PSYCHOLOGY 1XX3 COURSE OUTLINE: SUMMER 2011

Instructional Staff                  Location        Office Hours (Tue, Thur)
Dr. Joe Kim, Instructor              PC/106            8:30-9:30AM
Katie Corrigall, TA                  TSH-B105          11:30-12:30PM
Deanna Minervini, Admin              PC/416            11:30AM-1:30PM

Class meets Tuesdays and Thursdays, June 21-Aug 4, TSH-B105
9:30-10:20AM  Lecture
10:30-11:20AM  Tutorial/Review (optional)
11:30AM-12:30PM  TA Office Hours (Q and A drop-in, optional)

Correspondence should be sent to: intropsych@mcmaster.ca using your McMaster e-mail.

Course Description

Psych 1XX3 builds on the research methods and levels of analysis approach introduced in PSYCH 1X03. In this course, we will focus on the biological mechanisms informing Psychology, Neuroscience and Behaviour. In the first half of the course, our research framework will examine several levels of analysis (Development, Evolution and Neuroscience). In the second half of the course, we will apply this analysis to Sensory Systems and Critical Behaviours.

In combination with Psych 1X03, students will emerge with the appropriate background, terminology and skills to support further courses in Psychology, Neuroscience and Behaviour. These are skills that will also transfer well to any discipline you pursue.

Course materials are presented in online web lectures and in-class lectures. Extra help can be found at the tutorial/review (optional), office hours and AVE discussion forums.

Evaluation

Your final grade in this course will be determined by a midterm exam held in class on July 12 worth 40% and a final exam held in class on Aug 4 worth 60%.

Optional Component

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, and to observe how psychologists conduct their studies.

The system that the department uses to track research participation is Experimetrix, which can be accessed at intropsych.net or through 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.
Completing Your Research Participation Credit

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”.

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 receive a confirmation email with the details of your selection. Be sure to write down the experimenter, location, and telephone extension from this email.

After you have completed an experiment, you will be given a confirmation 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 course credit from research participation.

Additional Notes

- You must complete two hours of experiments, and no less, to earn the 5% credit
- 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 (please see Ann Hollingshead in the Psychology Building, Room 205, or contact her at hollings@mcmaster.ca).
- 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 immediately.
Course Materials

Course Handbook
This handbook contains valuable information regarding course structure, lecture outlines, cognitive maps, practice questions, activities and a detailed glossary.

Course Textbook
The course textbook is currently only available as an online E-Book (though you do have the option to print out pages). You may purchase a Printed Access Card (PAC) through Titles Bookstore: Custom E-book Pac: Discover Psychology Vol. 2. If you prefer a printed textbook reference, you may also use Psychology (5th ed) by Peter Gray. Although the textbook readings are not required, many students find it useful to complete the readings to complement the course materials and provide additional background and context.

IntroPsych.net
There are many supplementary resources that have been specially developed to complement the handbook at intropsych.net including course information about events, university services, academic success and student life. The academic info tab contains helpful information about how to use APA format for referencing, how to use Experimetrix, how to use the McMaster library and so much more! A portion of the proceeds from this courseware goes toward the development and maintenance of intropsych.net.

Avenue
Your primary course content will be delivered through the Avenue learning management system, located at http://avenue.mcmaster.ca/. Avenue is your launching point for weekly web modules, course announcements, discussion forums, and grade records. To access Avenue, use your MacID and password. Below are some of the features of Avenue.

Online Web Lectures
As well as weekly live lectures, you will receive lectures online. You can access the web lectures from the library, your room, or anywhere you have an internet connection. Online lectures are made up of interactive web modules featuring audio, video, animations and vivid graphics. Check out the many advanced features allowing you to interact with the content according to your personal learning style. Use the navigation tools and integrated search function to move about the lecture. Test your knowledge with checkpoints; learn more about faculty related research through Beyond IntroPsych; leave your comments with the Shout Wall and take a Poll; interact with fellow students and course staff with Live Chat.

Please be sure to view the assigned web modules before you arrive at your weekly live lecture and tutorial session to stay on schedule and to actively participate.

Discussion Boards
More extended topic discussions are available on the Avenue Discussion Board. Join an existing discussion or start a new thread. Our discussion boards are consistently the most active of any course on campus so jump right in with your opinion.
General Information

Privacy

In this course we will be using Avenue for the online portions of your course. Students should be aware that when they access the electronic components of this course, private information such as first and last names, user names for the McMaster e-mail accounts, and program affiliation may become apparent to all other students in the same course. The available information is dependent on the technology used. Continuation in this course will be deemed consent to this disclosure. If you have any questions or concerns about such disclosure please discuss this with the course instructor or coordinator.

