

Contact Information

Course Instructor

Dwayne Paré

Email

psya01@utsc.utoronto.ca

Use only this e-mail address. Please do not e-mail Dwayne's personal account! If you send emails to any address other than this one, there is no guarantee that you will get a response.

Please include your student number in all communication.

Office Hours

See the "Contact Information" page on Blackboard

Note: Dwayne's office hours are for questions about course content (i.e. stuff that was in the lecture or textbook). For administrative concerns, please visit Ainsley.

Course Coordinator

Ainsley Lawson

Email

psya01@utsc.utoronto.ca

Use only this e-mail address. If you send emails to any address other than this one, there is no guarantee that you will get a response.

Please include your student number in all communication.

Office Hours

Drop-in any time, or email for an appointment.

Room SW427C

Note: Ainsley's office hours are for administrative questions (assignment instructions, missed deadlines, accommodations, issues with SONA, etc.) For course-content questions, please visit Dwayne.

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.

Lectures

Normally PSYA01 is offered both in a traditional classroom setting (L01) and an online section (L60). However for this term, PSYA01 will be only offered in the online format. 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.

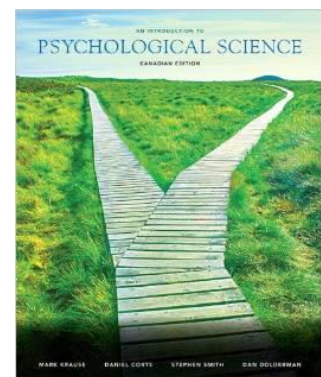
One last important note about my lectures: while my lectures will be inspired by your readings in the textbook and will often involve me discussing the same concepts, I will discuss them in different contexts and may even bring in some information not in your textbook. **You will be tested on both the textbook content AND the lecture content** so please make sure you watch all lectures and consider them deeply.

Textbook

The textbook we will be using for this course is called Psychological Science (1st **Canadian** Edition) and is authored by Krause, Smith, Corts & Dolderman.

In PSYA01 we will cover **Chapters 1 through 8** of the text in the order in which they appear.

Make sure you have the Canadian edition, not the American one!



Evaluation

With the exception of the final exam, all assessments will be performed online. A traditional in-person “sit down” final exam will occur during the exam period at end of term.

Grading Scheme:

4%	mTuner 1
6%	mTuner 2
8%	mTuner 3
10%	mTuner 4
12%	peerScholar activity
7%	Digital Labcoat
3%	Experimental participation (SONA)
50%	Cumulative final exam

YOU MUST PASS THE FINAL EXAM TO PASS THE COURSE. If you do not pass the final, exam but would have passed the course otherwise, you will receive a 45% grade in the course.

The deadlines for all course activities will be posted on the course Blackboard page. **Note that the deadlines are non-negotiable, and if you miss one because of an error on your part you lose the associated marks.**

mTuner

mTuner activities are enhanced, online multiple-choice tests that you will complete after every two chapters we cover. Each mTuner activity will contain 40 questions, and will cover the following chapters and their corresponding lectures:

mTuner 1:	1 and 2
mTuner 2:	mostly 3 and 4, but some content from 1 – 2
mTuner 3:	mostly 5 and 6, but some content from 1 – 4
mTuner 4:	mostly 7 and 8, but some content from 1 – 6

Detailed information on the dates for the mTuner activities and how to complete them will be available on Blackboard.

peerScholar

peerScholar is an online tool that helps develop your critical thinking skills. There are three phases:

- 1) You will write a short composition that presents an “argument” related to some issue specified by me (TBD).
- 2) You will be randomly assigned to anonymously evaluate assignments submitted by 6 of your peers. At the same time, six peers will be anonymously evaluating your work.
- 3) You revise your composition in light of the feedback you received, with TAs ultimately grading you on the final composition, the quality of the comments you gave to your peers, and the appropriateness of your revisions.

Detailed information on the dates for the peerScholar activity and how to complete it will be available on Blackboard.

Digital Labcoat

Digital Labcoat is an online tool gives you hands-on experience with the scientific method. There are four phases:

- (1.) Survey: You complete a survey that asks various questions about your demographics and lifestyle
- (2.) Analyze: Next, you conduct scientific analyses on the data gathered in the first phase, and try to find “cool” results
- (3.) Replicate: In this phase you will attempt to replicate the results found by your peers in Phase 2, and vote on how interesting their findings were.
- (4.) Theorize: Finally, you work with your peers to decide on the best theoretical accounts that explain the top ten most interesting, replicable findings.

