



**Professor John Bassili.....**

Office Hours (Room S550): M and F 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.....

E-mail contact for academic matters and for appointments: e-mail Professor Bassili.....

E-mail Erin Hurley, the TA for the course, for administrative matters such as 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 to the teaching assistant 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:

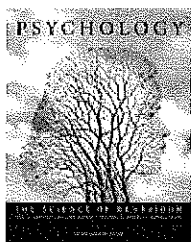
**Textbook:** The textbook is an essential course resource. By its very nature, the textbook can cover a broad range of material in a fair amount of detail. If I attempted to cover all of this material in lecture, I would need hundreds of hours. You should realize, therefore, that the textbook covers more information than what is actually discussed in lecture, and that all that information is important. You should 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 about 6 or 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 always aware of the Web audience. The discussion forum provides a virtual substitute for the interaction that can take place in class. There you can raise questions about course content and contribute your own insights into questions raised by others. 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). **Participation in the forum will count for 4% of the total grade.** Guidelines for what constitutes good participation will be posted.

## 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 the fall and winter of 2003-2004. If you have taken PSYA01 recently, you probably already own this book. There has been an update to this book, so if you buy it new, it will be a tad different. None of the differences are consequential, however, and you can use the original 2nd edition if you can obtain the book used.

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 sometimes 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

**Exams:** Your performance in the course will be assessed by two multiple-choice exams: a midterm, 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. Each exam will count for 48% of your mark. Note that each exam will consist of 50 multiple choice questions containing 5 alternative answers. Only the first 48 questions will be marked. Following the marking of the exam, each of the 48 questions will be analyzed statistically to make sure that none of the questions are flawed. If I discover that there is something wrong with a question, I will replace it with question 49. If necessary, question 50 will be used to replace a second problematic question. Two criteria will be used to decide if there is a problem with a question that necessitates its replacement. The first is if very few students get the correct answer (this would suggest that the question is too difficult or unclear, or that there is, unintentionally, more than one correct answer to it). The second criterion is if students who scored high on the exam as a whole did not do better on that question than students who scored low on the exam as a whole (this would suggest that the question either did not measure knowledge of the material or that it actually confused students who knew the material best). The decision to replace questions will be based entirely on my assessment of statistical information about each question and will precede the posting of the marks. Office hours

will be held following the midterm exam to allow you to see the exam along with the correct answers. The time and date of office hours will be announced following the midterm exam.

**Discussion Forum:** Your contributions to the discussion forum will be marked by me in consultation with the TA. We will keep track of all contributions and will assign an overall mark out of 4 for each student in the class. The mark will only be assigned at the conclusion of the course. Guidelines for good posts can be seen by clicking the [Access Discussion Forum](#) link on the home page of the course.

**EPS:** 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](mailto: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.

---