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.

PSYA01 provides a general overview of topics including research techniques in psychology, evolutionary psychology, the biology of behaviour, learning and behaviour, sensation, perception, memory and consciousness. The most influential findings from each of these areas will be highlighted.

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. 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.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, our students will have:
- begun learning about the breadth of psychological inquiry, a journey that will continue in PSYA02
- learned about foundational work in several specific areas of inquiry including the history of psychology, the scientific method, neuroscience, sensation, perception, memory, consciousness and language
- received repeated structured practice thinking critically and creatively in a context that also exercises communication skills and enhances students' awareness of how their work compares to that of their peers
- acquired a deep understanding of the scientific method

Course Team

Course Instructors

Lauren Vomberg and Nisma Khan

Contact

Email: psya01.utsc@utoronto.ca

Office Hours – on Zoom

Nisma Khan - Wednesdays 11am-12pm
    Zoom link: https://utoronto.zoom.us/j/87932531302
    Meeting ID: 879 3253 1302
Lauren Vomberg – Thursdays 3pm-4pm
   Zoom link: https://utoronto.zoom.us/j/88332312292
    Meeting ID: 883 3231 2292

Note: Nisma and Lauren's office hours are for questions about **course content** (i.e., lecture or textbook content). For administrative concerns, please email the course staff.

About Us

Nisma Khan is in her 3rd year of her PhD in Dr. Rutsuko Ito's Lab, specializing in Behavioral Neuroscience. She received her Honour's Bachelor of Science in Human Biology and Neuroscience and her Master of Arts in Psychology (neuroscience focused) at the University of Toronto Scarborough. She is currently pursuing her PhD in the same lab, in which her research focuses on elucidating the neural substrates and circuits involved in learned motivational conflict.
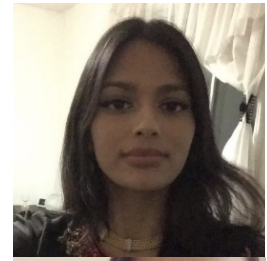
Lauren is a 4th year PhD candidate in Dr. Mark Schmuckler's Adult Music Cognition lab. She completed an Honour's Bachelor of Arts and Science in clarinet performance and psychology at the University of Lethbridge in 2017, and a Master of Science in cognitive psychology at the University of Lethbridge in 2019. Her research explores tonality and auditory illusions, pitch, auditory stream segregation, and serious games. She is also completing the collaborative specialization in engineering.

Course Staff

Alyssa Rai	Course Coordinator
Ainsley Lawson	Undergraduate Program Administrator
Rob Aidelbaum	Teaching Assistant
Dan Krzyzanowski	Teaching Assistant
Shreya Jagtap	Teaching Assistant
Sonja Chu	Teaching Assistant

Contact

Email: psya01.utsc@utoronto.ca.

Note: Course staff should be contacted with **administrative questions** (missed deadlines, accommodations, technical issues, etc.) For course content questions, please visit Nisma and Lauren's office hours.

Course Communication

From us, to you!

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

This course uses the University's learning management system, **Quercus**, to post information about the course. This includes posting readings and other materials required to complete class activities and course assignments, as well as sharing important announcements and updates. The site is dynamic and new information and resources will be posted regularly as we move through the term, so please make it a habit to log in to the site on a regular, even daily, basis. To access the course website, go to the UofT Quercus log-in page at https://q.utoronto.ca. Once you have logged in to Quercus using your UTORid and password, you should see the link or "card" for PSYA01. You may need to scroll through other cards to find this. Click on the PSYA01 link to open our course area, view the latest announcements and access your course resources. There are Quercus help guides for students that you can access by clicking on the "?" icon in the left side column.

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: https://onesearch.library.utoronto.ca/ic-faq/36244

From you, to us!

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

1. Visiting office hours (detailed on the previous page),
   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 our personal accounts or via the direct messaging system in Quercus**. **Please include your student number and a meaningful subject line in all communication.** You can expect a response within 1-2 business days.

Textbook

The textbook for this course is online, via a platform called Top Hat. There is no physical copies of the textbook available, but PDFs are available to download after you purchase the book. Information on purchasing the textbook can be found in Quercus. We will cover the following modules in PSYA01:

Module #	Topic
Module 1	What is Psychology?
Module 2	Methods
Module 3	Biology & Neuroscience
Module 5	Sensation and Perception
Module 6	States of Consciousness
Module 7	Learning
Module 8	Memory
Module 9	Language & Thought

Lectures

PSYA01 is a **"web-optioned"** course. This means that the live classroom lectures are recorded and posted online later that same day. Note that both the LEC01 and LEC02 students can access these recordings, but **only LEC01 students may attend the in-person lectures**. Students registered in LEC02 should watch the lectures online.

