans act the way we do? As this course will show you, there are many different ways one can approach and try to answer this question. For example, some psychologists address this issue at the level of the brain. Such physiological psychologists ask questions like how is information passed along in the brain? Do certain parts of the brain control certain behaviours? What would happen if certain parts of the brain were damaged? Other psychologists, termed social psychologists, are more interested in the effect that other humans have on our behaviour. They study such things as conformance to authority, the variables that cause prejudicial behaviour, etc. Still other psychologists, termed cognitive psychologists, study the mental processes that underlie certain behaviours. How does information get into memory? How does attention work?

This course is a survey course meant to give you this "big picture" of the various approaches that have been used, and the major findings that have come, so far, from each approach. It is essentially a "best of" psychology course. By the end of the course you should have a good idea of what kinds of psychology you like, what kinds you don't like, and whether you want to pursue psychology in more detail.

METHOD OF TEACHING:

Lectures will constitute 90% of the teaching format. Films, in-class demonstrations, and other audio-visual materials will comprise the remaining 10%. Class participation and discussion are encouraged where and when appropriate. Lectures will be used (a) to clarify, illustrate or apply information brought out in the textbook; (b) to delve more intensively into topics covered by the textbook; and (c) to examine material not discussed in the textbook. Students are encouraged to attend all classes, as some material covered in class is not included in the text. Similarly, students should become very familiar with the assigned textbook chapters, as some material covered in the text is not included in lectures.

REQUIRED TEXT:

An Introduction to Psychological Science, Second Canadian Edition, Krause et al. (2018)

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Term Tests: There will be three (3) term tests, each weighted equally. The first two tests will be written during the normal class period, and the third test will be written during the exam period (see below for dates and times).

Although much of the text and lectures will coincide there will be several occasions when information in the text is not covered in class and information covered in class will not be in the text.

All exams are non-cumulative and will consist of multiple-choice questions. Questions will be based on all material presented in the textbook, lectures, films, etc. You are responsible for all material covered in class, and all material presented in the textbook. Note below that I have re-ordered the chapter readings somewhat from the order in which they appear in your textbook for the purposes of this class. You should base your reading of the textbook throughout the year around the course schedule listed below.

Research Requirement: See attached handout for more information. All students are expected to meet the Introductory Psychology research requirement. Students who fail to meet this requirement automatically receive a full step grade reduction to their final grade (e.g. A becomes A-, A- becomes B+, etc).

CLASS SCHEDULE & IMPORTANT DATES:

***Note: Not all class dates are shown**

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|--------------------|-------------------------|--|
| September 05 | First class | Introduction |
| September 07 | Chapter 1 | Introducing Psychological Science |
| September 19 | Chapter 2 | Reading and Evaluating Scientific Research |
| September 26 | Chapter 3 | Biological Psychology |
| October 05 | Term Test One | Chapters 1-3 and associated lectures |
| October 9-13 | No classes | |
| October 17 | Chapter 4 | Sensation and Perception |
| October 26 | Chapter 5 | Consciousness |
| November 02 | Chapter 10 | Human Development |
| November 14 | Term Test Two | Chapters 4, 5, 10 and associated lectures |
| November 16 | Chapter 7 | Memory |
| November 23 | Chapter 8 | Thought and Language |
| November 30 | Last class | |
| December 07 | *Term Test Three | Chapters 7-8 and associated lectures |

(*Exam start: 9am in 4M47)

GRADING SCHEME:

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|----|--------|
| A+ | 90-100 |
| A | 85-89 |
| A- | 80-84 |
| B+ | 76-79 |
| B | 70-75 |
| C+ | 66-69 |
| C | 60-65 |
| D | 50-59 |
| F | 0-49 |

Note: A final percentage grade that has a fractional component will be rounded up if it is .5 or more, and downward if it is .499... or less. For example, a final score of 79.5% would be rounded up to 80%, but a score of 79.3% would be rounded down to 79%.

Also, note that as for all University of Winnipeg courses, these cutoffs are tentative and may be changed in either direction by a) the professor, b) the departmental review committee, or c) the senate, when circumstances warrant.

Make-Up Exams: All tests must be written on the above dates. Make-up exams will ONLY be permitted for medical or compassionate reasons, provided the appropriate documentation is supplied, and must be formally arranged with the instructor.

Voluntary Withdrawal: The final VW date for this course is February 14, 2018.

Course Policies:

Questions via e-mail

The professor encourages students to ask questions—in person—before, during, or after class, or during office hours. Email is only an acceptable means of communication for discussion of course policy, scheduling make-up exams, and other administrative topics. The professor will not discuss course content over email.

Academic concession

The professor may grant concessions to students who have conflicting responsibilities (e.g., religious holidays, competitive sports) or unforeseen events (e.g., physical or emotional illness). If these circumstances befall you, please notify the professor by email as soon as possible. A note from an appropriate authority (e.g., medical doctor) is required to qualify for a concession. The note must confirm that the student was unfit or unavailable to write the exam on the set date. If the professor grants a concession, he and the student will schedule a make-up exam at a later time and place.

Exams

Students may not use books, calculators, electronic devices (including smart phones) or any other aids during exams, except their UW student card, pens, pencils, and erasers. Drinking containers are also permitted. Students need to bring pens, pencils and erasers to examinations. The professor will not provide any to students. Students must have their UW student card available during exams for identification purposes.

Academic misconduct

All of the University regulations concerning academic misconduct (e.g., plagiarism, cheating, failing to submit an examination on time) apply in this course. See the Course Calendar for full details. updated 17 Dec 2015 4

University Policies:

Students with documented disabilities, temporary or chronic medical conditions, requiring academic accommodations for tests/exams (e.g., private space) or during lectures/laboratories (e.g., access to volunteer notetakers) are encouraged to contact Accessibility Services (AS) at 786-9771 or email accessibilityservices@uwinnipeg.ca to discuss appropriate options. Specific information about AS is available online at <http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/accessibility>. All information about a student's disability or medical condition remains confidential.

The University asks that you please be respectful of the needs of classmates and instructors/professors by avoiding the use of unnecessary scented products while attending lectures. Exposure to scented products can trigger serious health reactions in persons with asthma, allergies, migraines or chemical sensitivities. Please consider using unscented necessary products and avoiding unnecessary products that are scented (e.g. perfume).

All students, faculty and staff have the right to participate, learn and work in an environment that is free of harassment and discrimination. The UW Respectful Working and Learning Environment Policy may be found online at www.uwinnipeg.ca/respect.

Students may choose not to attend classes or write examinations on holy days of their religion, but they must notify their instructors at least two weeks in advance. Instructors will then provide opportunity for students to make-up work and/or examinations without penalty. A list of religious holidays can be found at: <http://uwinnipeg.ca/academics/calendar/docs/important-notes.pdf>

Students facing a charge of academic or non-academic misconduct may choose to contact the University of Winnipeg Students' Association (UWSA) where a student advocate will be available to answer any questions about the process, help with building a case, and ensuring students have access to support. For more information or to schedule an appointment, visit our website at www.theuwsa.ca/academic-advocacy or call 204-786-9780.