
COURSE SYLLABUS

Instructor: Richard Ennis
Class Meeting: Tuesday, 6:30 - 9:20 p.m., HH159
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Course Website: <http://uwace.uwaterloo.ca>
Teaching Assistants: To Be Announced

Course Resources

Required Textbook:

Myers, D. G. (2006). *Psychology: Myers in Modules* (8th Ed.). New York: Worth Publishers.

The official text is the 8th edition of *Psychology: Myers in Modules* written by David Myers. The "modules" are basically just small chapters. There is another version of Myers' text called simply *Psychology*. It contains the identical information but in longer (and fewer) chapters. It is also the 8th edition. It is an acceptable text for this course but, beware, that chapter titles and page numbers will be different.

Beware: There are various other Intro Psych texts also titled *Psychology* but written by other authors. Be sure you purchase one of the versions written by David Myers.

Study Guide:

The publisher-supplied *Study Guide* is not necessary but is recommended. It acts like a private tutor to enhance your understanding of the text material. Regard the *Study Guide* not as an extra task to master, but as a friend to help with the text. Students who performed best report that they were substantially helped by this supplement.

Course Websites:

The website for this course provides lecture outlines, learning objectives for lectures and text material, as well as other helpful information. You can log into the course site through the UW-ACE system. Additional information and instructions are attached to this syllabus.

There is also a publisher's website for the text (www.worthpublishers.com/myers) that offers a wide range of helpful items, such as critical thinking exercises, quizzes, study aids, links, and demonstrations. Regular visits to this site will prove beneficial.

Course Objectives

A primary objective of any "introductory" course is simply that: to introduce you to the subject matter of the discipline and to familiarize you with the vocabulary and concepts. Psychology is the study of human experience: the thoughts, feelings, and behaviours that we experience as we interact with our world. You already have several years of experience in psychology based on your own observations and knowledge about yourself and your environment. In this course you will see how research has been applied to test intuitive assumptions about human life. You will find that many of your beliefs about human existence are scientifically supported; but you will also find many beliefs are refuted by the evidence.

Certainly, as a student in this course, you will receive a more comprehensive understanding of yourself and your world. I also hope that you will develop greater skills of critical thinking that will make you a better consumer of psychological information. Unfortunately, there is a lot of "pop" psychology practiced in our culture and popularized by the media. At best, these pseudosciences are a harmless diversion; at worst, they are billion-dollar industries that exploit the ignorance and gullibility of the populace. By the end of the course you should be able to differentiate between legitimate psychology and the "pop" pretenders.

Finally, I hope that you will derive some personal benefits from the course by reaching a deeper understanding and acceptance of yourself and others. Hopefully, this class will enrich your personal relationships and contribute to your success in your future endeavors.

Examinations and Grading Scheme

Midterm Exams:

There will be one midterm exam on February 12 that will consist of 76 multiple-choice items worth 38% of your final grade. The midterm will be administered during class time (i.e., 7:00 to 8:15 pm). Refer to the **Overview of Exams** contained in this syllabus for more detailed information.

Final Exam:

The final exam will be scheduled by the university. The final exam will be 2 hours in duration and will consist of 116 multiple-choice items. The final exam will account for 58% of your final grade. The final exam will test lecture material from the entire course and text material not tested on the midterm. Refer to the **Overview of Exams** contained in this syllabus for more detailed information. The exam period is April 10 to 24. Keep this time available. Alternate times will NOT be provided due to conflicts with travel, vacations, etc.

Deferred Testing:

Deferred midterms may be provided for students with exceptional circumstances. I will insist on supportive documentation. You must see me to arrange a time and place. The deferred test will NOT contain the same items as the scheduled test, therefore I cannot guarantee they will be equal in difficulty with the scheduled tests.

Research Participation: 4% + 2% bonus

The remaining 4% of your grade will be based on participation in research. You can also earn an additional 2% in bonus marks. See p. 4 of this syllabus for more detailed information.

Class Format

There are two sources of material for the course: the textbook and the lectures. The lectures will focus on specific topics and are not meant to provide coverage of all material in the text. Lectures will elaborate and build upon (not duplicate) the text material, therefore, it is recommended that you attend class meetings and complete the readings beforehand. A proposed schedule of lectures and related readings is included.

Be aware that you are responsible for your class attendance. There will be several announcements made in class regarding exams, course material, research participation, etc. If you are not in attendance you will still be held responsible for being aware of these announcements. Further, I will not respond to emails that ask me to repeat information presented in class or any other information contained in this syllabus.

One of the "secrets" to success in university is keeping up with your courses. Try not to fall behind!

If You Are Having Trouble With The Course

The instructor and teaching assistants are here to help. If you are experiencing difficulty understanding the material or you are concerned about your exam performance, seek help as soon as possible. We can assist you with the material and provide helpful guidance for studying. If you attend lectures regularly, study the text, and seek help when needed, there is no reason you should not pass the course.

Additional Notes

Note for students with disabilities: The Office for Persons with Disabilities (OPD), located in Needles Hall, Room 1132, collaborates with all academic departments to arrange appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities without compromising the academic integrity of the curriculum. If you require academic accommodations to lessen the impact of your disability, please register with the OPD at the beginning of each academic term.

