

University of Waterloo
Department of Psychology
Psychology 101, Sec. 02
Introduction to Psychology
Winter 2014
8:30 – 9:50 M3 1006

Instructor and T.A. Information

Instructor: Stephanie Denison
Office: PAS 4020
Office Phone: 519-888-4567 ext. 33409
Office Hours: Thursdays 10 - 11

Notes about contacting the instructor: Use the course email address listed in the TA email address field if you need to contact a TA or the instructor. Your TA's will check this email account daily, and they will forward questions or concerns to the instructor if they cannot answer a question. Also regarding emails: do not email the TA's or instructor with questions about research participation. You must contact the REG coordinator (regadmin@uwaterloo.ca) with these questions.

I encourage you to come to my office hour, make appointments with me, or talk to me before or after class. I enjoy teaching you one-on-one and students rarely utilize office hours. Contact me early in the semester if you need help. Most students wait until it is too late and I cannot help you nearly as much after you've already written most or all of your exams.

To request an appointment with me if you are unable to attend my regular office hour, email me directly: stephanie.denison@uwaterloo.ca. For all other email inquiries, use the course email address listed below.

T.A.	Madison Pesowski	Hanna Negami
Email	waterloo.psych101@gmail.com	waterloo.psych101@gmail.com
Office	PAS 4017	PAS 2235
Office Hours	Thurs. 2:30 – 3:30	Tues. 10 - 11

Course Description

As is the case for all introductory classes, the purpose of this class is to provide a foundation for students to understand and interpret a new field of study. Psychology is the study of human behaviour.

Researchers in the field ask questions about why people think, feel, and ultimately behave the way that they do. You will learn about the sub-fields of Psychology, the basic vocabulary used, and the concepts that are of interest to psychologists.

Course Goals and Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, you will have learned (at least) three things:

- A. First, I hope that you will learn what psychology is and what psychology is not. In a discipline that studies the human experience, which we all participate in each day, it is tempting to think that all of psychology boils down to our common-sense intuitions. You will find that researchers

in the field have discovered that some of our intuitions regarding human behaviour are correct and some are not. The work of psychologists is to formulate scientific theories with testable hypotheses and to create innovative experiments that can potentially falsify these hypotheses.

- B. Second, you will develop your critical thinking skills. This will help you interpret “pop” psychology and will aid you in your other studies. By the end of this course, when you set out to read a newspaper article or a book on psychology, you will know to ask yourself questions like: “How did this person arrive at this theory? Are there any strong empirical data to support this?”
- C. Finally, I hope that you will develop a deeper understanding of yourself and the people around you. You will learn how infants, children, adults, and aging populations think and learn; how persons of different cultural backgrounds interpret behaviours; how psychological pathologies impact people’s lives. These insights should enrich your personal relationships and increase tolerance and compassion.

Required Text

- Krause & Cortis (2012). Psychological Science: Modeling Scientific Literacy: Pearson Publishers
- Recommended (optional) Material: MyPsychLab with eText
- See the information on LEARN regarding textbooks for options for acquiring the text for this course

Lecture Slides Available on LEARN

The course website will include PowerPoint slides for lectures. The PowerPoint slides will be posted before lecture whenever possible, as many students prefer to take notes directly on the slides. That said, these slides will be minimal, providing an outline of the material covered in lecture. Solely studying these slides will NOT be sufficient for success in this course; class attendance will be critical.

*****There is very little overlap in this course between the lecture and textbook for most topics. This is due to the vast number of topics that must be covered in this course.*****

Course Requirements and Assessment

As students, you have a number of responsibilities in this course.

First, you should note that this syllabus is extensive, and it is your responsibility to read it in its entirety.

You are responsible for checking your uwaterloo email account regularly for possible important announcements about the course.

You must check LEARN daily for important announcements, particularly from the News function.