You are responsible for learning all of the content in the textbook AND all of the content in the lectures.

Evaluation

Weight	Assignment	Delivery	Due date
1%	"Academic Integrity Matters" (AIM) module	Online	Sunday May 28, 11:59 PM
6%	Top Hat participation	Online	*Mods 1&2:* Sunday May 28, 11:59 PM *Mods 3&5:* Sunday June 11, 11:59 PM *Mods 6&7:* Sunday July 16, 11:59 PM *Mods 8&9:* Sunday July 30, 11:59 PM
15%	peerScholar assignment	Online	*Phase 1:* Wednesday July 5, 11:59 PM *Phase 2:* Wednesday July 12, 11:59 PM *Phase 3:* Wednesday July 19, 11:59 PM
4%	Work-Integrated Learning (WIL) activity	Online	*Phase 1:* Sunday July 30, 11:59 PM *Phase 2:* Sunday Aug 6, 11:59 PM
4%	Experimental participation (SONA)	In person/online	Wednesday Aug. 9, 11:59 PM
25%	Midterm exam	**IN PERSON**	TBD
45%	Cumulative final exam	**IN PERSON**	TBD

Please note **you must be on campus to write your exams.** This applies to students in both the LEC01 and LEC02 sections of the course. There is no option to complete these components online.

Detailed information about each course activity will be posted to Quercus once it is time to begin that activity.

SPECIAL NOTE ABOUT GRADES POSTED ONLINE: Any grades posted are for your information only, so you can view and track your progress through the course. No grades are considered official, including any posted in Quercus at any point in the term, until they have been formally approved and posted on ACORN at the end of the course. Please contact us as soon as possible if you think there is an error in any grade posted on 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.

Top Hat Participation

As you read your textbook and watch your lecture videos on Top Hat, there will be embedded questions that you will answer for participation marks. Top Hat will be graded only for completion, not correctness. (i.e.) As long as you participate fully and answer all questions by their deadlines, you will receive full Top Hat marks.

peerScholar Assignment

For the peerScholar assignment, there are three phases:

1) You will be given instructions to create a particular assignment.
2) You will be randomly assigned to anonymously evaluate assignments submitted by your peers. At the same time, your peers will be anonymously evaluating your work.
3) You revise your assignment in light of the feedback you received, and reflect upon the changes you made.

Work-Integrated Learning (WIL) Activity

Each term we end the course with a chance for you to apply some of the skills and knowledge you are building to some real-world issue. More details will be provided throughout the term, including video interviews that will introduce you to the organization you'll be working with, and to the specific challenges your team can choose to take on.

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 use a system called SONA to find and schedule experiments. New experiments will be posted regularly. You earn your credits over the term as experiments become available. Please read the instructions carefully when you sign up to determine if the experiment can be completed at any time, or if you need to do it on a specific date/time.

Some notes:

- You earn 0.5 credits for every half hour of experimental participation.
- 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.

Midterm and Final Exams

The midterm exam will cover Modules 1, 2, 3, and 5 and their associated lectures. It will be multiple-choice format.

The final exam is **cumulative**, meaning that it covers the entire course, including everything presented in the textbook modules we covered, and everything discussed in lectures. It will also be multiple-choice format.

Please note **you must be on campus to write your exams.** This applies to students in both the LEC01 and LEC02 sections of the course. There is no option to complete these components online.

The Registrar's Office is responsible for the scheduling of the exams, so we will not know the date until later on. Full exam details will be posted to Quercus, once available.

Course Policies

Missed Term Work Procedure

Everything described above is considered a compulsory part of the class. Evaluation is most fair when all students complete all components with no special consideration being applied. That said, sometimes things happen. In the case of medical or other emergency, you must request accommodations via the procedure below. In most cases, if procedures are followed correctly, we will arrange for either a re-weighting of the missed work to an appropriate exam, or an extension if possible.

Department of Psychology Missed Term Work Policy, SUMMER 2023

For missed term work (assignments and term tests) due to illness, emergency, or other mitigating circumstances, please follow the procedures outlined below.

