

PsyA02 - Introduction to Psychology, Part II

Syllabus for the Fall of 2003

Contact Information

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please see the [Ask a Question](#) link**Office****Hours:** Mondays, 3:00 pm until 4:30 pm**Room** S560**Number:**

General Course Information

The study of human behaviour, and the processes and structures giving rise to it, is actually extremely broad. It ranges from issues such as basic brain structure and communication to issues such as the way the behaviour of others around us affects our own behaviour. In general, the goal of our two Introduction to Psychology courses is to give you an introduction to research and ideas across the entire field of psychology.

This is Part II of that introduction and, in it, we will focus on topics such as Language, Motivation and Emotion, Personality, Social Psychology, Health and Stress, Intelligence, Clinical Disorders and the Treatment of Clinical Disorders..

The course is what is often described as a survey course, meaning we will try to give you a general sense of some different approaches to the study of Psychology highlighting some of the most interesting findings within each approach. Subsequent B level courses then focus on some of these approaches in more detail, and the hope is that after taking this Introductory course you will be in a good position to (a) know which sub-areas of Psychology you find most interesting, and (b) begin your studies of these sub-areas with a good general knowledge of that sub-area and how it related to other approaches within Psychology.

Presentation of Lectures

Generally speaking, we present the lectures for this course in two different ways which we term the traditional and web-based approaches respectively. By the

traditional approach we just mean the in class lectures that are typical in the university setting. In the winter term of each year PsyA02 is offered both via the traditional and web-based way. As the lectures are given in the traditional section they are taped, then presented to the web-based section via streaming video over the web. We then use these streaming videos again in the subsequent Summer and Fall terms thereby allowing us to offer this course over every term of the year. Given this is the fall term, the lectures will only be presented using the web-based approach.

The only real difference between these approach is with respect to the lecture itself. Whereas the traditional approach requires you to be in a certain classroom at a certain time, the web-based approach gives you far more flexibility in where and when you view the lectures. It also allows you to pause lectures (if taking notes, or if you need a washroom break perhaps) and you can also rewind if you missed part of a lecture. Given these features, many students prefer the web-based approach. For more specific information on the approach please follow the [Information on Web-Based Lectures](#) link.

The Course Textbook



The textbook we will be using for this course, and for PsyA02, is called Psychology: The Science of Behaviour (2nd Canadian Edition), and is authored by Carlson, Buskist, Enzle and Heth.

In PsyA02 we will cover chapters 10 through 18 of the text in the order in which they appear.

You can purchase textbooks at the bookstore where they come bundled with a workbook and a CDrom. You might also be able to purchase used copies of the text which may or may not include the workbook and CDrom. To be clear, all test questions come only from the lectures and the text. Given this, neither the workbook nor CDrom are critical. However, they do provide a more interactive way of learning the material presented in the text, and many students find them helpful. I made a deal with the text company to have those materials bundled with the text for free as I knew that some students would like them. If there is a demand, I can likely order some bundles separately if you have a text but not the workbook and CDrom.

In addition, the publishers of the textbook also offer a [student support webpage](#) that offers a number of features you might find useful while studying and while assessing your knowledge. Especially popular are the practice tests.

Evaluation

Your performance in the class will be assessed using two multiple-choice exams, a midterm that will likely be sometime in late October, and a final that will be during the final exam period (mid December). The exams will not be cumulative but, rather, each will focus on certain chapters of the text. The exams consist of 50 multiple choice questions, each with 5 alternative answers.

The first midterm will likely focus on Chapters 10 through 15 and will be worth 60% of your final mark. This exam is not yet scheduled but as soon as it is I will post the relevant information both here and in the announcements section of the main page. This information will include clear directions on where you have to go to find the exam.

The second midterm (aka final) will likely be on Chapters 16 through 18 and will be worth 40% of your final mark. Once again, we do not yet know the exact date for this exam but I will post the relevant information both here and on the main announcement page when I know it.

Note that I have added a "likely" to the specifications of chapters above because, given I don't yet know when they will schedule the exam, I can't be sure of where we will get to prior to that. It may be the case that I have to slightly modify what chapters are on which exam as the exam approaches. However, the division above will be fairly accurate and provides a good starting point.

It is also possible to receive an addition 2% worth of bonus marks through experimental participation. To find out more about this follow the [Experimental Participation](#) link.

If you have questions about the course that are not answered in this syllabus, please first proceed to the [Ask a Question](#) page, and if your question is not answered there you will find appropriate e-mail addresses provided there. Thanks and good luck!!
