**Introduction to Experimental Psychology**

**Psychology 1A03: May-June, 2006**

**Instructors**

- Ayesha Khan
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**All emails must have Psych 1A03 in subject heading to bypass spam filter**

**Lectures**

Monday and Wednesday, 6:30-9:30 PM
Psychology Building – Room 155

**Office hours**

Monday’s, 5-6 PM
Location TBA

**Textbook**

Psychology (Sixth Edition)
By Henry Gleitman, Alan J. Fridlund, Santa Barbara, Daniel Reisberg
ISBN 0-393-97767-6 • 720 pages • 2003

**Websites**

Course website 1: http://www.science.mcmaster.ca/psychology/sum1a3
Course website 2: TBA

**Course Objectives**

This course will examine basic research methods in psychology, including the relationship between brain and behaviour, hormonal and neurochemical processes related to behaviour, sensation and perception, learning, and cognition. Students will get the opportunity to read peer-reviewed scientific journals and summarize their findings in the form of brief abstracts. By the end of this course, students will gain fundamental knowledge in the area of experimental design and psychology.

**Evaluation**

1. **Assignment 1 (10%)**: Students will be given two articles published during the last year in peer-reviewed scientific journals within the area of Experimental Psychology. Both articles will be chosen by the instructors and handed out in class. Each student will select one paper and write an abstract summarizing the
main findings. The requirements for this assignment will be discussed in detail during class.

2. **Midterm Test (35%)**: Students will be responsible for lecture material and assigned readings. It is possible that material presented during lecture can not be found in the text. We strongly urge you to attend all lectures since both lecture and text material will be tested equally.

3. **Assignment 2 (15%)**: Similar to assignment 1, students will write an abstract chosen from one of two peer-reviewed scientific articles handed out by the instructors during class.

4. **Final Exam (40%)**: The final exam is not cumulative. It will cover material since the midterm test.

5. **Optional Experimental Participation**: You can earn a maximum of 4% towards your final mark if you choose to participate in experiments within the Department of Psychology, Neuroscience & Behaviour. 1% will count toward participation in an hour long experiment, 2% will include participation in a 2-hour experiment and so on. **Credit will only be given to those students who have participated in experiments prior to June 13th.**

Please note that there can be no make-up tests. Assignments will only be accepted on the due date, at the beginning of class. Students with valid reasons for missing either the tests or assignments should contact the Dean of Studies office for their faculty. If adequate justification has been provided to the Dean of Studies AND permission had been granted, we will reweigh marks accordingly, increasing relative contributions of other components.

**Grades will be assigned according to the following criterion:**

- A+ = 90-100%
- A = 85-89%
- A- = 80-84%
- B+ = 77-79%
- B = 73-76%
- B- = 70-72%
- C+ = 67-69%
- C = 63-67%
- C- = 60-62%
- D+ = 57-59%
- D = 53-56%
- D- = 50-52%
- F= 0-49%

**Academic Integrity**

Academic dishonesty consists of misrepresentation by deception or by other fraudulent means and can result in serious consequences, e.g. the grade of zero on an assignment, loss of credit with a notation on the transcript (notation reads: “Grade of F assigned for academic dishonesty”), and/or suspension or expulsion from the university.

It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty. For information on the various kinds of academic dishonesty please refer to the Academic Integrity Policy, specifically Appendix 3, located at http://www.mcmaster.ca/senate/academic/ac_integrity.htm
**Tentative Course Outline**
Lecture dates are approximate. Please note that the instructors reserve the right to eliminate/adjust certain topics if time limitations arise.

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<th>Date</th>
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<td>Introduction to the course</td>
<td>May 1&lt;sup&gt;st&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chapter 1 Introduction to Psychology-Research Methods</td>
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<td>Chapter 1 Research Methods</td>
<td>May 3&lt;sup&gt;rd&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Chao He</td>
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<td>Chapter 2 Biological Basis of Behavior</td>
<td>May 8&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Ayesha Khan</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chapter 2 Biological Basis of Behavior</td>
<td>May 10&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Ayesha Khan</td>
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<td>Chapter 5 Sensory Processes</td>
<td>May 15&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Chao He</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chapter 5 &amp; 6 Sensory Processes</td>
<td>May 15&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
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<td>May 22&lt;sup&gt;nd&lt;/sup&gt; - HOLIDAY</td>
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<td>Chapter 3 Motivation</td>
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<td>Chapter 3 Motivation</td>
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<td>Chapter 4 Learning</td>
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<td>Ayesha Khan</td>
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<td>Chapter 4 Learning</td>
<td>June 5&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Ayesha Khan</td>
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<td>Chapter 7 Memory</td>
<td>June 7&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; Assignment 2 Due Today</td>
<td>Chao He</td>
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<td>Chapter 9 Language</td>
<td>June 12&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Chao He</td>
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<td>June 14&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; – TEST 2 Duration: 2 hours</td>
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