

SYLLABUS

Class meeting Tuesday/Thursday 8:30 – 9:50am Located in: HH 159

Instructor Dr. Stephanie Denison
Office PAS 4020; Phone: 519-888-4567 ext. 33409
Office Hours Tues/Thurs 10:00 – 11:00 or by appointment
Email See below

Course Website <http://learn.uwaterloo.ca>

Teaching Assistants Ami arints@uwaterloo.ca Office: PAS 3205,
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Office hours: Wednesdays: 10 – 11

Student responsibilities and important information

- This syllabus is extensive, and it is your responsibility to read it in its entirety.
- You are responsible for materials from two sources in this course: The lectures and the text. 50% of exam material comes from lectures, 50% from the text.
 - The lectures will include videos, which will also include testable material. Videos shown in class cannot be posted on LEARN due to copyright laws.
 - You should read the assigned chapter for each section BEFORE the lectures.
- 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.
- Do not email Dr. Denison unless you are doing so to set up an appointment. You can ask me questions before and after class and I hope that you will come to my office hours to ask questions and/or further discuss the material. If you are unavailable during office hours, email to set up an appointment and I will be happy to meet with you. With this many students in a class, I won't be able to answer questions via email, and 95% of the questions I receive via email are answered on this document. If you must email a question, email one of the T.A.'s (addresses are listed above). If there is a question the T.A.'s cannot answer, they will direct it to me. If you'd like to make an appointment with me, my email address is: stephanie.denison@uwaterloo.ca.
- Also regarding emails: The T.A.'s will not respond to emails of the nature: "Will X be on the test?" This is because everything covered in lecture (including videos) and everything in the text is testable, unless Dr. Denison directly states that it won't be on the exam.
- *Also* regarding emails: DO NOT email the T.A.'s with questions about research participation (see below). You must contact the REG coordinator with these questions.

Course Resources

Required Text

- **Krause & Corts (2012). Psychological Science: Modeling Scientific Literacy: Pearson Publishers.**

Recommended (optional) Material

- MyPsychLab with eText

Lecture Slides

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.**

Your Instructors

The greatest disadvantage of a course this size is the minimal number of individual interactions you will have with your instructors. 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.

*******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 Objectives

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 behavior. 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 and the basic vocabulary used and the concepts that are of interest to psychologists.

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

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?”

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 behaviors, and how psychological pathologies impact people’s lives. These insights should enrich your personal relationships and increase tolerance.

Examinations and Grading

Grading:

Your grade is made up of the following elements:

- 1) Exams (96%)
- 2) Psychology Research Participation (4%)
- 3) Extra Credit: Psychology Research Participation (up to 2%)

1) Exams (96%):

This course consists of two midterm exams and one final exam– see the schedule below for dates.

*Your total exam grade (up to 96%) will be calculated by averaging your grade on the final exam, and your grade for the higher score of your two midterm exams; your lower midterm exam grade is dropped. This means that there will be NO MAKE-UP EXAMS for midterm exams in this course. If you are sick or have a conflict with one of the midterm exams and you miss it, then this is the exam that is dropped. If you miss both midterm exams, then you will receive zero for this portion of the grade. The only exceptions to this are religious holidays and varsity sport conflicts. You must email the T.A.'s **as soon as you discover the conflict** to schedule an alternate date.

Here's an example of how an individual student's exam grade is calculated, for the sake of complete clarity:

Student scores 60% on Midterm 1; 70% on Midterm 2; 80% on the final exam.

So, Midterm 1 is not included in the calculation, as the student performed better on Midterm 2

$$\text{Grade} = (70\% + 80\%)/2$$

$$\text{Grade} = 75\%$$

Midterm Exam 2 is not cumulative; the final exam is cumulative

2) Psychology Research Participation:

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 and NOT your instructor or TAs. Here is the email address to direct questions to:
regadmin@uwaterloo.ca

3) 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.