Assessment	Date of Evaluation	Weighting
Exam 1	Feb. 6	38%
Exam 2	March 18	38%
Exam 3	April 3	20%

Assessment	Date of Evaluation	Weighting
Research participation	Ongoing (Please note the REG deadlines)	4%
Bonus (optional) Research participation	Ongoing (Please note the REG deadlines)	2%
Total (minus optional bonus)		100%

Exams (96%)

This course consists of three multiple-choice exams– see the schedule for dates. None of your exams are cumulative.

Make-up exams are not permitted in this course without medical documentation. **Note that make-up exams may be in a different format than the original exam (they may include short answers, essays, multiple choice, fill in the blanks, or a combination of these question formats).**

Your medical documentation must state that you were, or will be, incapacitated on the day of the exam. Please send an email to the course email account **before** a missed exam. If you do not email within 48 hours of missing an exam to attempt to schedule a make-up, you will receive zero on the exam. We strongly prefer that you email before the missed exam if possible so that we can prepare.

The only other reasons that I typically grant make-up exams are if you have a religious or varsity sport conflict. There are some other cases that I will allow exceptions for on a case-by-case basis if you send an email to the course email address **as soon as you discover the conflict** to schedule an alternate date. I will let you know whether an exception can be made in your specific case immediately. These make-up exams may also be in a different format than the original exam and almost always occur before the date of the in-class exam.

Research Participation (4%)

4% of your grade will be based on participation in research in the Psychology department. Please see the details on page 6/7 of this syllabus.

Note, for questions regarding any aspect of your research participation, you must contact REG (regadmin@uwaterloo.ca) and not your instructor or TAs. This is not because we don't want to help, it's because we can't help, as we do not know any more about this system than you do.

Extra Credit

You can gain an additional 2% by completing additional experiments in the Psychology department. Again, see the details below on how to participate.

Course Outline

It is recommended that you read the assigned Modules before the lectures on these topics

Date	Topic	Readings Due
Jan. 7/9	Introducing Psychology	Module 1
Jan. 14	Research Methods	no assigned reading
Jan. 16,21,23	Developmental Psychology	Module 10
Jan. 28	Sensation and Perception	Module 4

Date	Topic	Readings Due
Jan. 30	Neuropsychology guest lecture	no assigned reading
Feb. 4	Sensation and Perception cont'd	no assigned reading
Feb. 6	Exam 1	Includes material from Jan. 7 – Feb. 4
Feb. 11,13	Cognitive (consciousness and learning)	Module 5
Feb. 25,27	Cognitive (memory and reasoning)	Module 7
Mar. 4,6	Social (motivation and personality)	Module 11
Mar. 11,13	Social (social behaviour and social cognition)	Module 15
Mar. 18	Exam 2	Includes material from Feb. 11 – March 13
Mar. 20	Health Psychology	Module 16
Mar. 25,27, Apr. 1	Clinical Psychology	Module 13
Apr. 3	Exam 3	Includes material from March 20 – April 1

Electronic Device Policy

Laptops can be used during class. Cell phones should be turned off. You may audio record the lectures only if you first ask the instructor for permission – you only need to ask once and then you can record all lectures. Under no circumstances can lecture material be posted online by students. No electronic devices are permitted during exams. You may keep them turned off in your bags during exams.

Attendance Policy

Class attendance is mandatory. You are responsible for being aware of any important announcements that are made in class. We strongly encourage you to come to office hours and ask questions or offer constructive feedback about the course. I encourage you to get involved during lecture and ask your questions in class. You and everyone else will benefit from this.

Research Experience Marks

Information and Guidelines

Experiential learning is considered an integral part of the undergraduate program in Psychology. Research participation is one example of this, article review is another. A number of undergraduate courses have been expanded to include opportunities for Psychology students to earn grades while gaining research experience.

