

**Introductory Psychology**  
Psychology 101R, Fall 2015

Section 002: 10am -11:20am Mondays & Wednesdays, REN 2918  
Section 001: 1pm – 2:20pm Mondays & Wednesdays, REN 2918  
Section 003: 4pm – 5:20pm Mondays & Wednesdays, REN 2918  
Office Hours: Any time we're not in class on Mon & Wed or by appt

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**Course Overview:** This is a general survey course designed to provide you with an understanding of the basic concepts and techniques of modern psychology as a behavioural science. You will study the theories, principles, and methods of psychology with the goal of understanding how people perceive their environments, how their behaviour is modified by experience, and how their activities are initiated, sustained, and directed.

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. As such, another goal of this course will be to encourage you to think critically about your preconceptions so that you can become a better consumer of the psychological information that is available in the media.

We will explore topics ranging from human development throughout the lifespan, to learning and memory, to psychological disorders and the therapies that are used to treat them. Based on those topics, I expect that you will develop a more thorough understanding of yourself and the world that you live in. Hopefully, this class will contribute to your success in your future endeavors.

**Course Objectives:**

1. To become familiar with the broad range of topics that comprise the discipline of psychology.
2. To become familiar with the methods of investigation used in psychology, and the strengths and limitations of these methods.
3. To develop an understanding of the vocabulary and concepts of psychology that will allow you to study further in advanced courses or through independent reading.
4. To develop the ability to relate the findings of psychological research to your life and to important issues in our society and the world at large.

## **Professors:**

Dr. McCarthy teaches 2/3 of the lectures and Dr. Tse teaches 1/3. They will hold office hours before and after their own lectures. Send email questions to the appropriate professor (i.e., the one whose lecture topic relates to your question). Each will aim to respond to your question within 24 hours (not counting weekends).

Q: Will emailing them *both* guarantee me a faster response?

A: No. In fact, both profs will assume that the other will answer your question. It's called "social loafing." You'll learn about it next term.

Q: Can I play them off of each other like a sitcom Mom and Dad?

A: No. Their answers and policies will be the same. Also, unlike a sitcom Mom and Dad, your professors communicate with each other.

## **\*\*Important Textbook Information\*\***

**Required text:** Myers, D. G. (2010). *Psychology: 10<sup>th</sup> Edition in Modules Revised*. New York: Worth Publishers.

**Used textbooks are much cheaper than new textbooks. Check the used bookstore and internet ads to find it used. You can also purchase the "e-book" if you prefer this to a regular textbook (it costs about half as much).**

We do not recommend buying other versions of this textbook. Use the 9<sup>th</sup> edition at your own risk.

Beware: Other Intro Psych classes on campus are using the 11<sup>th</sup> edition. It is different from ours. Double-check that you have the correct version for Dr. McCarthy's Psych 101R.

The publisher-supplied *Study Guide* is not necessary, but some students find it helpful.

**Course website:** The website for this course provides lecture slides, important notices, lists of textbook sections that will NOT be on the texts, and answers to frequently asked questions. You can log into the course site through the Learn system on the UW website.

## **Requirements:**

*Tests.* There will be 4 midterm tests scheduled throughout the term, each worth 24% of your final mark. They are not cumulative. They will include multiple-choice and short-answer questions. There is no final exam.

*Optional Final Exam.* If you would like to increase your grade or have missed a midterm test without documentation, you have the option to write the final exam. The final exam will *replace your lowest midterm grade*. If your final exam grade is lower than your midterm grades, it will not replace them. The final exam will be cumulative, covering all the text, lecture, and readings from the entire course. It will include multiple-choice questions only.

*Research Participation.* The remaining 4% of your grade will be based on participation in research. You can earn 2% bonus. More information appears later in this syllabus.

**Class format:** Tests cover lectures and text. The lectures elaborate upon the text material and discuss content that is not in the text. It is recommended that you attend all lectures.

