



# Psychology 1XX3 Course Outline

## Course Staff

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Media development for the IntroPsych program is provided by the **Science Media Lab** located in the Psychology Building, Room 416 and at <http://www.science.mcmaster.ca/medialab/>

In addition to the staff above, each student has been assigned to a section led by a Tutor, who should be the first point of contact for any questions you might have. Please direct any additional questions to [intropsych@mcmaster.ca](mailto:intropsych@mcmaster.ca)

## Evaluation

Your final grade in Psychology 1XX3 will be determined by the following measures:

|   |     |   |
|---|-----|---|
| Term Group Project                          | 30% | You will complete a term long group project with written and oral presentations. Details will be announced in tutorials.  |
| Tutorial participation                      | 10% | At the end of the term your tutor will assign you a grade out of 10% based on your contributions during tutorial sessions.  |
| Examinations                                | 60% | A midterm examination worth 20% will be written in February, and a cumulative final examination worth 40% will be written in April.   |
| In-Class Quizzes<br><i>(Optional)</i>       | 10% | At the end of every class session, a short quiz on the week's material will be completed. If your cumulative grade on this component is higher than your the grade of your final exam, the weight your final exam will be reduced by 10%. |
| Research participation<br><i>(Optional)</i> | 5%  | Students have the option of completing two hours of research credits with the Department of Psychology, Neuroscience, and Behaviour. These students will have the weight of their final examination reduced by 5%.                        |

## Course Materials

### Course Handbook

Your handbook is a **required** component of the course, containing introductory readings, valuable information regarding course structure, outlines and note-taking space for online lectures, and optional thought questions.

### Course Textbook

Your textbook is Psychology: Fifth Edition by Peter Gray. This is an **optional** component of the course, chosen to provide additional background readings and assistance with key concepts in the course. Although no explicit questions will be drawn from material only found in the textbook, recommended readings to supplement course materials are indicated in the course handbook which may benefit many students.

### WebCT

Your primary course content will be delivered through the WebCT learning management system, located at <http://webct.mcmaster.ca>. In addition to your weekly lectures, WebCT contains important course announcements, discussion forums, and your grade record. To access WebCT, use your MacID and password.

### Web Modules

The most unique feature of IntroPsych at McMaster is the way you receive your primary course content – it's all online! We've chosen to deliver the course this way so that we can reduce nearly 3000 students to class and tutorial sections with less than 50 students each. In this way, you should find psychology at McMaster a much more personalized experience than it would be if you were seated in a traditional lecture hall. Beyond that, you will find that our online content is more than a simple video. Through a number of unique features such as the ability to move around the lecture at your leisure and an integrated search function, we hope each student will interact with the content according to their own personal learning style.

Each week, you will be required to view one or two lectures **before** you arrive to your class and tutorial sessions. These lectures are available through WebCT, and a detailed content schedule can be found in your handbook. It's very important that you view your lectures before attending class and that you stay on schedule, because each lecture will be available for a limited time only. Your lectures will be released at 6:00am on Thursday the week before your class and they will be available for approximately **two weeks** after that time, after which they will be removed.

## EVALUATION: REQUIRED COMPONENTS

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Your final grade in Psychology 1XX3 will be determined by your performance on a series of written assignments (30%), work in tutorials (10%), and two examinations (60%). More details on each of these components are given below.

### Term-Long Group Project – 30%

A series of group assignments will be completed throughout the term. Each assignment will be completed as a checkpoint on the way to submission of a final group report. Each check-in assignment will vary in its length and scope. All assignments will be discussed in your tutorial, and you may only work with students who share your tutorial section. At each check-in, you will be asked to grade your group members participation.

In addition to enhancing your knowledge of course content, the term group project has been designed to improve your skills in several areas important to the field of psychology: working with primary research articles, analyzing experimental design, scientific writing, and oral presentation.

### Tutorial Participation – 10%

Your tutorials are an important part of the course. Each tutorial is designed to be an active learning environment, and for that reason it is vital that every student participates to the best of his or her ability. To encourage active participation and reward students who help create an active learning environment for everyone, 10% of your grade will be based on your contribution to tutorial discussion.

