

COURSE OUTLINE

Instructor:	Richard Ennis
Class Meeting:	Tuesday, 6:30 - 9:20 p.m., HH159
Office:	PAS 3017
Office Hours:	Monday 1:00 - 2:30
Phone:	519-888-4567 ext 35333
E-mail:	rennis@uwaterloo.ca
Course Website:	http://uwace.uwaterloo.ca

Teaching Assistants:

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 Exam: 38%

There will be one midterm exam on October 27 that will consist of 76 multiple-choice items worth 38% of your final grade. The midterm will be administered in two sittings during class time (i.e., 6:30 to 7:45 and 8:00 to 9:15 pm). Refer to the **Overview of Exams** contained in this syllabus for more detailed information.

Final Exam: 58%

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 December 9 to 22. Keep this time available. Alternate times will NOT be provided due to conflicts with travel, vacations, etc.

Deferred Testing:

The deferred midterm will be held on Friday, October 30, 9:00-10:15 a.m. I require the **UW Verification of Illness Form** as the only acceptable documentation: http://www.healthservices.uwaterloo.ca/Health_Services/VERIFICATION%20OF%20ILLNESS.html You must contact me within 24 hours of the regularly scheduled midterm. 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%

The remaining 4% of your grade will be based on participation in research (see p. 5 of syllabus).

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.

Academic Integrity: in order to maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo community are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility.

Grievance: A student who believes that a decision affecting some aspect of his/her university life has been unfair or unreasonable may have grounds for initiating a grievance. Read Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances, Section 4, <http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy70.htm>

Discipline: A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity, to avoid committing academic offenses, and to take responsibility for his/her actions. A student who is unsure whether an action constitutes an offense, or who needs help in learning how to avoid offenses (e.g., plagiarism, cheating) or about "rules" for group work/collaboration should seek guidance from the course professor, academic advisor, or the Undergraduate Associate Dean. When misconduct has been found to have occurred, disciplinary penalties will be imposed under Policy 71 – Student Discipline. For information on categories of offenses and types of penalties, students should refer to Policy 71 - Student Discipline, <http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy71.htm>

Appeals: A student may appeal the finding and/or penalty in a decision made under Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances (other than regarding a petition) or Policy 71 - Student Discipline if a ground for an appeal can be established. Read Policy 72 - Student Appeals, <http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy72.htm>

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 October 21 and 3 credits (3%) after the midterm exam but prior to the last class on November 25. 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 should visit their website (www.arts.uwaterloo.ca/~regadmin/) If you have any questions about research participation please contact the Research Experience Group.

Another Way to Earn Participation 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. 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	Readings
Sep 15	Introduction to the course Developmental Psychology	Modules 1 - 3 Modules 8 - 10
Sep 22	Developmental Psychology Neuropsychology	Modules 8 - 10 Modules 4 - 6
Sep 29	Neuropsychology Sensation & Perception	Modules 4 - 6 Modules 12, 13, 15 - 17
Oct 6	States of Consciousness	Modules 18 - 20
Oct 13	Learning	Modules 21 - 23
Oct 20	Memory	Modules 24 - 28
Oct 27	Midterm Exam (6:30-7:45 & 8:00-9:15)	see Exam Overview
Nov 3	Thinking and Intelligence	Modules 29, 31 - 33
Nov 10	Motivation and Emotion	Modules 34 - 38
Nov 17	Personality	Modules 44 - 46
Nov 24	Social Psychology	Modules 55 - 58
Dec 1	Disorders & Therapy	Modules 47 - 54

Final Exam Period
December 9 - 22

DO NOT MAKE TRAVEL PLANS DURING THIS TIME PERIOD!

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		Oct 27		TBA	
DURATION		75 minutes		2 hours	