

## COURSE OUTLINE

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*Instructor:* Richard Ennis  
*Class Meeting:* Tuesday, 6:30 - 9:20 p.m., HH159  
*Office:* PAS 3017  
*Office Hours:* Wednesday, 9:30 - 12:30  
*Phone:* 888-4567 ext 5333  
*E-mail:* [rennis@watarts.uwaterloo.ca](mailto:rennis@watarts.uwaterloo.ca)  
*Course Website:* <http://uwace.uwaterloo.ca>  
*Teaching Assistants:* To Be Announced

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### Course Resources

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#### *Required Textbook:*

Myers, D. G. (2004). *Psychology: Myers in Modules* (7<sup>th</sup> Ed.). New York: Worth Publishers.

The official text is the 7<sup>th</sup> 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 7<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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

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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.

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## Examinations and Grading Scheme

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### *Midterm Exams:*

There will be one midterm exam on February 15 that will consist of 80 multiple-choice items worth 40% of your final grade. The midterm will be administered during the first 75 minutes at the start of class (i.e., 6:30 to 7:45). 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 120 multiple-choice items. The final exam will account for 60% 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 8 to 21. 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.

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## Class Format

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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!

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### **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.

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### **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 summary of Policy #71 on page 1:10 of the 2003/2004 Undergraduate Calendar [http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infoucal/UW/policy\\_71.html](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 pager: <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](http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infoucal/UW/policy_70.html).

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### **Research Participation:**

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You may acquire bonus marks for participating in research projects being conducted by faculty and graduate students in the Department of Psychology. You will be credited with one percentage point (1%) for each experiment, up to a maximum of five percentage points (5%). The researchers will record your participation and the bonus marks will be added to your final grades obtained on the exams.

Please note that research participation is conducted independent of the course instructor. I have nothing to do with it. If you have any questions about research participation please contact the Research Experience Group at extension 2813 or email <http://watarts.uwaterloo.ca/~bee/reginfo/> <mailto:spoffice@watarts.uwaterloo.ca>.

## Another Way to Earn Bonus Marks

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If you are not called for enough experiments to receive your 5% bonus marks or if you do not want to participate in research, you can still earn your bonus 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 final class on November 30. 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
Jan 4	Introduction to Science of Psychology	Modules 1 & 2

Jan 11	Developmental Psychology Neuropsychology	Modules 7 - 9 Modules 3 - 5
Jan 18	Neuropsychology Sensation & Perception	Modules 3 - 5 Modules 11, 12, 14-16
Jan 25	States of Consciousness	Modules 17 - 19
Feb 1	Learning	Modules 20 - 22
Feb 8	Memory	Modules 23 - 27
Feb 15	<b>Midterm Exam (6:30-7:45)</b> Thinking and Intelligence (8:00-9:00)	<b>see Exam Overview</b> Modules 28, 30 - 32
Feb 22	READING WEEK: No Class	
Mar 1	Thinking and Intelligence	Modules 28, 30 - 32
Mar 8	Motivation and Emotion	Modules 33 - 37
Mar 15	Personality	Modules 41 - 44
Mar 22	Social Psychology	Modules 53 - 55
Mar 29	Social Psychology Disorders & Therapy	Modules 53 - 55 Modules 45 - 52
Apr 5	Disorders & Therapy	Modules 45 - 52

Final Exam Period  
April 8 - 21

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
<b>Introduction</b> Modules 1 & 2	<b>10</b>	5	2	0	3

<b>Development</b> Modules 7 - 9	<b>18</b>	8	6	0	4
<b>Neuropsychology</b> Modules 3 - 5	<b>16</b>	8	6	0	2
<b>Sensation &amp; Perception</b> Modules 11, 12, 14 - 16	<b>18</b>	11	4	0	3
<b>Consciousness</b> Modules 17 - 19	<b>18</b>	8	6	0	4
<b>Learning</b> Modules 20 - 22	<b>12</b>	6	4	0	2
<b>Memory</b> Modules 23 - 27	<b>8</b>	4	2	0	2
<b>Thinking &amp; Intelligence</b> Modules 28, 30 - 32	<b>20</b>			10	10
<b>Motivation &amp; Emotion</b> Modules 33 - 37	<b>20</b>			10	10
<b>Personality</b> Modules 41 - 44	<b>20</b>			10	10
<b>Social Psychology</b> Modules 53 - 55	<b>20</b>			10	10
<b>Pathology &amp; Therapy</b> Modules 45 - 52	<b>20</b>			10	10

<b>TOTAL ITEMS</b>	<b>200</b>	80	120
<b>VALUE</b>		40%	60%
<b>DATE</b>		Feb 15	TBA
<b>DURATION</b>		75 minutes	2 hours