Note on avoidance of academic offenses: All students registered in the courses of the Faculty of Arts are expected to know what constitutes an academic offense, to avoid committing academic offenses, and to take responsibility for their academic actions. When the commission of an offense is established, disciplinary penalties will be imposed in accord with Policy #71 (Student Academic Discipline). For information on categories of offenses and types of penalties, students are directed to consult the Undergraduate Calendar

http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infoucal/UW/policy_71.html.

If you need help in learning how to avoid offenses such as plagiarism, cheating, and double submission, or if you need clarification of aspects of the discipline policy, see the Arts Faculty Web page:

<http://watarts.uwaterloo.ca/~sager/plagiarism.html>.

Students who believe that they have been wrongfully or unjustly penalized have the right to grieve; refer to Policy #70, Student Grievance, http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infoucal/UW/policy_70.html.

Research Participation:

You may acquire these marks by signing up for research projects being conducted by faculty and graduate students in the Department of Psychology. You can earn a total of 6 research credits (1 credit = 1% of your grade). Four credits (4%) are part of your grade and 2 credits (2%) are bonus. Although you can earn 6 credits during the semester, the credits will be spread out. Three credits (3%) must be earned prior to the midterm exam on February 12 and 3 credits (3%) after the midterm exam but prior to the last class on April 1. Some research is online while other studies requires you to appear in person. You can only earn a maximum of 2 credits (2%) with online studies. The researchers will record your participation and the marks will be added to your final grade. Please note that research participation is conducted independent of the course instructor. It is administered by the Research Experience Group (REG). A representative will be visiting the class to explain the details. You can sign up for research by going to the REG website: <http://uwaterloo.sona-systems.com/> Use your Quest userid (e.g., j2smith) and the password is your student ID number (e.g., 20101010). If you have any problems or questions about research participation please contact the REG coordinator: regadmin@watarts.uwaterloo.ca.

Another Way to Earn Bonus Marks

If you are not called for enough experiments to receive your participation marks or if you do not want to participate in research, you can still earn these marks. You may submit short reviews (1½ to 2 pages) of articles relevant to psychology from the popular press. An article can be from almost any source provided it has genuine psychological substance but you should contact your TA to get approval before writing the review. To receive credit, you must follow these specific guidelines:

- 1) **All reviews must be submitted before the midterm exam (for the initial 3%) or the final class (for the last 3%). Late submissions will NOT be accepted under ANY circumstances.**
- 2) The review must be typed.
- 3) Fully identify the title, author(s), source, and date of the article. Attach a copy of the article.
- 4) Identify the psychological concepts discussed in the article and indicate the pages in the Myers textbook that are applicable. Critically evaluate the application or treatment of those concepts in the article. If inappropriate or incorrect, identify the error and its implications for the validity of the article. You may find, for example, misleading headings, faulty research procedures, alternative explanations that are ignored, failures to distinguish factual findings from opinions, faulty statements of cause-effect relations, errors in reasoning, etc. Provide examples whenever possible.
- 5) Keep a copy of your review in the unlikely event we misplace the original.

Course Schedule

Date	Topic	<i>Readings</i>
Jan 8	Introduction to Science of Psychology	Modules 1 & 2
Jan 15	Developmental Psychology	Modules 7 - 9
Jan 22	Neuropsychology Sensation & Perception	Modules 3 - 5 Modules 11, 12, 14-16
Jan 29	States of Consciousness	Modules 17 - 19
Feb 5	Learning Memory	Modules 20 - 22 Modules 23 - 27
Feb 12	Midterm Exam (7:00-8:15)	see Exam Overview
Feb 19	READING WEEK: No Class	
Feb 26	Thinking and Intelligence	Modules 28, 30 - 32
Mar 4	Motivation and Emotion	Modules 33 - 37
Mar 11	Personality	Modules 41 - 44
Mar 18	Social Psychology	Modules 53 - 55
Mar 25	Disorders & Therapy	Modules 45 - 52
Apr 1	Disorders & Therapy	Modules 45 - 52
<p>Final Exam Period April 10 - 24</p> <p>DO NOT MAKE TRAVEL PLANS DURING THIS TIME PERIOD!</p>		

Overview of Exams
(subject to change)

TOPIC	No. of items	Midterm		Final	
		Text	Lecture	Text	Lecture
Introduction Modules 1 - 3	11	6	3	0	2
Development Modules 8 - 10	19	9	5	0	5
Neuropsychology Modules 4 - 6	19	9	5	0	5
Sensation & Perception Modules 12, 13, 15 - 17	13	8	3	0	2
Consciousness Modules 18 - 20	19	9	5	0	5
Learning Modules 21 - 23	19	9	5	0	5
Memory Modules 24 - 28	15			8	7
Thinking & Intelligence Modules 29, 31 - 33	15			8	7
Motivation & Emotion Modules 34 - 38	15			8	7
Personality Modules 44 - 46	15			8	7
Social Psychology Modules 55 - 58	16			8	8
Pathology & Therapy Modules 47 - 54	16			8	8

TOTAL ITEMS	192	76	116
VALUE		38%	58%
DATE		Feb 12	TBA
DURATION		75 minutes	2 hours