Psychology 1XX3 Course Outline

Course Staff

Irene Laurie, Instructor

Location

MDCL 1102

Office Hours

Tuesdays and Thursdays 8:30-9:30

This class will meet twice per week. After the first meeting, Tuesday, June 22nd, the first hour of class will be an optional—but strongly recommended—hour of discussion and activities to deepen your understanding of the online lecture material. The second hour will be a lecture related to the online lectures. After the first meeting, watching the online lectures before each class is essential. The third hour will be office hours.

This class will use online learning software, E-Learning @ McMaster (ELM). Web lectures will be available through ELM. Announcements regarding the course, quizzes and all correspondence regarding this course will be through ELM. The instructor will respond within 48 hours (not including Saturday, Sunday and holidays) to ELM correspondence.

In addition to the instructor, you have been assigned to a study group. You will have a discussion list set up on ELM for the use of your group.

Course Description

PSYCHOLOGY 1XX3 introduces the underlying physiology which informs Psychology, Neuroscience and Behaviour. Using a research framework, we examine several levels of analysis from Evolution and Development to the underlying mechanisms behind our sensations and perceptions.

In combination with Psych 1X03, students will emerge with the background, terminology and skills to support further courses in Psychology, Neuroscience and Behaviour.

Course Goals

By the end of this course, students should be able to:

1. Analyse questions in psychology from a developmental, evolutionary and neuroscience perspective
2. Apply your knowledge of the issues and methods of developmental, evolutionary and neuroscience research
3. Apply your knowledge of neural and brain structure, function, and dysfunction
4. Compare the sensory structures and functions that allow humans and other animals to interact with the world
Evaluation

Your final grade in Psychology 1XX3 will be determined by the following measures:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Weight</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ELM Quizzes</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterm Examination</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Examination</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research participation (Optional)</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Evaluation: Required Components

Online Quizzes—15%
There are 5 short online quizzes which will generally cover the week of material immediately beforehand. Each quiz consists of several multiple choice questions and will be worth 3%. ELM quizzes will be made available online the day after the live lecture on that topic in general. They become available at 6 a.m. and are promptly removed 24 hours later at 6 a.m. You will have 20 minutes to complete this quiz once you open it.

An optional orientation quiz is available to allow you to become familiar with the components of this course—handbook, ELM, intropsych.net. This is not part of your grade, but if you pass (80% is a pass for this quiz) one bonus mark will be added to your final grade. This is an open quiz; it can be attempted unlimited times and there is no time limit.

Midterm Exam (35%)
The midterm exam is tentatively scheduled for the evening of Tuesday, July 13th in class and counts for 35% of your final grade. The Midterm Exam may cover material presented in the online and live lectures, and handbook readings. No questions will come from material presented solely in the textbook.

Final Exam (50%)
A cumulative Final Exam will be written on August 5th in class. If you choose to complete the optional research participation (see below), the weight of your final examination will be reduced from 50% to 45%. The Final Exam covers material presented in online and live lectures and course handbook readings from the entire term. No questions on the exam will come from material presented solely in the textbook.

Evaluation: Optional Component
Research Participation Option
You have the option to reduce the weight of your Final Exam from 50% to 45% by completing two hours of research participation with the Department of Psychology, Neuroscience, and Behaviour. In addition to providing you with extra credit, the research participation option allows you to take part in some of the exciting research at McMaster, and to observe how psychologists conduct their studies.

The system that the department uses to track research participation is Experimetrix, which can be accessed at intropsych.net or through www.experimetrix.com/mac. To access Experimetrix for the first time, select the “New User Registration” option at the top of the screen and enter your name, student number, and McMaster email address (for security reasons, only your McMaster email address may be used). After a short delay, you will receive an email from Experimetrix with a username and temporary password that you can use to access the website.
Completing Your Research Participation Credit
When you log into Experimetrix for the first time, you can change your temporary password to something more memorable by selecting “Edit Your Profile”. Also, you must register yourself as an IntroPsych student by selecting “Edit Your Course Selection” and then selecting “Psych 1X03”.