Your TA has been given the rubric below to follow when assigning participation grades. Note that students who regularly attend tutorials but make little or no contribution to discussions cannot receive a grade higher than four out of ten. Therefore, it is essential that you *participate* if you wish to earn a high participation grade.

|            |                           | CONTRIBUTION TO TUTORIAL/WEBCT<br>DISCUSSION |      |      |      | EVALUATING CONTRIBUTION |                        |
|------------|---------------------------|--|------|------|------|-------------------------|------------------------|
|            |                           | Excellent                                    | Good | Fair | Poor | Excellent               |                        |
| ATTENDANCE | Frequent<br>(> 75%)       | 10   | 8    | 6    | 4    | Good                    | frequent, stimulating  |
|            | Occasional<br>(25% – 75%) | 6-8  | 4-6  | 2-4  | 0-2  | Fair                    | frequent, valuable     |
|            | Infrequent<br>(< 25%)     | 4  | 2    | 0    | 0    | Poor                    | occasional, forced     |
|            |                           |  |      |      |      |                         | infrequent, irrelevant |

### Examinations – 60%

A midterm examination will be written in February, and a **cumulative** final examination will be written in April. Your midterm will count for 20% of your final grade, and your exam will count for 40%. If you choose to complete the optional research participation option, the weight of your final examination will be reduced from 40% to 35%

The midterm examination is tentatively scheduled for the evening of Monday, February 23. It is your responsibility to know the exact date and location for your test. Your TA will make announcements in class and information can be found on WebCT. The final examination will be written during the April exam period, on a date to be scheduled by the Registrar's Office. Exams may cover material presented in the online lectures, tutorial sessions, and handbook readings.

## EVALUATION: OPTIONAL COMPONENTS

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### In-Class Quizzes – 10%

At the end of each class session, a short quiz on the week's material will be administered. Your cumulative score on these quizzes can count for 10% of your final grade. In particular, if your quiz percentage is greater than your final exam percentage, the weight of your final exam will be reduced by 10%. If you choose not to complete these quizzes, or your score on the quizzes is less than that of your final exam, they will **not** count toward your final grade and your exam weighting will remain the same.

### Research Participation Option

You have the option to reduce the weight of your final exam from 40% to 35% by completing **two hours** of research participation with the Department of Psychology, Neuroscience, and Behaviour. In addition to providing you with extra credit, the research participation option allows you to take part in some of the exciting research at McMaster.

The system that the department uses to track research participation is Experimetrix, which can be accessed at [www.experimetrix.com/mac](http://www.experimetrix.com/mac). To access Experimetrix for the first time, select the "New User Registration" option at the top of the screen and enter your name, student number, and McMaster email address (for security reasons, *only* your McMaster email address may be used). After a short delay, you will receive an email from Experimetrix with a username and temporary password that you can use to access the website by selecting "Log In" from the top of the main page.

When you log into Experimetrix for the first time, you can change your temporary password to something more memorable by selecting "Edit Your Profile". Also, you must register yourself as an IntroPsych student by selecting "Edit Your Course Selection" and then selecting "Psych 1XX3". You will not be able to register for experiments until you have made your course selection.

To register for an experiment, select "Sign up for Experiments" from the main Experimetrix page. You will be presented with a list of currently available experiments, with a short description given about each. Before selecting an experiment, be sure to read the description carefully, making special note of any specific criteria for subjects (for example, some experiments only allow females to participate, while others may require subjects who speak a second language). When you have found an experiment that you would like to participate in, select "View Schedule" to view available timeslots, then select "Sign-Up" to register for a timeslot that fits your schedule. You will then receive a confirmation email. Be sure to write down the experimenter, location, and extension from this email *before* leaving to complete an experiment.

After you have completed an experiment, you will be given a purple slip verifying your participation. This slip is for your records only – in the event that an experiment is not credited to your Experimetrix account, this slip is your proof of participation. Shortly after completing an experiment, you should notice that your Experimetrix account has been credited by the experimenter. It is very important that you select "Assign Credits To Your Courses" and assign earned credits to Psych 1XX3, or you will not receive your research participation credit.

- You must complete two hours of experiments, and no less, if you wish to earn the 5% credit toward your final grade.
- If you do not wish to participate as a research subject for any reason, you may still earn your research participation credit by *observing* two hours of experiments. If you would like to choose this option, please see Ann Hollingshead in the Psychology Building, Room 205.
- If you fail to show up for two experiments, you will lose your option to complete the research participation credit. If you know in advance that you will be unable to attend a scheduled experiment, please contact the experimenter.