Detailed information on the dates for the Digital Labcoat activity and how to complete it will be available on Blackboard.

Experimental Participation (SONA)

With respect to experimental participation, many senior undergraduates, graduate students and faculty conduct research aimed at better understanding psychological processes. You will read about such research throughout the course, but to make what you read more concrete another component of the class involves you serving as a participant in ongoing research. Being a participant will give you the chance to interact directly with a researcher in the context of some specific experiment, and our hope is that you will come to a better understanding of psychological research through this experience. In a sense, this is the lab component of this course. **You earn 0.5 credits for every 30 minutes of participation up to a maximum of 3 credits.**

You use a system called SONA to find and schedule experiments. New experiments will be posted regularly. You earn your credits over the term as suitable experiments (i.e. ones that you want to do and that fit your schedule) become available. **Detailed information will be posted to Blackboard once SONA has been opened for the term** (usually starting the third week of class).

Some notes:

- If you sign up for an experiment but fail to show up for it, you will receive a **0.5 credit deduction** from your SONA grade. If you need to cancel an appointment, you must inform the researcher at least **48 hours** in advance.
- Similarly, if a researcher needs to cancel your appointment, they must inform you 48 hours in advance. If you have signed up for an experiment and the researcher fails to show up, you will still receive your credit.
- You must complete your experimental participation by the last day of classes for the term.

An **alternative assignment** will be made available during the last few weeks of class, for those who prefer not to participate in research studies, or who did not find any suitable experiments to participate in. The due date for the alternative assignment will be the same as the last day to participate in research. **Detailed information on the SONA alternative assignment will be posted to Blackboard.**

Cumulative Final Exam

Cumulative? What? That's right, there are no midterms in this class, just one big exam waiting for you at the end. The final exam is composed of multiple-choice questions presented in a traditional manner (i.e. using pencil and paper, not online). So you will come in to an exam room, sit down with your peers, and write the final exam using scantrons while being supervised.

The exam covers the entire course, including EVERYTHING presented in the textbook chapters we covered, and EVERYTHING discussed in lectures. I will try very hard to be fair, focusing on what I view as the relevant issues rather than the picky details. But if it is in the text or in my lectures it is fair game.

The Registrar's Office is responsible for the scheduling of the exams, so we will not know the date until close to end of term. As we have more details about the scheduling and specifics of the exam, we will post them on the course Blackboard webpage.

Note: **YOU MUST PASS THE FINAL EXAM TO PASS THE COURSE.** If you do not pass the final exam but would have passed the course otherwise, you will receive a 45% grade in the course.

Missed Term Work

Everything described above is considered a compulsory part of the class. We believe the evaluation is most fair when all students complete all components with no special consideration being applied.

If you miss a course activity, **we do not offer extensions or make-up assignments.** That said, sometimes things happen. If you can provide documentation that proves you were incapable of completing an activity for a legitimate reason (legitimacy to be determined by the professor and course coordinator) then we may be able to **transfer the weight** of that activity to the final exam. Note that the final exam marks tend to be lowest of all the marks in the course, so it is not in your best interest to have more weight transferred to your final exam. You should avoid this option if at all possible.

YOU MUST FOLLOW THE PROCEDURE OUTLINED BELOW IN ORDER TO BE CONSIDERED FOR ACCOMMODATIONS FOR MISSED TERM WORK.

Missed Term Work due to Medical Illness or Emergency Policy:

All students citing a documented reason for missed term work (this includes assignments and midterm exams) must bring their documentation to the Undergraduate Course Coordinator, Ainsley Lawson, **within three (3) business days** of the term test / assignment due date. All documentation must be accompanied by the departmental [Request for Missed Term Work form](http://uoft.me/PSY-MTW) (<http://uoft.me/PSY-MTW>).

In the case of missed term work due to illness, only an **original copy** of the [official UTSC Verification of Illness Form](http://uoft.me/PSY-MED) (<http://uoft.me/PSY-MED>) will be accepted. Forms are to be completed in full, clearly indicating the start date, anticipated end date, and severity of illness. The physician's registration number and business stamp are required.

In the case of other emergency, a record of visitation to a hospital emergency room or copy of a death certificate may be considered.

Forms should be dropped off in SW427C between 9 AM - 4 PM, Monday through Friday. Upon receipt of the documentation, you will receive an email response from the Course Instructor / Course Coordinator within three business days. The Course Instructor reserves the right to decide what accommodations (if any) will be made for the missed work.

Note that this policy applies only to missed term work (assignments and midterms). Missed final exams are dealt with by the Registrar's Office (<http://www.uts.utoronto.ca/registrar/missing-examination>).