To register for an experiment, select “Sign up for Experiments” from the main Experimetrix page. You will be presented with a list of currently available experiments, with a short description given about each. Before selecting an experiment, be sure to read the description carefully, making special note of any specific criteria for subjects (for example, some experiments only allow females to participate, while others may require subjects who speak a second language). When you have found an experiment that you would like to participate in, select “View Schedule” to view available timeslots, then select “Sign-Up” to register for a timeslot that fits your schedule. You will receive a confirmation email with the details of your selection. Be sure to write down the experimenter, location, and telephone extension from this email.

After you have completed an experiment, you will be given a purple slip verifying your participation. This slip is for your records only – in the event that an experiment is not credited to your Experimetrix account, this slip is your proof of participation. Shortly after completing an experiment, you should notice that your Experimetrix account has been credited by the experimenter. It is very important that you select “Assign Credits to Your Courses” and assign earned credits to Psych 1XX3, or you will not receive your research participation credit.

Additional Notes
• You must complete two hours of experiments, and no less, if you wish to earn the 5% credit toward your final grade.
• If you do not wish to participate as a research subject for any reason, you may still earn your research participation credit by observing two hours of experiments. If you would like to choose this option, please see Ann Hollingshead in the Psychology Building, Room 205.
• If you fail to show up for two experiments, you will lose your option to complete the research participation credit. If you know in advance that you will be unable to attend a scheduled experiment, please contact the experimenter.

Course Materials

Course Handbook
Your handbook is a required component of the course, containing introductory readings, valuable information regarding course structure, outlines and note-taking space for online lectures, and optional thought questions. Note that all information in the course outline in the handbook is superseded by this outline.

Course Textbook
Your textbook is *Psychology: Fifth Edition* by Peter Gray. This is an optional component of the course, chosen to provide additional background readings and assistance with key concepts in the course. Although no explicit questions will be drawn from material only found in the textbook, recommended readings to supplement course materials are indicated in the course handbook which may benefit many students especially if you have limited background in science.
Suggested Additional Reading
For the neuroanatomy and physiology portion of the course, Rita Carter’s *The Human Brain Book* has excellent illustrations to help you understand brain structure, function and dysfunction.

intropsych.net
There are many supplementary resources that have been specially developed to compliment the handbook at intropsych.net including examination practice questions, study aids, an interactive glossary, and information about course events, university’s services, academic success and student life. A portion of the proceeds from this courseware goes toward the development and maintenance of intropsych.net

E-Learning @ McMaster (ELM)
Your online course content will be delivered through the E-Learning @ McMaster (ELM) learning management system, located at [http://elm.mcmaster.ca](http://elm.mcmaster.ca). ELM is your launching point for online lectures, course announcements, discussion forums, and grade records. To access ELM, use your MacID and password. Below are some of the features of ELM.

Online Lectures
As well as weekly live lectures, you will receive lectures online. You can access the web lectures from the library, your room, or anywhere you have an internet connection. Online lectures are made up of interactive web modules featuring audio, video, animations and vivid graphics. Check out the many advanced features allowing you to interact with the content according to your personal learning style. Use the navigation tools and integrated search function to move about the lecture. Test your knowledge with checkpoints; learn more about faculty related research through Beyond IntroPsych; leave your comments with the Shout Wall; take a Poll; interact with fellow students with Live Chat.

Be sure to view the assigned web modules **before** you arrive at your class; this helps you stay on schedule and actively participate.

Discussion Boards
More extended topic discussions are available on the ELM Discussion Board. Join an existing discussion or start a new thread. Our discussion boards are consistently the most active of any course on campus so jump right in with your opinion.

General Information

Privacy
In this course we will be using E-Learning @ McMaster, for the online portions of your course. Students should be aware that, when they access the electronic components of this course, private information such as first and last names, user names for the McMaster e-mail accounts, and program affiliation may become apparent to all other students in the same course. The available information is dependent on the technology used. Continuation in this course will be deemed consent to this disclosure. If you have any questions or concerns about such disclosure please discuss this with the instructional assistant.