## COURSE CONTENT SCHEDULE FOR PSYCHOLOGY 1XX3 - WINTER 2008/2009

The general schedule for this course content is given below. Any changes to this structure will be announced on WebCT. It is your responsibility to keep up-to-date with any schedule changes.

| Week of   | Class Session                                | Notes                               |
|---|--|-------------------------------------|
| January 5 <sup>th</sup>   | Development I<br>Development II              | Tutorial: Group formation           |
| January 12 <sup>th</sup>  | Evolution I<br>Evolution II                  |                                     |
| January 19 <sup>th</sup>  | Altruism                                     | Tentative: Proposal presentations   |
| January 26 <sup>th</sup>  | Neuroscience I                               | Tentative: Proposal presentations   |
| February 1 <sup>st</sup>  | Neuroscience II                              |                                     |
| February 9 <sup>th</sup>  | Neuroscience III                             |                                     |
| February 16 <sup>th</sup>   | Reading Week                                 | No classes                          |
| February 23 <sup>rd</sup>   | N/A  | <b>Midterm: Monday, February 23</b> |
| March 2 <sup>nd</sup>   | Vision I<br>Vision II                        | Tentative: Assignment outline due   |
| March 9 <sup>th</sup>   | Colour Perception<br>Depth, Distance, Motion |                                     |
| March 16 <sup>th</sup>  | Form Perception I<br>Form Perception II      |                                     |
| March 23 <sup>rd</sup>  | Audition<br>Music                            | Tentative: Final presentations      |
| March 30 <sup>th</sup>  | Chemical Senses & Touch<br>Hunger            | Tentative: Final presentations      |
| <b>Final Examination – Date to be Announced by Registrar's Office</b> |  |                                     |

In each weekly class session, you will review the required web modules for the week and have an opportunity to ask your TA any questions you might have. After each weekly class session, you will attend a tutorial session. In the tutorial session, you will discuss some important and interesting topics from the week's material, complete learning activities, and work on assignment material. Participation in tutorials is **mandatory**.

**TUTORIAL MEETING SCHEDULE FOR PSYCHOLOGY 1XX3 - WINTER 2008/2009**

The following table lists all the sections for Psychology 1XX3 as well as the correspondences between class sessions and tutorial sessions. Each class session corresponds to two tutorial sessions, and each student is assigned to **one** of these sessions. For example, if you are in C01, you are assigned to slot A, and you can find the two tutorials corresponding to your class by looking for slot A elsewhere on the schedule – In this case Wednesday at 8:30 and Friday at 10:30.