Failure to adhere to any aspect of this policy may result in a denial of your request for accommodation.

TECHNICAL ISSUES:

- If there is a system-wide issue with any of our course activities, we will post an announcement.
- If you are personally experiencing a technical issue with one of our systems, we recommend trying a try a different browser or a different computer. If it is still not working, you are expected to come to campus and use one of the machines here. The computer labs on campus work reliably with our software so **we do not accept the excuse that your personal computer was not working, or you were experiencing issues with your internet connection.**
- If you have tried all this and are still experiencing issues, you need to document it. Take screenshots or videos and email the course account right away (BEFORE the assignment deadline).
- You are expected to **back up your written assignments as you work on them.** We do not accept the excuse that one of our systems failed to save your work. Submit your assignments at least an hour before they are due, to avoid slow connections at the last minute.
- **Technical issues need be reported BEFORE an activity is due.** Any problems reported after a deadline will not be accommodated.

INVALID EXCUSES:

Some examples of invalid reasons for missing an activity:

- issues with your personal computer/connection (you are expected to use a UTSC computer if this occurs)
- personal travel
- confusion about deadlines or instructions
- slow connections at the last minute (submit your assignments at least an hour before they are due)
- technical issues reported **after** the deadline for an activity

Note: If you are experiencing an ongoing health issue that is affecting your ability to complete your schoolwork, you should consider visiting [AccessAbility Services](#) to explore your options.

Issues with missed final exams are dealt with by the Registrar's Office, not the course instructors / administrators.

Details are available here: http://www.utsc.utoronto.ca/~registrar/current_students/deferred_exams

Other Notes

Research Activity

As mentioned, this course includes many innovative new tools that I believe will enhance your learning. However, science is based on data, not beliefs, and as one interested in educational technologies I will be conducting research designed to assess the effectiveness of these tools. Thus I may, on occasion, ask you to fill out a questionnaire, or I may wish to perform various analyses comparing how students do on various components of the class. If you do not want your data used in any research, please let me know and I will take steps to exclude your data from any analyses I perform.

Academic Integrity

The University highly values scholarship and academic achievement and takes very seriously any suspected or known cases of cheating and plagiarism. Students are highly encouraged to read the guide on [How Not to Plagiarize](#) and to take advantage of [writing resources](#) on campus. In addition, our campus has a general [Code of Conduct](#) that all students are expected to follow when interacting with peers, staff of faculty. The keyword here is respect, a good educational context is one in which all parties respect one another's perspective and opinions.

Personal Integrity

As I hope this syllabus shows, I take my responsibility to provide you with the best education very seriously. Part of that responsibility is to be fair with respect to how I assess your work. Part of that means judging all of my students using the same yardstick. What I have laid out above is that yardstick, the things I will ask you to do to show me what you have learned. So with this in mind please respect the following two values I hold close; (1) I firmly believe that marks are to be earned, not given ... so please never ask me to give you a mark unless you feel you have earned it, and (2) I feel it is unfair to offer any student an opportunity that I don't offer to the entire class ... so please **do not ask for any sort of special treatment**. Instead, take the course seriously, understand the expectations laid out here, and just do your best.

You're Not Alone!

There are almost 2000 students in this class, quite a transition from high school! However, I sincerely hope that you do not feel like we don't care about you ... we do! However, we obviously cannot look over your shoulder and know when you may or may not need help with something. THAT part we must leave up to you. But when you DO need help, I certainly hope we are there for you. We have set up a number of mechanisms to help you with any questions or issues you might have. Please take the time to follow the right path and you should get help soon. If we work together we can make the class feel welcoming and responsive to you, and manageable for us.

Administrative Questions. Ainsley Lawson (SW427C) provides administrative support for this course. All administrative questions about the course in general, and specific course activities should be addressed to her at the course email address (psya01@utsc.utoronto.ca). Before emailing, check that the answer to your question has not already been addressed on the Blackboard page. Check the syllabus, course announcements, and individual activity pages before sending an email.

Use only the course e-mail address. Please do not e-mail Dwayne or Ainsley's personal accounts! If you send emails to any address other than psya01@utsc.utoronto.ca, you will not get a response.

Content-Related Questions. For questions about the lecture/textbook, you should be visiting Dwayne's office hours. Your peers may also be able to help if you post the Blackboard discussion forum.

AccessAbility: Let me also emphasize that students with diverse learning styles and needs are welcome in this course. If you have a disability/health consideration that may require accommodations, please approach 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.