



Psychology 1X03 Course Outline - Spring 2012

Course Staff	Location	Office Hours
Dr. Jenna Cheal Instructor	IntroPsych Learning Lab - PC/416	Following class or by appointment
Deanna Minervini Course Coordinator	IntroPsych Learning Lab - PC/416	Monday and Wednesday 1pm-5pm

All correspondence regarding this course should be sent to: chealj@mcmaster.ca using your **McMaster e-mail account only**. If you have additional questions regarding course material you have several options:

- See Dr. Cheal during Office hours
- See Deanna Minervini in the IntroPsych Learning Lab for administrative questions Monday and Wednesday 1pm-5pm

Please note that **phone messages will not be returned**. If you have an administrative request, please see Deanna in person.

Course Description

This course is an introduction to the scientific investigation of problems in Psychology, Neuroscience and Behaviour. We will use a framework of psychological research methods to understand processes such as Learning, Cognition, Social Psychology, Personality and Psychopathology. We will focus on developing skills to evaluate information that is useful in psychology and beyond:

- Apply terms used in psychology and evaluate research methods
- Integrate knowledge from several key areas in psychology
- Research and critically evaluate scientific information

This course (along with Bio 1P03 or Grade 12 Biology) also serves as a prerequisite to Psych 1XX3/1NN3 offered in Term 2 which must be completed if you intend to pursue an honours program in psychology.

Evaluation

Your final grade in Psychology 1X03 will be determined by the following measures:

AVENUE Quizzes	20%
Midterm Examination	35%
Final Examination	45%
Research participation (optional)	5%

AVENUE Quizzes (20%)

There are **3** short AVENUE Quizzes during the semester which will cover the **1 week** of material

immediately beforehand. For example, AVENUE Quiz 1 will test material covered in week 1 of the course. Each AVENUE Quiz will be worth 6.7% and consists of several multiple choice questions. AVENUE Quizzes will be made available online at AVENUE on the Wednesday of the week that they are scheduled at 6AM and promptly be removed **48 hours** later on Friday at 6AM. There are no make-up quizzes.

In the event that Avenue is experiencing technical difficulties the quiz time will only be extended if the downtime exceeds 4 hours and occurs in the last 12 hours of the quiz period. That means that if Avenue is down from midnight to 4AM on the Friday it is due then the quiz period will be extended by 4 hours (or the length of the disruption). If Avenue is disrupted earlier in the quiz period no extension will be made. If Avenue is down for less than 4 hours no extension will be granted. Plan accordingly!

Midterm Exam (35%)

The midterm exam is scheduled during class on **Wednesday, May 23rd** and counts for **35%** of your final grade. It is your responsibility to keep up to date with the exact location as this may change due to the large class size. The midterm exam may cover material presented in the web lectures, live lectures, and textbook readings.

Final Exam (45%)

A **cumulative** Final Exam will be written during our last scheduled lecture on **Wednesday, June 13th**. If you choose to complete the optional research participation option (see below), the weight of your final examination will be reduced from 45% to 40%. The Final Exam covers material presented in web lectures, live lectures, and assigned readings from the **entire term**.

Research Participation Option

You have the option to reduce the weight of your Final Exam from 45% to 40% by completing credit for **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 1X03".

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 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 1X03, or you will not receive your research participation credit.

Additional Notes

- You must complete two full hours of experiments, and no less, if you wish 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. If you would like to choose this option, please see Ann Hollingshead in the Psychology Building, Room 207.
- 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.

**If you have any questions about Experimetrix, please contact Ann Hollingshead at hollings@mcmaster.ca

Course Materials

Course Handbook

Your course handbook contains valuable information regarding course structure, outlines, guides and web lectures and tutorials.

Course Textbook

Your course textbook is Discover Psychology, Volume 1 and can be purchased at Titles Bookstore and contains essential readings with testable material for the course.

IntroPsych.net

There are many supplementary resources that have been specifically developed to compliment the handbook at IntroPsych.net including examination practice tests, study aids, interactive glossary, information about course events, university’s services, academic success and student life. 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 lectures, course announcements, discussion forums and grade records. To access AVENUE, use your Mac ID and password. Below are some of the features of AVENUE.

Web Lectures

The most unique feature of IntroPsych at McMaster is the way you receive your primary course content—it's all online! You can access the web lectures from the library, your room, or anywhere you have an internet connection. The interactive web lectures feature 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.