|              | <b>Monday</b>  | <b>Tuesday</b>   | <b>Wednesday</b>   | <b>Thursday</b>  | <b>Friday</b>  |
|--------------|--|--|--|--|--|
| <b>8:30</b>  | <b>A</b><br>C01 – PC/154<br>C02 – PC/237   | <b>D</b><br>C07 – PC/154<br>C08 – PC/237   | <b>A</b><br>T01 – BSB/B206<br>T03 – BSB/B205   | <b>D</b><br>T13 – BSB/B206<br>T15 – BSB/B205   | <b>D</b><br>T14 – BSB/B206<br>T16 – BSB/B205   |
| <b>9:30</b>  | <b>B</b><br>C03 – PC/154<br>C04 – PC/237   | <b>E</b><br>C09 – PC/154<br>C10 – PC/237   | <b>E</b><br>T17 – BSB/B206<br>T19 – BSB/B205   | <b>B</b><br>T06 – BSB/B206<br>T08 – BSB/B205   | <b>E</b><br>T18 – BSB/B206<br>T20 – BSB/B205   |
| <b>10:30</b> | <b>C</b><br>C05 – PC/154<br>C06 – PC/237   | <b>B</b><br>T05 – BSB/B206<br>T07 – BSB/B205   | <b>C</b><br>T09 – BSB/B206<br>T11 – BSB/B205   | <b>C</b><br>T10 – BSB/B206<br>T12 – BSB/B205   | <b>A</b><br>T02 – BSB/B206<br>T04 – BSB/B205   |
| <b>11:30</b> | <b>F</b><br>C11 – PC/154<br>C12 – PC/237   | <b>I</b><br>C17 – PC/154<br>C18 – PC/237   | <b>F</b><br>T21 – BSB/B206<br>T23 – BSB/B205   | <b>I</b><br>T33 – BSB/B206<br>T35 – BSB/B205   | <b>I</b><br>T34 – BSB/B206<br>T36 – BSB/B205   |
| <b>12:30</b> | <b>G</b><br>C13 – PC/154<br>C14 – PC/237   | <b>J</b><br>C19 – PC/154<br>C20 – PC/237<br><b>K</b><br>T41 – BSB/B206<br>T43 – BSB/B205 | <b>J</b><br>T37 – BSB/B206<br>T39 – BSB/B205<br><b>K</b><br>C21 – PC/154<br>C22 – PC/237 | <b>G</b><br>T26 – BSB/B206<br>T28 – BSB/B205   | <b>J</b><br>T38 – BSB/B206<br>T40 – BSB/B205<br><b>K</b><br>T42 – PC/154<br>T44 – PC/237 |
| <b>1:30</b>  | <b>H</b><br>C15 – PC/154<br>C16 – PC/237   | <b>G</b><br>T25 – BSB/B206<br>T27 – BSB/B205   | <b>H</b><br>T29 – BSB/B206<br>T31 – BSB/B205   | <b>H</b><br>T30 – BSB/B206<br>T32 – BSB/B205   | <b>F</b><br>T22 – BSB/B206<br>T24 – BSB/B205   |
| <b>2:30</b>  | <b>L</b><br>C23 – PC/154<br>C24 – PC/237   | <b>P</b><br>C31 – PC/154<br>C32 – PC/237   | <b>L</b><br>T45 – BSB/B206<br>T47 – BSB/B205   | <b>P</b><br>T61 – BSB/B206<br>T63 – BSB/B205   | <b>P</b><br>T62 – BSB/B206<br>T64 – BSB/B205   |
| <b>3:30</b>  | <b>M</b><br>C25 – PC/154<br>C26 – PC/237   | <b>Q</b><br>C33 – PC/154<br>C34 – PC/237   | <b>Q</b><br>T65 – BSB/B206<br>T67 – BSB/B205   | <b>M</b><br>T50 – BSB/B206<br>T52 – BSB/B205   | <b>Q</b><br>T66 – BSB/B206<br>T68 – BSB/B205   |
| <b>4:30</b>  | <b>N</b><br>C27 – PC/154<br>C28 – PC/237<br><b>O</b><br>T57 – BSB/B206<br>T59 – BSB/B205 | <b>M</b><br>T49 – BSB/B206<br>T51 – BSB/B205   | <b>N</b><br>T53 – BSB/B206<br>T55 – BSB/B205<br><b>O</b><br>C29 – PC/154<br>C30 – PC/237 | <b>N</b><br>T54 – BSB/B206<br>T56 – BSB/B205<br><b>O</b><br>T58 – PC/154<br>T60 – PC/237 | <b>L</b><br>T46 – BSB/B206<br>T48 – BSB/B205   |
| <b>5:30</b>  | <b>R</b><br>C35 – PC/154<br>C36 – PC/237<br><b>S</b><br>T73 – BSB/B206<br>T75 – BSB/B205 |  | <b>R</b><br>T69 – BSB/B206<br>T71 – BSB/B205<br><b>S</b><br>C37 – PC/154<br>C38 – PC/237 | <b>R</b><br>T70 – BSB/B206<br>T72 – BSB/B205<br><b>S</b><br>T74 – PC/154<br>T76 – PC/237 |  |
| <b>7:00</b>  | <b>T</b><br>E C01 – PC/154<br>E C02 – PC/237   | <b>U</b><br>E C03 – PC/154<br>E C04 – PC/237   | <b>T</b><br>E T01 – BSB/B206<br>E T03 – BSB/B205   | <b>U</b><br>E T05 – BSB/B206<br>E T07 – BSB/B205   |  |
| <b>8:00</b>  |  |  | <b>T</b><br>E T02 – BSB/B206<br>E T04 – BSB/B205   | <b>U</b><br>E T06 – BSB/B206<br>E T08 – BSB/B205   |  |