Course Team

Course Instructor

Professor Steve Joordens

Office Hours

Mondays, 2:30 – 4:30 PM, room SW415

Note: Steve'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

Office Hours

Generally available weekdays between 10 AM – Noon and 2 – 4 PM, room SW427C
If you'd like to arrange a specific appointment time, please email psya01@utsc.utoronto.ca.

Note: Course coordinator office hours are for **administrative questions** (missed deadlines, accommodations, issues with SONA, etc.) For course-content questions, please visit Steve's office hours.

Ainsley is also able to answer questions related to the Psychology, Mental Health, and Neuroscience programs, and any other Psychology courses at UTSC.

Communication Policy

From us, to you!

Important course information will communicated to you via announcements on **Quercus**, and via **email**.

You are expected to monitor email and course announcements on a frequent and consistent basis. Students have the responsibility to recognize that certain communications may be time-critical.

Make sure that the email you have associated with your account in ACORN is your official UofT email. If you want to set up forwarding to another account, here are the instructions: http://help.ic.utoronto.ca/content/3/1816/en/forwarding-email-from-utmail.html

From you, to us!

If you need to contact us, you can do so via either of the following methods:

1. Visiting office hours (above), or
2. Emailing the course account:

psya01@utsc.utoronto.ca

Use only this e-mail address! If you send messages to any address other than this one, there is no guarantee that you will get a response.   Please do not send emails to Steve or Ainsley's personal accounts, or via the direct messaging system in Quercus. Using this email is the fastest way to get a response from us.

Please include your student number and a meaningful subject line in all communication.

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 relates to other approaches within Psychology.

Lectures

We present the lectures for this course using what we term the **WebOption** approach. The WebOption approach combines traditional and web-based presentation of lectures in an effort to provide students with additional flexibility in terms of how and when they watch lectures. In the fall of each year PSYA01 is offered both in a traditional classroom setting (L01) and an online section (L60). As the lectures are given in the traditional section they are taped, then made available to the online section via streaming video, usually on the same day. We then use these streaming videos again in the summer term (L99) thereby allowing us to offer this course two terms of the year.

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. In the summer session, only the web-based version of the course is available.

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 "An Introduction to Psychological Science (**Second Canadian Edition**)" by Krause, Smith, Corts & Dolderman.

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

This is a new edition of the textbook, so it is unlikely that you will be able to find used versions of it for purchase. If you purchase a different version of the textbook, you will be at a disadvantage in the course, as some of the content will be different.

You can purchase the textbook at the UTSC Bookstore. When you buy the book at the bookstore, it will also come with a code to access the online version of the textbook. If you buy the textbook online through Pearson, you will not receive a physical copy of the book.
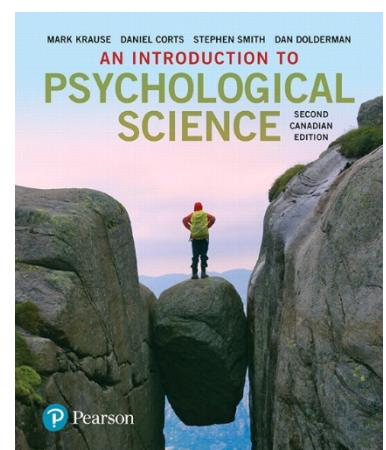
Evaluation

With the exception of the final exam and SONA experimental participation, all assessments will be online. A traditional in-person "sit down" final exam will occur at end of term. **You will need to be present on campus for the final exam.**

Grading Scheme:

2%   "Academic Integrity Matters" (AIM) module

2%   mTuner 0

5%   mTuner 1

5%   mTuner 2

5%   mTuner 3

5%   mTuner 4

5%   Digital Labcoat

12%   peerScholar

5%   TopHat Participation

4%   Experimental participation (SONA)

50%   Cumulative final exam

YOU MUST ACHIEVE AT LEAST 45% ON THE FINAL EXAM TO PASS THE COURSE.
If you do not achieve at least 45% on 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 Quercus page. **Note that the deadlines are non-negotiable, and if you miss one due of an error on your part, you will lose the marks for that activity.**

mTuner

mTuner activities are enhanced, online multiple-choice quizzes that you will complete after every two chapters we cover. The mTuner activities will cover the following chapters and their corresponding lectures:

mTuner 0:   Syllabus quiz

mTuner 1:   Chapters 1 and 2

mTuner 2:   Mostly chapters 3 and 4, but some content from 1 – 2

mTuner 3:   Mostly chapters 5 and 6, but some content from 1 – 4

mTuner 4:   Mostly chapters 7 and 8, but some content from 1 – 6

Detailed information on how to complete the mTuner activities will be posted to Quercus.

"Academic Integrity Matters" (AIM) module

This online module will instruct you on the University's policies related to academic integrity. The end of the module includes a quiz, which will count toward your course grade.

Detailed information on how to complete the AIM module will be posted to Quercus.

