



Department of Psychology
Psych 101
Introductory Psychology
Tuesdays 6:30 – 9:20, DC1350

Instructor and T.A. Information

Instructor: Dr. Paul Wehr

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Course Description

Psychology 101 introduces students to the fundamental theories, concepts, phenomena, methods, and issues indigenous to the field of psychology. Psychology helps to inform us of the human condition by studying behaviour using the scientific method. As a student of psychology, you will gain greater insight into yourself and those you interact with. The field is diverse, covering a broad range of topics such as human development, the social forces that affect behaviour, memory and decision making, language, learning, mental disorders and treatment, neuroscience, and many more. Given that this is only a 12-week course and the number of topics is large, it is not possible to cover all the content during class time. Students will be expected to complete a large number of assigned readings on their own, but should take advantage of the instructor's office hours to discuss and clarify concepts.

Course Goals and Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, students should:

- A. Gain greater insight into yourself, others, and the human condition.
- B. Gain an appreciation for the role of science in learning about ourselves.
- C. Build a foundation of knowledge upon which upper division psychology courses can build.
- D. Be able to critically evaluate scientific research.
- E. Acclimate to university life and learning.

Textbook

Myers, D. (201). *Psychology (10nd edition in modules)*. New York: Worth.

OR

Myers, D. (201). *Psychology (10th edition)*. New York: Worth.

Information Available on LEARN

The course web page can be found on LEARN (<https://learn.uwaterloo.ca/>). Here, you will find links to the syllabus, lecture slides, and important announcements. I will do my best to have lecture slides for the upcoming lecture available at least 24 hours in advance of class time.

Withdrawal Dates

Withdrawal deadline and receive no penalty: September 26th, 2014

Withdrawal deadline to receive "WD" on transcript: November 14th, 2014

Withdrawal deadline to receive "WF" on transcript: December 3rd, 2014

Attendance

In this course, material that is taught in class might be different from or supplement the text material. It is, therefore, essential that you attend classes and it is strongly recommended to read ahead in the text. If, however, you do miss a class, you are responsible for getting the notes from another student. If an exam is missed, a medical note from a physician (or verification of another valid excuse) is required in order to avoid receiving a zero for that exam. Make-up exams will only be provided for students with valid absences. Please submit your documentation to the instructor as soon as possible. Absence due to religious holiday is a valid excuse, but notify your instructor at the beginning of the course in the event of a conflict.

Absences for varsity athletics, family obligations, co-op interviews or other similar engagements are not part of University policy and students should not assume that they would be accommodated. If you have a pressing issue that conflicts with an exam, you should discuss this with your instructor as soon as possible.

Grading

The marks for each exam will be posted in the gradebook on LEARN. Students who wish to inspect their exams may do so by visiting the teaching assistant during scheduled office hours or by appointment.

In order to maintain equity among sections and conformity across University, faculty, department or school norms, students can expect a class average of approximately 68 – 70% including any extra credit. Therefore, although this seldom occurs, grades might be scaled to meet this requirement.

Examinations

There will be two midterm examinations and one final. Each exam will be worth 32% of your final grade and will cover approximately 1/3rd of the course content. Midterm exams will take up the first 1.5 hours of the class on the date that they are scheduled. The final exam will take place during the final exam period beginning December 4th. It will be the same length and duration as the midterm exams. The exact date of the final exam will be announced later in the term after the university publishes the exam schedule.

The format of the examinations will be a combination of multiple-choice and three short-answer questions. On LEARN, you will find a list of potential exam questions, some of which will appear as short-answer questions. These questions are meant to require considerable thought and preparation. Students should craft detailed, accurate, disciplined answers prior to each exam.

Course Assessment

Given that there are over 200 students in this course and only one Teaching Assistant, it is a practical impossibility to evaluate students using paper submissions. Consequently, 96% of students' grades will be determined by examinations. The last 4% of students' grades will be based on their participation in research. There is also the potential to earn a bonus of +2% by engaging in extra research participation.

Assessment	Date	Topics	Weight
Midterm 1	October 07	Modules 1 – 8, 10, 13 – 16	32%
Midterm 2	November 04	Modules 20 – 31, 36 – 37	32%
Final	December 04 – 19	Modules 40 – 45, 47 – 54	32%
Research Participation			4%
Research Participation Bonus			2%
Total			102%

Research Experience Marks

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 a **"bonus" grade of up to 4%** in this course through research experience. Course work will make up 100% of the final mark and a "bonus" of up to 4% may be earned and will be added to the final grade if/as needed to bring your final grade up to 100%. 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 Psychological 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 a University of Waterloo Research Ethics Committee.

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.

How to log in to Sona and sign up for studies:

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

More information regarding the Research Experience Group:

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

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

OPTION 2: Article Review

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 (1½ to 2 double-spaced typed pages) reviews of research articles (i.e., scientific journal articles) relevant to Cultural Psychology. Each review article counts as one percentage point.

Guidelines:

- The article must be a RESEARCH article (i.e., introduce new data) from the journal *Psychological Science*.
- Each review should be 1.5 – 2.0 pages, typed and double-spaced with a cover page. A copy of the original article must be attached.
- Content of the review should briefly summarize the research question, methods, variables, results, and implications of the study. In addition, you should indicate the pages in the textbook that are relevant to the article and 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-and-effect relationships, errors in reasoning, etc. Provide examples whenever possible. **DO NOT COPY WORD-FOR-WORD FROM THE ABSTRACT OR ANY OTHER PART OF THE ARTICLE!** Instead, you should paraphrase and cite from the source.
- A hard copy of the review must be submitted to your instructor before the last lecture in the course. An electronic copy of the review must be uploaded to **turnitin.com** by midnight of the same day. Late submissions will NOT be accepted under ANY circumstances.

Accommodation 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.

<https://uwaterloo.ca/disability-services/>

Concerns About the Course or Instructor (Informal Stage)

We in the Psychology Department take great pride in the high quality of our program and our instructors. Though infrequent, we know that students occasionally find themselves in situations of conflict with their instructors over course policies or grade assessments. If such a conflict arises, the Associate Chair for Undergraduate Affairs (Dr. Myra Fernandes) is available for consultation and to mediate a resolution between the student and instructor. Dr. Fernandes' contact information is as follows: Email: mafernan@uwaterloo.ca, Phone: 519-888-4567, x32142. 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. See Policy 70 and 71 below for further details.

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.

<https://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.

<https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-70>

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.

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

Other sources of information for students

Academic Integrity (Arts): <https://uwaterloo.ca/arts/ethical-behavior>

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

Counselling Services (uWaterloo): <https://uwaterloo.ca/counselling-services/>

Term Schedule

Week	Dates	Topics	Readings
1	Sep 09	Course Overview Introduction to the History and Science of Psychology	Modules 1 – 3.
2	Sep 16	The Biology of Mind	Modules 4 – 6.
3	Sep 23	Consciousness and the Two-track Mind	Modules 7, 8, 10.
4	Sep 30	Developing Through the Life Span	Modules 13 – 16.
5	Oct 07	MIDTERM 1 Learning	Modules 20 – 22.
6	Oct 14	Memory	Modules 23 – 26.
7	Oct 21	Thinking, Language, and Intelligence	Modules 27 – 31.
8	Oct 28	Emotions	Modules 36 – 37.
9	Nov 04	MIDTERM 2 Personality	Modules 40 – 42.
10	Nov 11	Social Psychology	Modules 43 – 45.
11	Nov 18	Psychological Disorders	Modules 47 – 51.
12	Nov 25	Therapy	Modules 52 – 54.