Note:
- The following reasons are not considered sufficient for missed term work: travel for leisure, weddings, personal commitments, work commitments, human error.
- Missed *Final* Exams are handled by the Registrar's Office and should be declared on eService.
- Instructors cannot accept term work any later than five business days after the last day of class**.** Beyond this date, accommodations are only possible via the Registrar's Office petition process.

> The email address to submit missed term work accommodation requests in PSYA01 is:
> **psya01.utsc@utoronto.ca**

ILLNESS OR EMERGENCY accommodations:
> For missed work due to ILLNESS OR EMERGENCY, complete the following process:
> 1. Complete the Request for Missed Term Work Accommodations Form.
> 2. Declare your absence on ACORN (Profile & Settings > Absence Declaration)
> 3. Email **both** of the following items to the course email **WITHIN 2 BUSINESS DAYS** of the missed work:
>   a. the Request for Missed Term Work Accommodations Form
>   ***AND***
>   b. a screenshot of your Self-Declared Absence on ACORN
> *Note:*
- *If you are unable to submit your request within 2 business days, you must still email your instructor within the 2 business day window to explain the nature of the delay. Exceptions to the 2 business day deadline will only be made under exceptional circumstances.*

- *If your absence is declared on ACORN, we do not require any additional supporting documentation (e.g. medical notes) to support your missed term work accommodation request.*

ACADEMIC CONFLICT accommodations:

For missed term work due to an ACADEMIC CONFLICT (e.g. two midterms at the same time):
1. Complete the Request for Missed Term Work Accommodations Form.
2. Take screenshots of your course Quercus pages that demonstrate the conflict.
3. Email the form and screenshots to the course email **at least two weeks (10 business days) before the date of the activity,** or as soon as possible if it was not possible to identify the conflict earlier. Requests sent after the activity deadline may not be accommodated.

Note:
- *Multiple assignments due on the same day are <u>not</u> considered conflicts. Students are expected to manage their time effectively to meet assignment deadlines.*
- *Back-to-back tests/quizzes are <u>not</u> considered conflicts. Only overlapping activities are conflicts.*
- *Students are responsible for keeping their course timetables conflict-free. Students who register in two courses with overlapping lecture/tutorial/lab schedules will not be accommodated.*

RELIGIOUS CONFLICT accommodations:

For missed term work due to a RELIGIOUS CONFLICT:
1. Complete the Request for Missed Term Work Accommodations Form.
2. Email the form to the course **email at least two weeks (10 business days) before the date of the activity**, or as soon as possible if it was not possible to identify the conflict earlier. Requests sent after the activity deadline may not be accommodated.

ACCESSABILITY SERVICES accommodations:

For missed *TERM TESTS* due to ACCESSABILITY REASONS:
- **Contact your AccessAbility consultant** and have them email the course email detailing accommodations required.

For missed *ASSIGNMENTS* due to ACCESSABILITY REASONS:
- If your desired accommodation is **within the scope** of your Accommodation Letter (e.g. your letter includes "extensions of up to 7 days" and you need 3 days):
    1. Complete the Request for Missed Term Work Accommodations Form.
    2. Email the form ***AND*** your **Accommodation Letter** to the course email specifying how many days extension you are requesting.
- If your desired accommodation is **outside the scope** of your Accommodation Letter (e.g. your letter includes "extensions of up to 7 days" but you need more time than that):
    1. **Contact your AccessAbility consultant** and have them email the course email detailing the accommodations required.

Accommodation Procedure:

After submitting your documentation, you will receive a response from your instructor or TA. This form does not guarantee that you will be accommodated. 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. **You are responsible for checking your official U of T email and Quercus course announcements daily**, as accommodations may be time-critical.

For missed assignments, **do not wait for the instructor's response to resume work on your assignment.** Extensions may be as short as one business day, depending on the nature of the illness/emergency. Complete your assignment as soon as you're able, and email it to your instructor.

For an **anticipated absence** (e.g. a scheduled surgery or an illness with a prolonged recovery period), if you would like to request accommodations in advance, submit a Verification of Illness Form completed by your doctor AND the

[Request for Missed Term Work Accommodations Form](#) to the course email. Absences can be declared up to 14 days into the future on ACORN.

Missed Accommodations

If an accommodation is granted but a continued illness/emergency prevents you from meeting its requirements, you must repeat the missed term work procedure to request additional accommodations. **Please make it clear in your subject line that you are requesting a second accommodation.** E.g. If you are given an extension but are still sick and need more time, or if you miss a make-up term test, you must submit *another* [Request for Missed Term Work Accommodations Form](#) and declare your extended absence on ACORN. *Note: In the case of a missed make-up test, an opportunity to write a second make-up test may not necessarily be provided.

