

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 those 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 I of that introduction and, in it, we will focus on topics such as a Brief History of Psychological Research, an Introduction to the Scientific Process, A Discussion of Evolution in the Context of Human Behaviour, Brain Structure and Function, Basic Sensory Processes, Perceptual Processes, Memory and Consciousness.

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

We present the lectures for this course across the year using what we term the WebOption approach (created by Dr. John Bassili). The WebOption approach combines traditional and web-based lectures in an effort to provide students with additional flexibility in how and when they take their courses. Specifically, in the fall of each year PsyA01 is offered both in a traditional classroom setting

(L01) and using the web (L60). As the lectures are given in the traditional section they are taped, then presented to the web-based section via streaming video. We then use these streaming videos again in the Summer term (L60) thereby allowing us to offer this course two terms of the year. Thus, in the Fall term both traditional and web-based approaches are available whereas we offer only the web-based approach in the Summer term.

Note the PsyA02 is a continuation of this course. It uses the same text, and the same approach to teaching with both traditional and web-based sections available. However, in contrast to this course, the traditional section is only available in the Winter for PsyA02. In the Summer term, only the web-based approach is available.

The only real difference between the traditional and web-based sections of this course is with respect to the lecture itself. Whereas the traditional approach requires you to be in class 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 is called Psychology: The Science of Behaviour (**4th Canadian Edition**), and is authored by Carlson, Buskist, Enzle and Heth. The text book is the same with the one we used in previous years, but this year's edition is new. Every couple of years a new edition comes up and we get it to keep up with new advancements in our various fields of study. **Please be sure to obtain a copy of the *new edition* of**

***the text book* otherwise you may be missing on information that is in the new edition and that will be, now, new testing material for this course. So the bottom line is: you need the 4th edition text book for this course. The 3rd edition won't do!**

In PsyA01 we will cover chapters 1 through 9 of the text in the order in which they appear.

Note that you can only get this text new from the bookstore, as older editions will be incomplete and miss on new published material. The textbook costs slightly more than \$100. When thinking about the price of the text book (yes, I know how expensive textbooks are) keep in mind that you can use this text for PsyA02 and well as for this course, at least if you take PsyA02 this year. And because the book just went into a new edition and the next new edition is unlikely to come until 2011, you will be able to sell your book for the new students who will be taking A01 in the summer and fall 2010.

Course Objectives

To pass this course, you need to:

1. Differentiate psychological facts from myths
2. Match definitions and explanations of psychological concepts with their appropriate terms and labels
3. Match prominent psychologists with their theories, principles, or concepts
4. Identify which psychological concepts are being used in particular examples
5. Remember the methodological design and findings of key psychological studies
6. Determine the implications of psychological findings for human behaviour
7. Use the psychological concepts from this course to explain human behaviour

Evaluation

Your mark in this course will come from a midterm, a final exam, and any experimental bonus marks you accumulate (up to 3% of 100% of the course mark). This is the same evaluation format that we employed this summer.

Specifically

The midterm exam is worth 45% (out of 100%) of your final mark (covering Chapters 1 through 4)

The final exam is worth 55% (out of 100%) of your final mark (covering Chapters 5 through 9)

You can earn up to 3 % (out of 100%) additional bonus marks via experimental participation (see below)

The exams **will not be cumulative** but, rather, each will focus on the chapters indicated. Each exam consists of 50, five-alternative, multiple choice questions (i.e., a question followed by four alternatives, one of which is most correct). We do not yet know when the midterm or final will be scheduled as the office of the Registrar is in charge of this task, but we will post the information via announcements as soon as we do.

Note that despite the online lectures, **you do have to physically be present for both the midterm and final exam**. Please understand that we do not just set dates for these exams but, rather, we specify a range of reasonable dates to the registrar's office and they then set the exact day and time for the exams based on issues such as exams in other classes that my students are in (i.e., they attempt to avoid conflicts). As soon as we have specific dates we will post them in the "Announcements" section, **and it is your responsibility to keep an eye on those announcements for this information.**

Previous versions of this course (before Summer 2009) have utilized peerScholar assignments designed to enhance your critical thinking and communication skills. Those assignments utilized peer-assessment, a process wherein students see and grade the work of a subset of their peers. This process has been shown to promote deep learning but, unfortunately, the TA union has argued that only they have the right to mark university level assignments. While we sort out the legal issues and try to arrive at a reasonable solution we have decided not to use peerScholar assignments. Thus there will be no peerScholar assignments in this offering of the class.

