



St. Jerome's University
Department of Psychology



PSYCH 101: *Introductory Psychology*
Fall 2008

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Office Hours: Wednesdays
▶ 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm
▶ Or by appointment

Correspondence:

- ***The Teaching Assistant should be your first point of contact regarding course-related material.***
- Using email to contact me or the TA:
 - Please include your first and last name & student number in the email *and* state the course in which you are enrolled in the email subject line.
 - *If you do not hear back from me within 48hours (excluding weekends), please resend your message.*
 - Note that use of hotmail accounts sometimes results in messages flagged as spam (use of your UW email account is advised).

Class Time: Tuesdays & Thursdays, 4:30 p.m. – 5:50 p.m.
Location: **STJ 1036**

Required Text:

Lefton, L.A., Brannon, L., Boyes, M.C., & Ogden, N.A. (2008). *Psychology: Third Canadian Edition*. Toronto: Pearson.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

(from the *UW Undergraduate Calendar*):

“A general survey course designed to provide the student with an understanding of the basic concepts and techniques of modern psychology as a behavioral science.”

As an introductory course to the discipline of psychology, the breadth of material covered will take precedence over the depth with which the material is covered. That being said, this course presents a sort of “sampler platter” of the basic concepts of psychology. The textbook will be your staple; the lectures are intended to flesh out certain concepts covered in the text, bring in additional material, and stimulate your understanding of the material in a new way. Testing will be based on both textbook and lecture material; therefore, attendance is highly recommended.

Note that this course contains an experiential learning component (that is, ‘learning by doing’). This can be achieved either by participating in actual psychological research being conducted at the University of Waterloo, or by completing an alternative assignment (written). Read on for details.

COURSE COMPONENTS AND EVALUATION:

The course will consist of the following components and evaluation system:

Test #1 (in-class)	32%	Experiential Learning	4%
Test #2 (in-class)	32%	BONUS Points	up to 2%
Test #3 (in-class)	32%		

1. In-Class Tests (96% total)

Testing will consist of 3 in-class tests spaced over the course of the term. The tests are not cumulative and there is no final exam. The tests will cover the material leading up to the test date (this includes assigned readings, film material, lecture material, and content generated in class discussions). The format of the tests will include a combination of multiple-choice and true/false questions.

Test will only be rescheduled under very limited conditions; it is your responsibility to read and abide by the following:

1. You **must** notify me prior to the test (or at minimum the day of the test) if you are unable to write at the scheduled time due to medical or religious circumstances. Students who fail to do so will receive a grade of ZERO on the test.
2. You must provide appropriate documentation (see UW Policy Regarding Illness and Missed Tests) in order to have a test rescheduled.
3. Rescheduling is at the discretion of the course instructor. *Verification of Illness Form* dates will weigh heavily in this decision (i.e., do not expect to write a make-up test one week after your *Verification of Illness Form* has expired). Tests will typically be scheduled within 2 days of the date on the form.

Test #1: Thursday, October 2, 2008
Test #2: Thursday, October 30, 2008
Test #3: Thursday, November 27, 2008

2. Experiential Learning (Research Experience)** (4% total)

Students will participate in the research studies offered through the Research Experience Group (REG) at the University of Waterloo (or participate in alternate assignments). Participation in these studies and the accumulation of credits will be monitored by the REG Coordinator.

Please forward any inquiries regarding this component of the course directly to the REG coordinator at: regadmin@watarts.uwaterloo.ca

3. BONUS ** (up to 2%)

These bonus marks can be earned by participating in the REG research studies or by completing an alternative assignment.

**** Participation in Psychology Research ****

Experiential learning is considered an integral part of the undergraduate program in Psychology. Participation in research is one example of this. A number of undergraduate courses have been expanded to include opportunities for Psychology students to volunteer as research participants enabling them to learn first-hand about psychology research and related concepts. Many students report that participation in research is both an educational and interesting experience.

Student participants may earn up to 4 percentage points towards their final mark in Psychology 101 Section 3 by participating in Psychology studies conducted by students and faculty in the Department of Psychology. Participation is worth .5 participation credits (percentage points) for each half hour session. Researchers will

record student's participation and will advise the course instructor of the total points earned by each student at the end of the term. Students who do not wish to participate in research may choose an alternative approach to earning the same number of points; this is explained below in "Alternative to participating in research".

Since experiential learning is highly valued in the Department of Psychology and part of this course, students can earn up to 4% of their final grade by participating in these experiments. In addition, for those students who wish to sample a wider range of these experiences a further "bonus" 2% can be earned and will be added to your final grade (i.e., the maximum possible final grade is 102%).

Please note 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, you 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 you participated.

How do I sign up?

Once you are registered in the course, you will get an account on SONA (our web-based Study Sign-Up system) at <http://uwaterloo.sona-systems.com>. User ID is your Quest ID (e.g., j2smith); temporary password is your Student ID (e.g., 2001234). Log in to your account, read/acknowledge the ORE "Human Subjects/Privacy Policy" then complete a very brief (10 minute) "Prescreen" questionnaire to provide basic demographic info. You won't receive a credit for this and you may decline if you wish however *completing it will increase your eligibility for other studies*. Once you have completed (or declined) the Prescreen questionnaire you should go to "My Profile" and enter your preferred (Alternate) email address. Then you can go to "Study Sign-Up" and select a Psych 101 Section 3-eligible study that interests you and a day/time that fits your schedule. You'll receive a confirmation email and a reminder the day before the study. Upon completion of the study you are granted your Study Credit and given feedback about the study hypothesis, design and predictions.

When should I sign up?