Technical Issues

The following policies apply with regard to technical issues. If there is a system-wide issue with any of our course activities, we will post an announcement.

- **You must back up any written assignments in a [Google Doc](#) as you work on them.**
    - o Google Docs will auto-save your work as you go, and will show timestamps of all changes made, so that you can prove you completed your work before the deadline if you encounter submission problems.
    - o We do not accept the excuse that one of our systems failed to save your work as a reason for an extension. You should back up your work in a Google Doc as you go.
    - o If you encounter an issue with submission, we will ask you to share your backed-up Google Doc with us, with editing permissions so that we can see the version history of the document and make sure your work was completed before the deadline.
- **Technical issues need be reported (by email to the course account) BEFORE an activity is due**.
    - o Any problems reported after a deadline will not be accommodated.
    - o You should **submit your assignments at least an hour before they are due**, to avoid slow connections at the last minute, troubleshoot any issues, and double check that everything submitted properly.
    - o Note that a deadline of, for example, 2 PM, means exactly 2:00:00 PM. If you send a screenshot of an issue showing your computer time as 2 PM, then you are trying to submit late and your work will not be accepted.
    - o Please try different computers/browsers if you are experiencing problems. If the problem persists, you should follow the following procedure:

To report a technical issue, email the course account (psya01.utsc@utoronto.ca) **BEFORE** the assignment deadline with:
- o your name and student number,
- o a brief description of the problem,
- o **a copy of your work** (i.e. attach the essay or other work you are trying to submit), and
- o **screenshots/videos** of the issue to the course email account. Screenshots/videos must show the date and time on your computer.

Special cases:

If your **wifi is out**, please take a screenshot/video that shows your dead connection and has the computer time and date visible. Report this to the course email as soon as your connection is restored.

If your **power is out**, report this to the course email as soon as your power is restored. If available, please provide a screenshot of the outage info from your electricity provider.

Invalid Excuses for Missed Work include:

- personal travel
- confusion about deadlines or instructions
- failing to check your email or course announcements
- technical issues reported *after* the deadline for an activity

Equity, Diversity and Inclusion

The University of Toronto is committed to equity, human rights and respect for diversity. All members of the learning environment in this course should strive to create an atmosphere of mutual respect where all members of our community can express themselves, engage with each other, and respect one another's differences. U of T does not condone discrimination or harassment against any persons or communities.

Disability-Related Accommodations

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 (http://www.utsc.utoronto.ca/ability/) as soon as possible.

AccessAbility Services staff (located in Rm AA142, Arts and Administration Building) are available by appointment to assess specific needs, provide referrals and arrange appropriate accommodations. Please contact 416-287-7560 or email ability.utsc@utoronto.ca for more information. The sooner you let us know your needs the quicker we can assist you in achieving your learning goals in this course.

Religious Accommodations

The University has a commitment concerning accommodation for religious observances. I will make every reasonable effort to avoid scheduling tests, examinations, or other compulsory activities on religious holy days not captured by statutory holidays. According to University Policy, if you anticipate being absent from class or missing a major course activity (like a test, or in-class assignment) due to a religious observance, please follow the Missed Term Work Procedure detailed on the previous pages.

Academic Integrity

The University treats cases of cheating and plagiarism very seriously. The University of Toronto's Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters (http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/behaveac.htm) outlines the behaviours that constitute academic dishonesty and the processes for addressing academic offences.
Potential offences in papers and assignments include 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 cheating includes using or possessing unauthorized aids, looking at someone else's answers during an exam or test, misrepresenting your identity, or falsifying or altering any documentation required by the University, including (but not limited to) doctor's notes.

Ouriginal (plagiarism detection tool)

Normally, students will be required to submit their course essays to the University's plagiarism detection tool 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 tool's reference database, where they will be used solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism. The terms that apply to the University's use of this tool are described on the Centre for Teaching Support & Innovation web site (https://uoft.me/pdt-faq).

Research Activity

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 often conduct research designed to assess the effectiveness of these tools. Thus, I may ask you to fill out questionnaires, or I may wish to perform various analyses comparing how students do on various components of the class. We will ask for your consent if any such research is being conducted, and you will be given the opportunity to decide if you want your data to be included.