A Note about Academic Honesty

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 the student’s 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: http://www.mcmaster.ca/univsec/policy/AcademicIntegrity.pdf

The following illustrates only a few forms of academic dishonesty:

- plagiarism, i.e. the submission of work that is not one’s own or for which other credit has been sought or obtained
- improper collaboration
- copying or using unauthorized aids in tests or examinations

Changes during the term

The instructor and university reserve the right to modify elements of the course during the term. The university may change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances. If either type of modification becomes necessary, reasonable notice and communication with the students will be given with explanation and the opportunity to comment on changes. It is the responsibility of the student to check their McMaster email and course websites weekly during the term and to note any changes.

A Note about Note Taking

Students often wonder (and worry) about how extensive their notes should be. The handbook provides outlines with key points and slides reproduced from the web modules to guide your own note taking. There really is no substitute for doing this yourself to learn the material. If, however, you can refer to your notes and answer practice questions, you should find yourself in good shape for the midterm and final examination.
## Course Content Schedule

The general schedule for this course content is given below. Any changes to this structure will be announced on Avenue. It is your responsibility to keep up-to-date with any schedule changes. **Please view the web lectures before attending the in-class lecture.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Web Lecture</th>
<th>In-Class Lecture</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>June 21</td>
<td></td>
<td>Introduction to course</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
| 2    | June 23 | Development 1  
Development 2 | Sex, gender and sexual orientation |
| 3    | June 28 | Evolution I  
Evolution II | Evolutionary analysis of human behaviour |
| 4    | June 30 | Neuroscience I | From neurons to behaviour |
| 5    | July 5 | Neuroscience II | It’s all about connections |
| 6    | July 7 | Behavioural Neuroscience | The brain constructs your world |
| 7    | July 12 | Midterm | No Lecture |
| 8    | July 14 | Vision 1  
Vision 2 | To the retina and beyond |
| 9    | July 19 | Colour Perception  
Depth, Distance, Motion | Colour your world |
| 10   | July 21 | Form Perception 1  
Form Perception 2 | Facetime |
| 11   | July 26 | Audition  
Music Perception | Do you hear what I hear? |
| 12   | July 28 | Hunger & The Chemical Senses | Putting it all together |
| 13   | Aug 2 | Review, Q and A | No Lecture, in-class review |
| 14   | Aug 4 | Final Exam | |
Welcome to Psychology 1XX3: Foundations of Psychology, Neuroscience & Behaviour

PSYCH 1XX3 follows up on PSYCH 1X03 to complete the survey of Introductory Psychology. In the first term, you learned about the importance of the scientific method and using multiple levels of analyses and perspectives to understand problems in psychology. Along the way, you were exposed to important research skills necessary to the study of psychology. In this term, you will continue with these themes as you explore the biological basis of human thought and behaviour.

You will be exploring what I think are the most exciting topics in psychology! In the first half of the course, you will learn about the foundational themes that form the biological nature of our being. In the first half, you will look at how genes and the environment interact to shape thought and behaviour. You will study such interactions as they occur across the lifespan (Developmental Psychology) and the evolutionary history of the species (Evolutionary Psychology). You will also take a detailed look at neuroscience at the level of the single neuron to the brain to understand how neural systems drive complex behaviours. In the second half, you will build on these foundations to understand your complex interactions with the environment. In particular, you will explore how sensory systems interact with the environment to guide your perceptions of the world around you.

As in PSYCH 1X03, you will experience this course through a blended learning model which combines online learning materials with face-to-face instruction. Primary course materials are presented to you through web lectures which you can interact with and review at your own pace. You will find that this is especially useful for complex topics which involve many new terms and concepts. The web lectures have many interactive features that have been developed with student feedback.

The web lectures will be complemented by 2 additional hours of in-class time. To get the most out of this instructional time, you will need to complete the web lectures before attending class. Each week, you will attend an in-class lecture in which I will provide additional context through applications to real world problems and current research. Following the lecture, you can choose to attend an in-class tutorial/review with Katie Corrigall who will lead discussions and activities that build on the week's course content.

If all goes according to plan, the combined online and in-class components will give you an immersive experience while learning about a truly fascinating topic -- the biological basis of human thought and behaviour. In 2010, IntroPsych was honoured with the President's Award for Excellence in Course and Resource Design through the combined efforts of the talented folks on our Development and Instructional Staff. We appreciate your thoughtful feedback to help us further improve your learning experience.

I hope you are looking forward to an exciting summer of discovery!
Dr. Joe Kim