



Psychology 1XX3 Course Outline

IntroPsych Instructor

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Course Objectives

This course will provide an introduction into the major areas of psychology, including development, neuroscience and perception. In addition to an overview of these topics, there will also be discussion regarding issues facing researchers in these areas and how their findings are applied outside of academia.

Evaluation

1) In-class Quizzes	10%
2) Midterm Exam	30%
3) Final Exam	60%**

** Research participation (Optional) 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%. See below for details.

In-class quizzes will be conducted at the end of each lecture. A multiple-choice midterm examination will be held on Monday, July 13th and a **cumulative** multiple-choice final examination will be held on Wednesday, August 5th. Both the midterm and the final will take place during regular class time. Each of these evaluations will test your knowledge of the web modules and lecture material, as well as on handbook readings and assigned journal articles.

Students are responsible for reviewing all online course material and lectures in addition to obtaining copies of the assigned readings from online or library sources. The midterm test can only be written at the time indicated, so schedule accordingly. Normally, there can be no make-up tests or special sessions for any student. Students with valid reasons for missing the midterm test or any other component of evaluation must consult the Dean of Studies office for their faculty (e.g. Science or Social Science). If (and only if) there is adequate written justification for missing the test, such students will normally have the components of their final grade proportionally reweighted at the instructor's discretion. Attention is drawn to the Statement on Academic Ethics and the Senate Resolutions on Academic Dishonesty. 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 or test, 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, at www.mcmaster.ca/univsec/policy/AcademicIntegrity.pdf.

Course Materials

Course Handbook (Courseware)

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

Course Textbook (Optional)

Psychology: Fifth Edition, 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.

ELM (E-Learn@Mac)

Your primary course content will be delivered through the ELM learning management system, located at <https://elm.mcmaster.ca>. In addition to your weekly lectures, ELM contains important course announcements, discussion forums, and your grade record. To access ELM, use your MacID and password. *If you have any difficulties logging into ELM it is your responsibility to contact the ELM support staff at support.elm@ltrc.mcmaster.ca as soon as possible.*

Web Modules

The most unique feature of IntroPsych at McMaster is the way you receive much of the course content – it's online! We've chosen to deliver the course this way so that the summer term is as close to the course design during the regular year as possible. 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.

You will be asked to view the assigned web modules **before** you arrive to each class. These modules are available through ELM, and a detailed content schedule can be found below. It is very important that you view your lectures before attending class and that you stay on schedule, because summer courses go by *extremely* quickly and it is easy to fall behind. In addition, the lecture material for each day will build on the information contained in the web modules, and therefore you will need to understand the content of these web modules in order to understand the lecture material.

Media Development

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/>

Lectures

At the beginning of each lecture there will be a review session covering the assigned web modules for that day, from 6:30 - 7:30 pm. Attendance for this portion of the class is optional, but highly recommended. From 7:30 - 8:30 pm there will be a lecture building on and extending material covered in the web modules. Material presented here may be used for examination purposes.

Office Hours

Office hours will be held following class from 8:30 - 9:30 or as otherwise announced in class or posted on ELM.

Research Participation Option

You have the option to reduce the weight of your final exam from 60% to 55% 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. 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 1XX3E”. 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 time slot 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 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 1XX3E, 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.

Date	Class Session	Web Modules	Paper
June 22 nd	First Class, Introduction, Development	Development I Development II	
June 24 th	Evolution	Evolution I Evolution II	
June 29 th	Evolution (cont'd)	Evolution III (Altruism)	1
July 1 st	No class - <i>Canada Day</i>		
July 6 th	Neuroscience	Neuroscience I Neuroscience II	
July 8 th	Neuroscience (cont'd) Review	Neuroscience III	2
July 13th	Midterm Examination		
July 15 th	Vision	Vision 1 Vision 2	
July 20 th	Colour Perception Depth, Distance, Motion	Colour Perception Depth, Distance, Motion	3
July 22 nd	Form Perception	Form Perception 1 Form Perception 2	
July 27 th	Audition + Music	Audition Music	4
July 29 th	Chemical Senses and Touch Hunger Review	Chemical Senses and Touch Hunger	5
August 3 rd	No class - <i>Civic Holiday</i>		
August 5th	Final Examination (In Class)		

Papers

1. Daly M, Wilson M. Evolutionary Social Psychology and Family Homicide. *Science* 1988; 242:519-524.
2. Increased Cortical Representation of the Fingers of the Left Hand in String Players. *Science* 1995; 270:305-307.
3. Shankar MU, Levitan CA, Prescott J, Spence C. *Chemosensory Perception* 2009; 2:53-58.
4. *Nature* 1998; 392: 811-814.
5. *The Journal of Neuroscience* 27(6):1261-1265.