Class Format and Schedule

Class Dates	Topic	Required Reading
Sept. 9,12	Introducing Psychology and Research Methods	Module 1
Sept. 17	Developmental Psychology	Module 10
Sept. 19	No Lecture	
Sept. 24/26	Developmental Psychology	
Oct. 1/3	Sensation & Perception	Module 4
Oct. 8	Neuropsychology	
Oct. 10	Midterm Exam 1	
Oct. 15/17	Cognitive Psychology (consciousness and learning)	Module 5
Oct. 22/24	Cognitive Psychology (memory and reasoning)	Module 7
Oct. 29/31	Social Psychology (motivation and personality)	Module 11
Nov. 5/7	Social Psychology (social behaviour and social cognition)	Module 15
Nov. 12	Midterm Exam 2 (non-cumulative)	
Nov. 14	Health Psychology	Module 16
Nov. 19/21	Clinical Psychology	Module 13
Nov. 26	Clinical Psychology	
Nov. 28	<u>Final Exam review session</u> (CUMULATIVE)	

The Final Examination Period for this semester is: Dec. 5 - 20

Final Exam Time Slots:

1. 9:00 am - 11:30 am
2. 12:30 pm - 3:00 pm
3. 4:00 pm - 6:30 pm
4. 7:30 pm - 10:00 pm

*All students must be available during these times. No concessions will be made for students who book travel during this time. Also note that exams can be held on Saturdays.

Research Experience Marks Information and Guidelines

For questions regarding any aspect of your research participation, you must contact REG and NOT your instructor or T.A.s. Here is the email address to direct questions to: regadmin@uwaterloo.ca

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.

Because 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 want 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.

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 Experiences Group (REG)

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 want 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:

<https://uwaterloo.ca/research-experiences-group/participants/sona-information>

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

More information about the REG program 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 want 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.

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 day of lectures](#). Late submissions will NOT be accepted under ANY circumstances.
- Make sure that you read the content on the Psych 101 LEARN website for important details and deadlines.
- THE DOCUMENT ON LEARN INCLUDES IMPORTANT DEADLINES. If you wait until the end of the semester to access it, you will miss the deadline and your reviews will not be accepted.

University-wide policies, resources, and support

Accommodations

Accommodation for Students with Disabilities

Note for students with disabilities: The AccessAbility Services (AS) 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.

Accommodation due to illness

Students who are requesting accommodation for course requirements (assignments, midterm tests, final exams, etc.) due to illness should do the following:

- seek medical treatment as soon as possible and obtain a completed UW Verification of Illness Form: http://www.healthservices.uwaterloo.ca/Health_Services/verification.html
- submit that form to the instructor within 48 hours.
- (preferably) inform the instructor by the due date for the course requirement that you will be unable to meet the deadline and that documentation will be forthcoming.

In the case of a missed final exam, the instructor and student will negotiate an extension for the final exam, which will typically be written as soon as possible, but no later than the next offering of the course.

In the case of a missed assignment deadline or midterm test, the instructor will either:

1. waive the course component and re-weight remaining term work as he/she deems fit according to circumstances and the goals of the course, or
2. provide an extension.

In the case of bereavement, the instructor will provide similar accommodations to those for illness. Appropriate documentation to support the request will be required.

Support

University of Waterloo Counselling Services

From the Counselling Services website: “University can be a challenging environment. Meeting with a friendly and experienced counsellor can help you manage stress or whatever issues you may be dealing with.”

Counselling Services provides a wide range of strategies to help you do your best:
<http://uwaterloo.ca/counselling-services/node/1>

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, <http://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-71>.

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://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-70>. In addition, consult <http://arts.uwaterloo.ca/student-grievances-faculty-arts-processes> for the Faculty of Arts’ grievance processes.

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://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-72>.

Academic Integrity website (Arts):

http://arts.uwaterloo.ca/arts/ugrad/academic_responsibility.html

Academic Integrity Office (uWaterloo): <http://uwaterloo.ca/academic-integrity/>