Since experiential learning is highly valued in the Department of Psychology, students may earn up to 4% of their final mark in this course through research experience (i.e., course work will make up 96% of the final mark and research experience will make up the other 4% for a maximum grade of 100%). In addition, for those students who wish to sample a wider range of these experiences, a further "bonus" of up to 2% may be earned and will be added to the final grade if/as needed to bring your final grade up to 100%. **In total, students may add up to 6% to their final grade.**

The two options for earning research experience grades (participation in research and article review) are described below. Students may complete any combination of these options to earn research experience grades.

Option 1: Participation in Psychology Research

Research participation is coordinated by the Research Experiences Group (REG). Psychology students may volunteer as research participants in lab and/or online (web-based) studies conducted by students and faculty in the Department of Psychology. Participation enables students to learn first-hand about psychology research and related concepts. Many students report that participation in research is both an educational and interesting experience. Please be assured that all Psychology studies have undergone prior ethics review and clearance through the Office of Research Ethics.

Educational focus of participation in research

To maximize the educational benefits of participating in research, students will receive feedback information following their participation in each study detailing the following elements:

- Purpose or objectives of the study
- Dependent and independent variables
- Expected results
- References for at least two related research articles
- Provisions to ensure confidentiality of data
- Contact information of the researcher should the student have further questions about the study
- Contact information for the Director of the Office of Research Ethics should the student wish to learn more about the general ethical issues surrounding research with human participants, or specific questions or concerns about the study in which s/he participated.

Participation in LAB studies is worth 0.5 participation credits (grade percentage points) for each 30-minutes of participation. Participation in ONLINE studies is worth .25 credits for each 15-minutes of participation. Researchers will record student's participation and will advise the course instructor of the total credits earned by each student at the end of the term.

How to participate?

Study scheduling, participation and grade assignment is managed using the SONA online system. All students enrolled in this course have been set up with a SONA account. You must get started early in the term.

For instructions on how to log in to your SONA account and for a list of important dates and deadlines please, as soon as possible go to:

[INSTRUCTIONS/DATES/DEADLINES: How to log in to Sona and sign up for studies](#)

**** Please do not ask the Course Instructor or REG Coordinator for information unless you have first thoroughly read the information provided on this website.****

More information about the REG program in general is available at:
[REG Participants' Homepage](#)

Option 2: Article Review as an alternative to participation in research

Students are not required to participate in research, and not all students wish to do so. As an alternative, students may opt to gain research experience by writing short reviews (1½ to 2 pages) of research articles relevant to the course. The course instructor will specify a suitable source of articles for this course (i.e., scientific journals, newspapers, magazines, other printed media). *You must contact your TA to get approval for the article you have chosen before writing the review.* Each review article counts as one percentage point. To receive credit, you must follow specific guidelines. The article review must:

- **Be submitted before the last lecture in this course. Late submissions will NOT be accepted under ANY circumstances.**
- **See the document on LEARN with the specific instructions and deadlines for this class. Read this immediately, as you will miss the deadlines if you leave it to the end of the semester**
- Be typed
- Fully identify the title, author(s), source and date of the article. A copy of the article must be attached.
- Identify the psychological concepts in the article and indicate the pages in the 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.
- Clearly evaluate the application or treatment of those concepts in the article.
- Keep a copy of your review in the unlikely event we misplace the original.

Cross-listed course

Please note that a cross-listed course will count in all respective averages no matter under which rubric it has been taken. For example, a PHIL/PSCI cross-list will count in a Philosophy major average, even if the course was taken under the Political Science rubric.

Academic Integrity

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

Discipline: A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity, to avoid committing academic offences, and to take responsibility for his/her actions. A student who is unsure whether an action constitutes an offence, or who needs help in learning how to avoid offences (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](#).

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](#).

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](#).

Other sources of information for students

[Academic integrity](#) (Arts) [Academic Integrity Office](#) (uWaterloo)

Accommodation for Students with Disabilities

Note for students with disabilities: The [AccessAbility Services office](#), 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 AS office at the beginning of each academic term.