As suggested above, it is also possible to receive an additional 3% 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 can email Hanan Kayyali, our Course Support & Program Advisor, at psya01@utsc.utoronto.ca who has been the Course's Support for the past 2 years, so there are *few questions she can't answer*. **ALL QUESTIONS** related to this course should be sent to the course's email: psya01@utsc.utoronto.ca, and not to my, Hanan's or the TAs personal email addresses. Those questions related to lecture material information, that I provide during lectures, that Hanan can't answer or that haven't already been answered in our [Ask a Question page](#), will be routed by Hanan to me. Questions related to text material will be routed by Hanan to the TAs. Each TA has been assigned Chapters, in order to assist your inquiries related to text material. On occasion, questions sent to the TAs or Hanan may be sent by the TAs or Hanan to me for further clarification. If you have questions about the lecture material and would like to speak to me in person you can come and see me during my office hours (Mondays and Wednesdays from 10:30 am -12 pm) or you

may want to talk to me right after class. I am not available for consultation outside these days and times unless there is an emergency or issue you need to address that is critical. Hanan is your main center of information and communication with me or the TAs. Hanan's office is located in SW 540C and her office hours are: Mondays and Thursdays: 10 am -12 pm; Wednesday: 2 pm – 4 pm. Hanan's email is psya01@utsc.utoronto.ca. The TAs do not have office hours but will meet with you if necessary by appointment, only.

The Blackboard Portal contains the course syllabus, the slides you see each week in class, any special notices and announcements, and your marks. The power point slides are not an adequate substitute for attending class, or viewing the lectures on-line. The material discussed in lectures goes beyond the information available in the textbook and lecture slides. For students attending the classes please turn off your cell phone before entering the auditorium.

Finally, let me emphasize that students with diverse learning styles and needs are welcome in this course. In particular, if you have a disability/health consideration that may require accommodations, please feel free to approach me and/or the AccessAbility Services Office as soon as possible. The UTSC AccessAbility Services staff (located in S302) are available by appointment to assess specific needs, provide referrals and arrange appropriate accommodations (416) 287-7560 or ability@utsc.utoronto.ca. The sooner you let us know your needs the quicker we can assist you in achieving your learning goals in this course.

General advice

You may think that psychology, as a subject of study, is simple because the subjects we will be covering in this course may seem familiar as many of them illustrate the very fabric of the behaviour

we engage in every day. So it may be all too easy to assume that intuition should be a good guide to the material. Please don't be deceived by such thoughts. Common sense will not get you through the exam, without studying, when it comes to knowing the contents of psychology and its theorists and research. This course is not only about understanding how people think, feel and behave, but also about learning how the science of Psychology yields such understanding. It is about models of human behaviour, theories that derive from it and hypothesis that follow. It is about a means to assess objective knowledge. You would be asking your common sense too much if you expect it to tell you not only if people who focus equally on their achievements and their failures are happier, but also how this has been demonstrated scientifically. Also, beware of the false sense of security that comes from understanding of the material covered in lectures. By necessity the scope of this material is quite limited, especially when compared to the coverage in the textbook. Part of the university experience is to assess your ability to extract knowledge, make logical associations and think critically about the information presented. Don't let your first exam act as your reminder. Pay attention to all details of the course, read and study carefully the textbook and your lecture notes. Together they will give you the round knowledge you need to do well in this course.

Thanks for your patience listening and patiently reading all the information posted here and, on behalf of my teaching team and myself please allow me to wish you a good course experience and good luck with your exams!!

Gabriela

Note: This announcement contains information from the following sources: Dr. Steve Joordons's syllabus PSY A01, Summer 2009, Dr. Gabriela Ilie's syllabus PSYC 1000U – Introduction to

Psychology, Faculty of Criminology and Justice, & Policy Studies,
UOIT (Summer 2007), Dr. Gabriela Ilie PSY A01, Fall 2009.