New web lectures are released every Monday for the *following* week's live lectures. Once a web module is released, it stays up all semester for you to reference. However, be sure to view the assigned web lectures **before** you arrive at your weekly live lectures to stay on schedule and actively participate.

Office Hours

Office hours will be posted weekly on AVENUE. If you are unable to meet at the posted times email chealjl@mcmaster.ca to set up an alternate appointment time.

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

Absences/Missed Quizzes/Assignments/Exams:

If you must miss a quiz or exam due to illness or other situation, in order to mark you excused, the Instructional Assistant needs the permission from the office of your own faculty's associate dean. Contact them first about your situation. They might ask you for documentation (e.g. doctor's note, wedding invitation). They will make a decision and forward the dates of any excused absence to the Instructional Assistant without details of your illness/situation. Please note that email marked as discretionary will generally not be accommodated. Accommodation is generally done by adding the value of the missed work to your final exam weight. **Always go to the associate dean's office of your faculty FIRST!**

All excuses for missed work must be submitted within one week of the original due date of the missed work. After that time, students must appeal to have an exemption. It is also your responsibility to speak with your professor as soon as possible. Senate regulations for petitions for special consideration have always required that: "40. The student shall make a prompt and timely request for special consideration." No requests for exemption will be accepted after one month.

Communication policy:

E-mail communications MUST originate from your designated McMaster e-mail account (mcmaster.ca account or AVENUE account). Should we need to communicate with you about individual matters, the e-mail will be sent to your mcmaster.ca account. You should monitor this account regularly. E-mail sent from third-party providers (yahoo, hotmail, cogeco, sympatico, gmail, etc.) will not be received. We have this policy for three reasons: 1. reduce the amount of incoming spam to our accounts; 2. ensure

that we know with whom we are communicating; 3. teach the professional use of e-mail.

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 Instructional Assistant.

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 three forms of academic dishonesty:

- Plagiarism, e.g. the submission of work that is not one's own or for which other credit has been sought or obtained;
- Improper collaboration; or,
- 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. The value of any missed work due to unforeseen circumstances will be added to the final exam.

A Note about Note Taking

Students often wonder (and worry) about how extensive their notes should be. The course handbook provides outlines with key points and slides reproduced from the web lectures 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 the practice questions that follow the handbook outlines, you should find yourself in good shape for the midterm and exam to come.

Scout-Aware Guideline

(Excerpted from the McMaster Environmental and Occupational Health Support Services)

This guideline is offered as a method of raising the awareness of all persons entering all McMaster

University buildings regarding the need to eliminate the use of scented products wherever possible.

For the general population, exposure to scents is not typically problematic. However, from time-to-time, the presence of perfumes and other scented products can present indoor air quality concerns that may affect worker/occupant comfort. Furthermore, for a very small portion of the general population, scented products may present a risk of health hazard. Individuals with pre-existing conditions such as chemical sensitivities or sensitizations, asthma or allergies, exposure to some odours can cause a range of ill health effects. Some reported symptoms include: headaches, dizziness, light-headedness, nausea, fatigue, weakness, insomnia, malaise, confusion, loss of appetite, depression, anxiety, numbness, upper respiratory symptoms, shortness of breath, difficulty with concentration, and/or skin irritation.

Scented products more commonly include personal hygiene products (e.g., shampoo, conditioner, hairsprays, deodorants, colognes, after-shaves, fragrances, perfumes, lotions, soaps, cosmetics and creams.)

Course Content Schedule for Psychology 1X03 – Spring 2011

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.

Week of	Web Lectures	Chapter Reading	Notes
April 30 th	Levels of Analysis Research Methods 1 and 2	1, 2	
May 7 th	Classical Conditioning 1 and 2 Instrumental Conditioning 1 and 2	3, 4	AVENUE Quiz 1
May 14 th	Problem Solving and Intelligence Language, Categories & Concepts	5	AVENUE Quiz 2
May 21 st	No Class May 21 st Victoria Day *Midterm: Wednesday, May 23rd*		MIDTERM
May 28 th	Attention, Memory Personality 1 and 2	6	
June 4 th	Psychopathology 1 and 2 Forming Impressions	7	AVENUE Quiz 3
June 11 th	Influence of Others 1 and 2 *Final Exam: Wednesday, June 13th*		FINAL EXAM

- You are expected to complete assigned web lectures and readings BEFORE attending your live lecture.
- AVENUE Quizzes are worth 6.7% each and cover assigned web lectures and readings for a 1 week block and are released in the listed week on Wednesday 6 AM and close Friday 6AM.