Illness/Absence
If you must miss a quiz or exam due to illness or other situation, in order to mark you excused, the instructor needs the permission of your associate dean’s office. If you contact them about your situation, they will make a decision and forward the dates of any excused absence to the instructor without details of your illness/situation. This maintains your privacy.
A Note about Academic Honesty

Academic dishonesty consists of misrepresentation by deception or by other fraudulent means and can result in serious consequences, e.g. the grade of zero on an assignment, loss of credit with a notation on the transcript (notation reads: Grade of F assigned for academic dishonesty), and/or suspension or expulsion from the university. It is the student’s responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty. For information on the various kinds of academic dishonesty please refer to the Academic Integrity Policy, specifically Appendix 3 at: http://www.mcmaster.ca/univsec/policy/AcademicIntegrity.pdf

The following illustrates only a few forms of academic dishonesty:

- asking quiz or assignment questions on discussion boards
- plagiarism, i.e. the submission of work that is not one’s own or for which other credit has been sought or obtained
- improper collaboration
- copying or using unauthorized aids in tests or examinations

Changes during the term

The instructor and university reserve the right to modify elements of the course during the term. The university may change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances. If either type of modification becomes necessary, reasonable notice and communication with the students will be given with explanation and the opportunity to comment on changes. It is the responsibility of the student to check their McMaster email and course websites weekly during the term and to note any changes.

McMaster Scent Aware Guideline

(Excerpted from the McMaster Environmental and Occupational Health Support Services)

“Persons entering our facilities should be encouraged to use scent-free products.”

For the general population, exposure to scents is not typically problematic. However, from time-to-time, the presence of perfumes and other scented products can present indoor air quality concerns that may affect worker/occupant comfort. Furthermore, for a very small portion of the general population, scented products may present a risk of health hazard.

Individuals with pre-existing conditions such as chemical sensitivities or sensitizations, asthma or allergies, exposure to some odours can cause a range of ill health effects. Some reported symptoms include: headaches, dizziness, light-headedness, nausea, fatigue, weakness, insomnia, malaise, confusion, loss of appetite, depression, anxiety, numbness, upper respiratory symptoms, shortness of breath, difficulty with concentration, and/or skin irritation.

Scented products more commonly include the following: Personal hygiene products (e.g., shampoo, conditioner, hairsprays, deodorants, colognes, after-shaves, fragrances, perfumes, lotions, soaps, cosmetics and creams).

A Note about Note Taking

Students often wonder (and worry) about how extensive their notes should be. This handbook provides outlines with key points and slides reproduced from the web modules to guide your own note taking. There really is no substitute for doing this yourself to learn the material. If, however, you can refer to your notes and answer practice questions, you should find yourself in good shape for the midterm and exam too.
# COURSE CONTENT SCHEDULE FOR PSYCHOLOGY 1XX3 - SUMMER 2010

The general schedule for this course content is given below. Any changes to this structure will be announced on ELM. It is your responsibility to keep up-to-date with any schedule changes.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Unit</th>
<th>Live Lecture</th>
<th>Online Lectures</th>
<th>Assessment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>June 22</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Introduction to the Course</td>
<td>Development I Development II</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>June 24</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Child Development Topics</td>
<td>Evolution I Evolution II</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>June 29</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Human Evolution</td>
<td>Neuroscience I</td>
<td>ELM Quiz 1: Development I &amp; II, Evolution I &amp; II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>July 1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Canada Day-No Class</td>
<td>Neuroscience II</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>July 6</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Neuroscience I &amp; II</td>
<td>Neuroscience III</td>
<td>ELM Quiz 2: Neuroscience I &amp; II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>July 8</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Behavioural Neuroscience</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>July 13</td>
<td>3</td>
<td><strong>Midterm Exam</strong></td>
<td>Vision I Vision II</td>
<td>Midterm Exam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>July 15</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Vision &amp; Illusion</td>
<td>Colour Perception Depth, Distance, Motion</td>
<td>ELM Quiz 3: Vision I &amp; II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>July 20</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Colour as a Survival Strategy</td>
<td>Form Perception I Form Perception II</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>July 22</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Perceiving Faces</td>
<td>Audition Music Perception</td>
<td>ELM Quiz 4: Colour Perception, DDM, Form Perception I &amp; II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>July 27</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Sound Sensations and Music</td>
<td>Hunger &amp; Chemical Senses</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>July 29</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Hunger and Society</td>
<td></td>
<td>ELM Quiz 5: Audition, Music Perception, Hunger &amp; Chem. Senses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Aug. 3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Touch &amp; Multisensory Integration/Review</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Aug. 5</td>
<td>3</td>
<td><strong>Final Exam</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>Final Exam</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>