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 how to complete the Digital Labcoat activity will be posted to Quercus.

peerScholar

For the peerScholar assignment, 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 how to complete the peerScholar activity will be posted to Quercus.

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 4 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 Quercus once SONA has been opened for the term** (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 two 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 Quercus.**

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 ACHIEVE AT LEAST 45% ON THE FINAL EXAM TO PASS THE COURSE. If you do not achieve at least 45% on 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.

That said, sometimes things happen. If you can provide documentation that proves you were incapable of completing an activity for a legitimate reason (ex. medical illness or other emergency) then we may be able to make an accommodation for you. Most commonly, this will be 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.

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

Missed Term Work Policy:

All students citing a documented reason for missed term work must submit their request for accommodations **within three (3) business days** of the deadline for the missed work.

Students must submit **BOTH** of the following:
   (1.) A completed **Request for Missed Term Work Accommodations form** (http://uoft.me/PSY-MTW), and
   (2.) **Appropriate documentation** to verify your illness or emergency, as described below.

Appropriate documentation:

For missed **ASSIGNMENTS** due to **ILLNESS**:
- Submit the Request for Missed Term Work Accommodations form (http://uoft.me/PSY-MTW), along with a **hardcopy** of the Self-Declaration of Student Illness Form (uoft.me/PSY-self-declare-form).

For missed **ASSIGNMENTS** due to **ACCESSABILITY REASONS**:
- If your desired accommodation is **within the scope** of your Accommodation Letter (ex. your letter includes "extensions of up to 7 days" and you need 3 days), submit the Request for Missed Term Work Accommodations form (http://uoft.me/PSY-MTW) and attach a copy of your letter. **Specify how many days extension you are requesting** on the request form.
- If your desired accommodation is **outside the scope** of your Accommodation Letter (ex. your letter includes "extensions of up to 7 days" but you need more time than that) you will need to meet with your **AccessAbility consultant** and have them email Keely (keely.hicks@utoronto.ca) detailing the accommodations required.
- Note: **You cannot submit your Accommodation Letter for missed mTuners,** because they are considered a time-sensitive quiz, not an assignment. For missed mTuners due to AccessAbility reasons, we would need an email from your AccessAbility consultant.

For missed or **ASSIGNMENTS** in **OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES**:
  Submit the Request for Missed Term Work Accommodations form (http://uoft.me/PSY-MTW), along with:
- In the case of a **death of a family member or friend**, please provide a copy of a death certificate.
- For U of T varsity-level or professional **athletic commitments**, an email from your coach or varsity administrator should be sent directly to Keely Hicks (keely.hicks@utoronto.ca) **well in advance** of the missed work, detailing the dates and nature of the commitment.
- For **religious accommodations**, please email (keely.hicks@utoronto.ca) **well in advance** of the missed work.
- For circumstances **outside of these guidelines**, please email Keely (keely.hicks@utoronto.ca) on the date of the assignment deadline to describe your circumstances and ask what documentation would be appropriate

Documents covering the following situations are NOT acceptable: medical prescriptions, personal travel, weddings/personal/work commitments.

Submission Procedure:

Submit your (1.) request form and (2.) medical/self-declaration/other documents in person **WITHIN 3 BUSINESS DAYS** of the missed assignment.

Submit to:

Keely Hicks, Room SW420B, Monday – Friday, 9 AM – 4 PM. (Slide forms under door if out of office.)

After submitting your documentation, within approximately one to five business days, you will receive a response from your instructor detailing the accommodations to be made (if any).

You are responsible for checking your official U of T email and Quercus course announcements daily, as accommodations may be time-critical.

You should continue to work on your assignments to the best of your ability, as extension accommodations may be as short as one business day, depending on the nature of the illness/emergency.

If an accommodation has been granted but you are unable to meet the conditions of the accommodation (ex. you need a longer extension), you will need to repeat the missed term work procedure and submit additional forms to request further accommodation.

Completion of this form does NOT guarantee that accommodations will be made. The course instructor reserves the right to decide what accommodations (if any) will be made. Failure to adhere to any aspect of this policy may result in a denial of your request for accommodation.

Importance of Three Business Day window:

If you are unable to submit your documents in-person within the three business day window**, you must email Keely** (keely.hicks@utoronto.ca) **within the three business day window** to explain when you will be able to bring your documents in person. Exceptions to the documentation deadline will only be made under **exceptional circumstances**. Attach scans of your documentation, and be prepared to bring your documents to Keely in-person as soon as you are well. Late documents may not be accepted.

NOTE: Assignments due at end of term

Instructors cannot accept term work any later than five business days after the last day of class**.** Beyond this date, you would need to file a petition with the Registrar's Office (https://www.utsc.utoronto.ca/registrar/term-work).

NOTE: Final Exams

This policy applies only to missed assignments and term tests. Missed final exams are handled by the Registrar's Office (http://www.utsc.utoronto.ca/registrar/missing-examination).

