



A02

Professor John Bassili.....

Office Hours Mondays and Fridays 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. and by appointment.....

E-mail contact for academic matters and for appointments: e-mail Professor Bassili.....E-mail contact for administrative matters (exams, EPS etc.): psya02@utsc.utoronto.ca

You are welcome to e-mail me about matters pertaining to academic material in the course. Administrative queries should be directed at the teaching assistant, Ms. Genevieve Quintin, at the psya02 address. We would love to hear from you, but we ask that you include your full name and that you write in a form appropriate for the professional context of the communication. Please do not write us like we are on MSN.

SYLLABUS.....

PSYA02 is Part II of Introduction to Psychology. The focus in this course is on topics where the individual is immersed in an interpersonal context. The course explores Language, Intelligence, Life-Span Development, Motivation and Emotion, Personality, Social Psychology, Health and Stress, Clinical Disorders and the Treatment of Clinical Disorders.

The Three Components of the Course

There are three essential elements of the course on which you will be tested. They consist of the textbook, lectures and the discussion forum. Here is a brief description of each, along with their educational role in the course:

Textbook: The textbook is an essential course resource. By its very nature, the textbook can cover a broad range of material in a fair amount of detail. If I attempted to cover all of this material in lecture, I would need hundreds of hours. You should realize, therefore, that the textbook covers more information than what is actually discussed in lecture, and that all that information is important. Please do not assume that exams will focus mostly on topics that are taken up in lecture. I specifically select questions from each chapter to test your knowledge of all aspects of what is covered by the textbook. The midterm and final exams will each comprise 50 multiple choice questions. As you study the textbook, you should assume that the exam will contain 4 to 7 multiple choice questions on each chapter, and you should not assume that what is covered in lecture is a clue to what will be on the exam on textbook material.

Lectures: Lectures provide a wonderful opportunity for me to highlight interesting topics. Most of these topics are also covered in the textbook, but I make it a point not to simply "teach the book." My feeling is that lectures must add value to what is in the book and that excessive redundancy creates inefficiency and boredom (I dread boredom as much as you do!) One important goal I have when lecturing is to present as much illustrative material as possible to highlight interesting aspects of the topic I cover. I am constantly on the lookout for footage that illustrates phenomena we talk about in lecture (from chimpanzees learning to talk, to adults taking orders to administer potentially lethal electric shocks to others, to self-abusing patients undergoing behaviour therapy). My lectures are also accompanied by PowerPoint slides that organize information and provide figures and illustrations. You can download and print these PowerPoint slides before you come to class as they will help you take notes. You should not, however, treat the PowerPoint slides as substitutes for lectures. You can assume that there will be about one multiple choice question on the exam on each hour of lecture, including the content of videos.

Discussion Forum: There are two sections in this course, one where students attend lectures in class, and the other where students access lectures on the Web. I do not distinguish between these two sections in any aspect of the course, and even as I lecture in class I am constantly aware of the Web audience. For this reason, and because enrollment in the course is upward of 1000, lectures do not provide much opportunity for questions, discussion or interaction. This is why I consider the discussion forum to be an essential aspect of the course and why I would like everyone of you to read the posts every day and to contribute your own posts. The discussion forum provides a virtual substitute for the interaction that is not possible in such a large course. There you can raise questions about course content and contribute your own insights into questions raised by others. I will follow the forum very closely, but I will keep my contributions to a minimum because I would like this to be a place for peer discussion and mentorship. To enrich the forum, I will invite psychology professors who are expert in areas covered in the course to join us as guests at appropriate times in the course. This way, if you have a question about psychoanalysis, for example, you will be able to get an answer from one of my colleagues who is a clinical psychologist. I think that this is a good way for you to get expert answers and to meet faculty that will be teaching you more advanced courses in

psychology. Note that the forum will only deal with academic matters covered in the course. Information about administrative matters, such as what you are responsible for on an exam, is available elsewhere (in this course syllabus, for example). Because the forum will involve academic information, you can expect that each exam will contain between 2 and 5 multiple choice questions on material that appeared there.

Purchasing The Textbook



The textbook is *Psychology: The Science of Behaviour (2nd Canadian Edition)*, by Carlson, Buskist, Enzle and Heth.

This is the same textbook that was used in PSYA01 in 2003-2004. If you have taken PSYA01 recently, you probably already own this book.

We will cover chapters 10 through 18 in the order in which they appear in the book.

If you need to purchase the textbook, you will find it at the UTSC bookstore where it is usually bundled with a workbook and a CDrom. You might also be able to purchase used copies of the book which may or may not include the workbook and CDrom. Note that neither the workbook nor CDrom are essential for the course, and that test do not deal specifically with their content. However, they do provide a more interactive way of learning the material presented in the text, and many students find them helpful.

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. The practice tests are especially popular.

Evaluation

Your performance in the course will be assessed by two multiple-choice exams, a midterm that will be scheduled roughly midway through the course, and a final that will be held during the final examination period. The Final exam is not cumulative, and will contain questions only on material not covered by the midterm. The exams consist of 50 multiple choice questions, each with 5 alternative answers.

Planned exam coverage: At the moment my plan for the exams is as it is shown below. Scheduling difficulties may force me to change this plan.

- The midterm will cover chapters 10 to 13 with corresponding lectures and forum discussions and will count for 45% of the total mark in the course.
- The final will cover chapters 14 to 18 with corresponding lectures and forum discussions and will count for 55% of the total mark in the course.

Because I do not yet know the exact date of the midterm or final, I will post relevant information about them on the course home page (under "Announcements") when this information becomes available.

It is possible for you to receive an additional 2% worth of bonus marks through experimental participation. To find out more about this, follow the Experimental Participation System (EPS) link on the home page for the course. Please note that neither me nor the TA are involved in the administration of EPS. Please address any questions you have about EPS to Professor Steve Joordens.

If you have questions about the course that are not answered in this syllabus, please raise them by e-mailing psya02@utsc.utoronto.ca. If the concern is of a nature that is of interest to other students, I will make an announcement about it here or on the home page.