Right away, the sooner the better!!! The On-line study "Mass Testing Survey F08" (one full credit) will only be offered for a few weeks and you *should do this study as soon as possible*. Researchers often select participants based on their responses and doing this survey increases your eligibility for other studies. Note that you can only do this survey if you have completed the Prescreen questionnaire. Doing both Prescreen and Mass Testing Survey helps you (by providing more qualifying studies and it helps researchers (by identifying more qualified participants) so we would greatly appreciate it if you would do both.

Are there any restrictions to the studies I can sign up for?

Yes ... i) the study must be eligible for a credit in this class (as noted in the study description) ii) only 2 of your 6 credits can be for On-line studies and iii) you should try to spread your participation out over the term. The last day to participate for credit is December 1 but you can participate for pay until December 19.

Where can I get more information, instructions, help with login problems etc?

REG website: <http://www.arts.uwaterloo.ca/~regadmin/regparticipant>
REG Coordinator: regadmin@watarts.uwaterloo.ca

Alternative to participating in research

You are not required to participate in research in order to fulfill the 4% 'experiential learning' component of the course, and not all students will wish to do so. As an alternative to participation in research, you may submit short

reviews (1½ to 2 pages) of journal articles relevant to the course material. Each review article counts as one percentage point. You must contact your TA to get approval before writing the review. To receive credit, you must follow specific guidelines. The review must:

- **Be submitted before November 24. Late submissions will NOT be accepted under ANY circumstances.**
- 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.

Students may complete any combination of a) participation in research or b) article review up to a total of 6% points.

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

UW Policy Regarding Illness and Missed Tests

The University of Waterloo Examination Regulations (<http://www.registrar.uwaterloo.ca/exams/ExamRegs.pdf>) state that:

- A medical certificate presented in support of an official petition for relief from normal academic requirements must provide all of the information requested on the “University of Waterloo Verification of Illness” form or it will not be accepted. This form can be obtained from Health Services or at www.healthservices.uwaterloo.ca/Health_Services/verification.html
- If a student has a test/examination deferred due to acceptable medical evidence, he/she normally will write the test/examination at a mutually convenient time, to be determined by the course instructor.
- The University acknowledges that, due to the pluralistic nature of the University community, some students may on religious grounds require alternative times to write tests and examinations.
- Elective arrangements (such as travel plans) are not considered acceptable grounds for granting an alternative examination time.

Avoidance of Academic Offences

All students registered in the courses of the Faculty of Arts and its colleges are expected to know what constitutes academic integrity, to avoid committing academic offences, and to take responsibility for their academic actions. Students who are unsure whether an action constitutes an offence, or who need 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, TA, academic advisor, the appropriate ST. Jerome’s departmental Chair, or the Associate Dean for St. Jerome’s University. For information on categories of offences and types of penalties, students should refer to Policy #71, *Student Academic Discipline*, <http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy71.htm> If you need help in learning how to avoid offences such as plagiarism, cheating and double submission, or if you need clarification of aspects of the discipline policy, ask your course instructor for guidance. Other resources regarding the discipline policy are your academic advisor, the appropriate St. Jerome’s departmental Chair and ultimately the Appeals Officer (currently the Associate Dean) for St. Jerome’s University. Further information on “*How to Avoid Plagiarism and Other Written Offences: A Guide for Students and Instructors*” can be found at http://www.arts.uwaterloo.ca/arts/ugrad/academic_responsibility.html

Students who believe that they have been wrongfully or unjustly penalized have the right to grieve in accordance with Policy #70, *Student Grievance*, www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy70.htm.

Office for Persons with Disabilities

Students with documented or suspected disabilities (i.e., physical, learning, or sensory disabilities or chronic medical conditions) are encouraged to contact the Office for Persons with Disabilities (OPD) to determine eligibility for their services. OPD is located in Needles Hall 1132, 888-4567 ext. 35082.

COURSE SCHEDULE:

CLASS DATES	TOPIC	ASSIGNED READINGS
Tuesday, September 9	Introduction to Course	Chapters 1 & 2
Thursday, September 11	Science and Research	
Tuesday, September 16	Nature and Nurture	Chapter 3
Thursday, September 18	Nervous System & The Brain	
Tuesday, September 23	Sensation & Perception	Chapter 4
Thursday, September 25	Sensation & Perception <i>cont'd</i> Begin: Consciousness	Chapter 4 Chapter 5
Tuesday, September 30	Consciousness <i>cont'd</i>	Chapter 5
Thursday, October 2	TEST #1	Ch's: 1,2,3,4,5
Tuesday, October 7	Learning	Chapter 6
Thursday, October 9	Learning	Chapter 6
Tuesday, October 14	Memory	Chapter 7
Thursday, October 16	Memory	Chapter 7
Tuesday, October 21	Motivation & Emotion	Chapter 10
Thursday, October 23	Personality	Chapter 13
Tuesday, October 28	Cognitive Psychology	Chapter 8
Thursday, October 30	TEST #2	Ch's: 6,7,8,10,13
Tuesday, November 4	Developmental Psychology	Chapters 11 & 12
Thursday, November 6	Developmental Psychology	Chapters 11 & 12
Tuesday, November 11	Social Psychology	Chapter 14
Thursday, November 13	Social Psychology	Chapter 14
Tuesday, November 18	Psychological Disorders	Chapter 16
Thursday, November 20	Psychological Disorders <i>cont'd</i> Begin: Therapies	Chapter 16 Chapter 17
Tuesday, November 25	Therapies	Chapter 17
Thursday, November 27	TEST #3	Ch's: 11,12,14,16,17