Typical Missed Term Work Accommodations

The following accommodations are typically applied after valid documentation is provided for missed work. Note that these accommodations are subject to change at the discretion of the course instructor / staff.

mTuner:	Re-weighted to final exam.
Digital Labcoat:	Re-weighted to final exam.
peerScholar:	If possible, extensions will be provided. If not, re-weighted to final exam.
AIM module:	No accommodations will be made. Students have over a week to complete the activity.
TopHat:	No accommodations will be made. Students have over a week to complete the activity.
SONA experiments:	If you are unable to provide 48 hours' notice of a cancelled appointment, you can follow the missed term work procedure to avoid receiving a credit deduction.
SONA written:	No accommodations will be made. Students have over a week to complete the activity.

Technical Issues

If there is a system-wide issue with any of our course activities, we will post an announcement. For all other cases (i.e. the issue is on your end) we require the following:

- **Technical issues need be reported BEFORE an activity is due**.
  - Any problems reported after a deadline **will not** be accommodated.
- **You must 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. If there are any issues, we may ask you to provide your backed-up version of your work, so make sure you save it somewhere!
  - Google Docs is a great place to do this, since it auto-saves your work as you go, and will also show timestamps of all changes made, so that you can prove you completed your work before the deadline.
- **We do not accept the excuse that your personal computer was not working, or you were experiencing issues with your internet connection.**
  - 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.
  - Do not leave your assignments to the last minute, because you will need to leave time to get to another machine if you are experiencing issues.
- **We do not accept the excuse that your internet was being slow if you are submitting at the last minute.**
  - We recommend submitting your assignments at least an hour before they are due, to avoid slow connections at the last minute, and double check that everything submitted properly.
- **Document your technical problems.**
  - If you have tried different computers and are still experiencing problems submitting before a deadline, you need to prove to us that (1.) something went wrong, and (2.) the work was completed before the deadline.
  - To do this, you need to **send your work**, along with **screenshots or videos** of the issue to the course email account **BEFORE** the assignment deadline.

Invalid Excuses for Missed Work:

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.

Other Notes

Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is essential to the pursuit of learning and scholarship in a university, and to ensuring that a degree from the University of Toronto is a strong signal of each student's individual academic achievement. As a result, the University treats cases of cheating and plagiarism very seriously. The University of Toronto's Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters outlines the behaviours that constitute academic dishonesty and the processes for addressing academic offences. Potential offences include, but are not limited to:

In papers and assignments:
- Using someone else's ideas or words without appropriate acknowledgement;
- Submitting your own work in more than one course without the permission of the instructor;
- Making up sources or facts;
- Obtaining or providing unauthorized assistance on any assignment.

On tests and exams:
- Using or possessing unauthorized aids;
- Looking at someone else's answers during an exam or test;
- Misrepresenting your identity; and
- When you knew or ought to have known you were doing it.

In academic work:
- Falsifying institutional documents or grades;
- Falsifying or altering any documentation required by the University, including (but not limited to) doctor's notes; and
- When you knew or ought to have known you were doing so.

All suspected cases of academic dishonesty will be investigated following procedures outlined in the Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters. If students have questions or concerns about what constitutes appropriate academic behaviour or appropriate research and citation methods, they are expected to seek out additional information on academic integrity from their instructors or from other institutional resources.

Students are highly encouraged to read the guide on How Not to Plagiarize and to take advantage of writing resources on campus.   The keyword here is respect – a good educational context is one in which all parties respect one another's perspective and opinions.

Note:

You may see advertisements for services offering grammar help, essay editing and proof-reading. Be very careful. If these services take a draft of your work and significantly change the content and/or language, you may be committing an academic offence (unauthorized assistance) under the *Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters.*

It is much better and safer to take your draft to the Writing Centre as early as you can. They will give you guidance you can trust. Students for whom English is not their first language should go to the English Language Development Centre.

If you decide to use these services in spite of this caution, you must keep a draft of your work and any notes you made before you got help and be prepared to give it to your instructor on request.

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, they 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.

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.

TurnItIn.com

Normally, students will be required to submit their course essays to Turnitin.com for a review of textual similarity and detection of possible plagiarism. In doing so, students will allow their essays to be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database, where they will be used solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism. The terms that apply to the University's use of the Turnitin.com service are described on the Turnitin.com web site.

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:
Before emailing, check the syllabus, course announcements, and individual activity pages to see if your question has already been answered. If it hasn't, send your questions about the course and its activities to Ainsley Lawson (SW427C) at psya01@utsc.utoronto.ca.

Content-Related Questions:
For questions about the lecture/textbook, you should be visiting Steve's office hours.

AccessAbility

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 as soon as possible.

AccessAbility Services staff (located in Rm SW302, Science Wing) are available by appointment to assess specific needs, provide referrals and arrange appropriate accommodations 416-287-7560 or email 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.