## Course Schedule

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic – Professor</b>	<b>Modules</b>
Sept 14	Introducing Psychology – Dr. McCarthy & Dr. Tse	1
Sept 16	Basic Neuroscience & Neuroplasticity – Dr. Tse	4, 5, 6
Sept 21	Developmental Psychology – Dr. Tse	13, 14
Sept 23	Student Success Tutorial – 5% of Test 1 Grade	
Sept 28	Sensation & Perception – Dr. Tse	17, 18
Sept 30	Learning – Dr. Tse	20, 21, 22
Oct 5	<b>TEST 1 – Dr. Tse</b>	
Oct 7	Research Methods – Dr. McCarthy	2, 3
Oct 12	Thanksgiving Holiday – no class	
Oct 14	Consciousness – Dr. McCarthy	7, 8, 9, 10
Oct 19	Nature versus Nurture – Dr. McCarthy	11, 12
Oct 21	Emotion and Special Topic – Dr. Tse	35, 36, 37
Oct 26	<b>Test 2 – Dr. McCarthy and Dr. Tse</b>	
Oct 28	Memory - Dr. McCarthy	23, 24, 25, 26
Nov 2	Thinking and Intelligence – Dr. McCarthy	27, 29
Nov 4	Measuring and Using Intelligence - Dr. McCarthy	30, 31
Nov 9	Health Psychology – Dr. McCarthy	38, 39
Nov 11	Psychology of Eating – Dr. McCarthy	32, 40, 41
Nov 16	<b>TEST 3 – Dr. McCarthy</b>	
Nov 18	Personality Psychology – Dr. McCarthy	42
Nov 21	Psychological Disorders – Dr. Tse	47, 48, 49, 50, 51
Nov 23	Therapy – Dr. McCarthy	52, 53, 54
Nov 25	Social Psychology – Dr. Tse	43, 44, 45, 46
Nov 30	Social Psychology II – Dr. McCarthy	No new modules
Dec 2	<b>TEST 4 – Dr. McCarthy &amp; Dr. Tse</b>	

## Notes/Policies:

**1) LEARN:** Please check LEARN every day. We will post announcements, lecture notes, grades, etc.

**2) Attendance:** To succeed, attend all lectures. Tests will be approximately 50% lecture material, and we will present material not covered in your textbook and expand on important points in the text.

**3) Cell phone policy:** Ringing cell phones are a disruption during lecture, as is leaving the room to accept a cell phone call during class (even if the ringer is off). Texting can also be a distraction to the people around you. Cell phones must be turned off during lectures.

### **4) Accommodation for Illness or Unforeseen Circumstances:**

The instructor follows the practices of the University of Waterloo in accommodating students who have documented reasons for missing quizzes or exams. See

[http://www.registrar.uwaterloo.ca/students/accom\\_illness.html](http://www.registrar.uwaterloo.ca/students/accom_illness.html)

Students may take make-up tests if they inform me IN ADVANCE that they will be unable to take the test and follow the procedures outlined at the link above (including having verifiable evidence of a medical problem in a note from Health Services. Students who do not have documentation and do not notify me in advance may not write a make-up test. Allowing them to do so is unfair to the students who showed up for the test. These students may write the optional final exam to replace their missed midterm.

### **Final Examination Policy**

The final exam for this course is OPTIONAL. For Fall 2015, the established examination period extends to December 22, 2015. The schedule will be available in October. Students should be aware that student travel plans are not acceptable grounds for granting an alternative final examination time (see:

<http://www.registrar.uwaterloo.ca/exams/finalexams.html>).

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### **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](http://arts.uwaterloo.ca/arts/ugrad/academic_responsibility.html)

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

**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.

**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.

**A respectful living and learning environment for all.**

1. It is expected that everyone living, learning or working on the premises of Renison University College will contribute to an environment of tolerance and respect by treating others with sensitivity and civility.
2. Harassment is unwanted attention in the form of jokes, insults, gestures, gossip, or other behaviours that are meant to intimidate. Some instances of harassment are against the law in addition to Renison University College policy.
3. Discrimination is treating people differently because of their race, disability, sex, sexual orientation, ancestry, colour, age, creed, marital status, or other personal characteristics. The Ontario Human Rights Code considers actions and behaviours rather than intentions.
4. If you experience or witness either harassment or discrimination, you may contact the Renison University College Harassment and Discrimination Officer at [mmalton@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:mmalton@uwaterloo.ca) (519-884-4404, ext. 28628).

## **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:

[Participating/SONA information: 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.**
- 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.