

PsyA02: Introductory Psychology, Part II

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SYLLABUS

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Do You Have a Question? psyA02@utsc.utoronto.ca

PsyA02 is Part II of Introduction to Psychology. This course provides a general overview of topics including language, intelligence, development, motivation and emotion, personality, social psychology, stress, mental disorders, and treatments of mental disorders. The most influential findings from each of these areas will be highlighted.

Textbook

This year, we will be using *Psychology: The Science of Behaviour* (Third Canadian Edition), by Carlson, Buskist, Enzle and Heth. The publishers of the textbook also provide a student support webpage that offers many helpful features, including practice tests.

The textbook can be obtained from the UTSC Bookstore, where it is sometimes bundled with a workbook and CD-ROM. Used copies of the textbook may or may not include the workbook and CD-ROM; however, neither the workbook nor the CD-ROM is essential to the course. Although these tools do provide a more interactive way of learning the material presented in the textbook, and many students find them to be helpful, neither the midterm exam nor the final exam will deal specifically with their content.

Lectures

Lectures will be held three times per week (Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays) from 9am until 10am. Although my lectures will likely stay relatively close to the textbook at the start of the course, I will rely less and less on the textbook to "scaffold" my lectures as the course progresses. Therefore, I advise you against attempting to use the textbook as a substitute for the lectures.

My lectures are accompanied by PowerPoint slides that highlight each lecture's central points. You can download these slides before coming to class if doing so will help you to take better notes. However, there is more said in class than the points on these slides. Therefore, I advise you against attempting to use the PowerPoint slides as a substitute for the lectures.

WebOption

Developed by Prof. John Bassili (the former instructor of this course, now Chair of the Department of Psychology), the WebOption allows students to view lectures online for a one-week period. The WebOption offers flexibility and control in the learning process. Lectures are first videotaped, then digitized and uploaded to the Web where they can be accessed by streaming video, enabling students to choose where, when, and how they view the lectures.

(Note: students must be physically present at UTSC to write both the midterm and final exams.)

Methods of Evaluation

Your performance in the course will be assessed according to the following:

1. Multiple-Choice Exams

- Midterm exam (40% of your final grade): it will consist of 40 multiple-choice questions (20 lecture, 20 textbook), covering chapters 10-13 and all corresponding lectures.
- Final exam (50% of your final grade): it will consist of 50 multiple-choice questions (25 lecture, 25 textbook), covering chapters 14-18 and all corresponding lectures.

Each exam question will therefore be worth 1% of your final grade.

(Note: dates for the midterm and final exam will be provided as they become available.)

2. Written Assignments

You will be required to complete two peerScholar assignments worth 5% each.

All peerScholar assignments are web-based. Each assignment has three phases. During the first phase, you will log onto the system, access a short reading, and then write a brief reaction paper (one or two typed double-spaced pages in length). You will have a few days to complete this part of the assignment, and a clear rubric will be provided to help you. Once the first phase is over, the evaluation phase begins. During the evaluation phase, you will log onto the system again and, this time, you will see and grade the reaction papers that other students gave to the same reading. You will be asked to grade a number of such assignments, and you will have a few days to do so. Finally, once the evaluation phase is over, you can log on again during the feedback phase to see how you did relative to the class, and to view your classmates' comments.

(Note: assignment details and due dates will be provided as they become available.)

3. Bonus Marks

An additional 2% can also be earned via experimental participation.

Email Policy and Procedures

Email represents one of the most daunting challenges for large courses like PsyA02, in which the approximately 1,500 students enrolled can send up to four or five dozen emails per day. To mitigate this problem, we ask that you please consult this syllabus and the list of frequently asked questions before emailing the PsyA02 Team to see if your question has already been answered. If you cannot find an answer to your question using these resources, we then ask that you email your question to us using **only** the psya02@utsc.utoronto.ca email address. All email will be routed through this portal and then directed to the appropriate member of the PsyA02 Team, depending upon whether your question concerns the textbook, lectures, or administrative matters.