Psychology 1XX3 Course Outline – Summer 2013

Course Staff                  Office Location                  Office Hours

Dr. Christopher Teeter        PC 420                                Will be announced on AVE
Instructor                    

Please note that phone messages cannot be returned. If you have a request, do not call my office. Please send an email to teetercj@mcmaster.ca from your McMaster email account only!

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 these levels of analysis to Sensory Systems and Critical Behaviours.

In combination with Psych 1X03, students will emerge with the appropriate context, terminology and skills to specifically support exploration of further courses in Psychology, Neuroscience and Behaviour. However, these are skills that will also transfer well to any discipline you pursue!


**Quick Start Guide**

**Before Your First Lecture:**

1. Read the ENTIRE course outline.
2. Write the important dates on your calendar (see p. 7).
3. Complete the practice test on AVENUE to help you get comfortable with the format of the online testing that is used in this course (Note: it is the same as in PSYC 1X03)

**During the Semester:**

1. Watch the weekly web modules BEFORE your lecture. Take effective notes using the outline and slides provided in the handbook as a guide.
2. Use a separate notebook for additional notes and write down any questions you have or concepts that were not clear and bring them to lecture to ask your instructor.
3. For the weekly web modules, be sure to look up any unfamiliar words in the glossary and review them in order to get a solid foundation. As with most university courses, the psychology knowledge base you are expected to understand is cumulative and small gaps in knowledge can turn into larger gaps.
4. Complete the assigned readings (textbook) to gain context, background and additional examples to consolidate your knowledge.
5. Study groups: join or start one with peers.
6. Complete the weekly activities and questions in the course handbook (you may consider using separate pieces of paper to make sure you have enough space). These can be a great starting point for your study group.

**Absences: Missed Exam**

If you must miss the final exam due to illness or other situation, in order to write the deferred examination in December, I need the permission of your own Associate Dean’s office. 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 me without details of your illness/situation.

Therefore, go to the associate dean’s office of your faculty FIRST!
Evaluation
Your final grade in Psychology 1XX3 will be determined by the following measures:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Evaluation</th>
<th>Weight (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AVENUE Quizzes</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Examination</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Participation (optional)</td>
<td>5%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

AVENUE Quizzes (40%)

There are 5 weekly online AVENUE Tests during the semester which will cover material from the following areas from that week of study: the assigned Web Modules, Textbook or Journal readings, and material that can be found on the Tutorial Preview Page in the handbook. Each test is “open book” and you may collaborate with your peers but may NOT post questions. A good way to think about the weekly AVE Test is an opportunity to test and consolidate your knowledge of the content in preparation for the Final Exam in which you will be working independently and without access to supporting resources.

For example, AVENUE Test 1 will contain material covered from the web modules and textbook readings from the same week as covered in lecture. Each AVENUE Test will be worth 10% and will consist of multiple choice questions. Avenue Tests will be made available online every Thursday at 6 AM and will promptly close on Friday at 6 AM of the same week.

At the end of the semester, your top 4 of 5 AVE Quiz grades will count toward the 40% of your final grade. There are NO-make up Avenue Tests. If you miss a test for any reason that test will be dropped from your final grade calculation and the remaining 4 Tests will be used. Any additional missed tests will result in a grade of Zero for that test.

The questions on the Avenue Tests are designed to go beyond mere recall or recognition and challenge you to apply and demonstrate your comprehension. In other words, simply memorizing terms will not likely lead to a favourable grade. To help you prepare and assess your study, each week you will have a Pre-Test for each test that will be graded immediately and provide feedback on why your chosen option was correct/incorrect. The pre-test is drawn from the same question bank and does not officially count. However, it must be completed to proceed to the weekly AVE Test. After closing on Friday, the AVE Test is reviewed and grades are released the following Monday.

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 Test period. To avoid any issue it is strongly suggested that you plan to take the Test early in the test period. Plan accordingly.

Final Exam (60%)

A cumulative Final Exam will be written on Wednesday, August 7th in our regular class location. If you choose to complete the optional research participation option (see below), the weight of your final examination will be reduced from 60% to 55%. The Final Exam covers material presented in web modules, lectures, and assigned readings from the entire term. Please note that all matters concerning missing the Final Exam are directly handled by the Registrar’s Office and not the IntroPsych Office.
Research Participation Option

You have the option to reduce the weight of your Final Exam from 60% to 55% by completing and attaining **two credits** 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 [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.

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 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 PSYC 1XX3, 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 (see Ann Hollingshead in the PC 109 for details).

- 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 Materials

Course Handbook (recommended): The course handbook contains valuable information regarding course structure. It contains lecture outlines with key slides and space for extensive note-taking. There are cognitive maps to help you visually represent and connect concepts from the lecture, as well as practice questions and activities to help you test your knowledge.

Course Textbook: Your course textbook is Discover Psychology, Volume 2 and can be purchased at Titles Bookstore and contains essential readings with testable material for the course.

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.

Web Modules: 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 modules from the library, your room, or anywhere you have an internet connection. The interactive web modules 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 module. 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 modules are released every Monday at 6 AM for the following week’s lectures to give you plenty of time to preview. Once a web module is released, it stays up all semester for you to reference. Be sure to view the assigned web modules (and readings) before you arrive at your weekly lecture to stay on schedule and 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. Please review follow the guidelines posted to keep boards organized.

IntroPsych.net: There are many supplementary resources that have been specially developed to compliment the handbook at IntroPsych.net including study aids, information about course events, university’s services, academic success and student life. A portion of the proceeds from the courseware goes toward the development and maintenance of IntroPsych.net
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 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, for example 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.

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 modules to guide your own note taking. There really is no substitute for doing this yourself to learn the material. If you can refer to your notes and answer the practice questions that follow in the handbook outlines, you should find yourself in good shape for the tests and exam.
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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week of</th>
<th>Chapter reading</th>
<th>Web Modules</th>
<th>Live Lecture</th>
<th>Tests</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>June 24</td>
<td>1, 2</td>
<td>Development Evolution</td>
<td>Mon. &amp; Wed.</td>
<td>AVE Test 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Neuroscience I &amp; II</td>
<td>Wed.</td>
<td>AVE Test 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 8</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Vision Colour</td>
<td>Mon.</td>
<td>Ave Test 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 15</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Form Perception Audition</td>
<td>Mon.</td>
<td>Ave Test 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 22</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Hunger and Chemical Senses</td>
<td>Mon.</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 29</td>
<td>5, 6</td>
<td>Psychopathology I &amp; II</td>
<td>Mon.</td>
<td>Ave Test 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 5</td>
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<td>--</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>FinalExam (August 7th)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Notes:

Avenue Tests will be made available online every Thursday at 6AM and will promptly close on Friday at 6AM. Each Test will contain 10 Multiple Choice items related to the content for that week. You will have 20 minutes to complete each test once you have opened it.

We have two 2-hour Lecture slots assigned to us for each week. For the most part we will only need to use one of these slots. Each week I will give a 2-hour lecture. The first hour will be related to the content listed first in the table above, the second hour will be related to the content listed second (within each week). An exception to this is in Week 1, wherein we will have a 1-hour introductory lecture in the Monday slot, and then the regular 2-hour lecture in the Wednesday slot. A second exception comes in Week 2, wherein the Monday is a holiday. So the regular lecture will take place in the Wednesday slot.