



Psychology 1XX3/1NN3 Winter 2013 Course Outline

Course Staff	Location	Office Hours
Dr. Joe Kim Instructor (Mac)	PC/106	Posted weekly on AVE
Dr. Chris Teeter Instructor (Con)	TBA	TBA
Marcus Morrissey Lecture TA	TBA	TBA
Deanna Minervini Course Coordinator	IntroPsych Learning Lab PC/416	TBA
Megan O'Connor Emma Wallace Senior TAs	IntroPsych Learning Lab PC/416	
Drop-in TA hours	Lobby of Psychology	Mon-Thurs 12-2 PM

Please note that **phone messages cannot be returned**. If you have a request, please see Deanna Minervini in person during office hours or send an email to intropsych@mcmaster.ca [from your McMaster email account only!](#)

In addition to the course staff, you have been assigned to a tutorial section with your personal **Teaching Assistant (TA)** who will lead your group through weekly discussions, activities and questions.

Course Description

Psych 1XX3/1NN3 builds on the research methods and levels of analysis approach introduced in PSYCH 1X03/1N03. 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 analyses to Sensory Systems and Critical Behaviours.

In combination with Psych 1X03/1N03, 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!

Evaluation

Your final grade in Psychology 1XX3/1NN3 will be determined by the following measures:

Tutorial Participation	10%
AVENUE Tests	30%
Final Examination	60%

Tutorial Participation (10%)

Your tutorials are an important part of the course, contributing to 10% of your final grade. Your TA will expect **active** participation to create a dynamic learning environment. If you have specific issues with this process you must speak with your TA as soon as possible. Every 3 weeks, your TA will assign you a grade out of 10 using the rubric below.

		CONTRIBUTION TO TUTORIAL/ONLINE DISCUSSION				EVALUATING CONTRIBUTION	
		Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Excellent	
ATTEN	(3 of 3)	10	8	6	4	Excellent	frequent, stimulating
	(2 of 3)	6-8	4-6	2-4	0-2	Good	frequent, valuable
	(1 of 3)	4	2	0	0	Fair	occasional, forced
						Poor	infrequent, irrelevant

Note that a **student who attends 3 of 3 tutorials but makes little or no contribution to discussions cannot receive a grade higher than 4 out of 10 for that period.** Therefore, it is essential that you actively **participate** to earn a high participation grade. Your TA can help you with suggestions for demonstrating active participation.

In addition to your in-class participation, you will also be marked on an oral presentation. Every week, groups of 2 – 3 students will present a “bottleneck concept” to the class. These “bottleneck concepts” are key terms from lecture that students typically struggle with. It is your job to present a concept in a clear and concise way, helping your peers to gain a better understanding of the topic. To do so, you should try to incorporate an analogy or personal experience with the term. During your first tutorial, a sign up sheet listing all of the available concepts will be provided to you. During weeks one and two, your TA will demonstrate how this project should run and will present two different bottleneck concepts to you.

Your best 3 of 4 tutorial participation grades plus your grade for the Bottleneck Concept Presentation will comprise 10% of your final grade in the course (7.5% for best 3 of 4 participation grades and 2.5% for Bottleneck Presentation).

The rubric for your Bottleneck Concept presentation is as follows:

Presenter:		Date:	
Bottleneck Concept:		Score:	/10

Missing	Poor (Below Expectation)	Fair (Changes needed)	Good (Minor Errors)	Excellent (Meets / Exceeds Expectation)
0	0.5	1	1.5	2

	Score	Comments
Presenters spoke clearly, audibly, and stayed within the time limit.	/2	
Students had a strong understanding of course concepts, allowing them to provide a well-organized and logical explanation of the bottleneck concept.	/2	
Students provided a practical explanation of the bottleneck concept, relating it to the real world.	/2	
Students provided a novel example of the bottleneck concept (not simply content recall). (Analogy or Personal Experience)	/2	
Students answered TA/peer questions with ease and clarity.	/2	

AVENUE Tests (30%)

There are 11 AVENUE Tests during the semester which will cover material from the assigned web modules, textbook readings AND the live lecture. Each test is “open book” and you may collaborate with your peers, but may NOT post questions. A good way to think about the 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.

Each test will cover the web module, textbook readings and live lecture from the current week. For example, AVE Test 1 (due January 19th at 6 AM) will contain material covered from the Development I and II Web Modules, chapter 1 of the textbook and live lecture from the week of January 14-18th. Each AVE Test will be worth **3%** and will consist of multiple choice questions. Avenue Tests will be made available online every Friday at 6 AM and will promptly close on Saturday at 6 AM of the same week.

At the end of the semester, your top 10 of 11 AVE Test grades will count toward 30% of your final grade.

The questions 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 count towards your grade. However, it must be completed to proceed to the weekly AVE Test. After closing on Saturday, the AVE Test is reviewed and grades are released the following Monday.

Final Exam (60%)

A **cumulative** Final Exam will be written in April as scheduled by the Registrar's Office. If you choose to complete the optional research participation option (see below), the weight of your final examination will be reduced by up to 8%. The Final Exam covers material presented in web modules, live lectures, tutorials, 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. If you complete **three credits** you will reduce the weight of your final exam by 6.5%, making your exam worth 53.5%. If you complete **four credits** your exam will be worth 52% (8% reduction). 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 slip of paper 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.

"So, what is a credit?"

A credit reflects approximately 1 hour of participation in a research study run by an experimenter from the department of Psychology, Neuroscience and Behaviour at McMaster University. This credit can be assigned to Psych 1XX3 as outlined above and is often confirmed by notation on a green slip of paper. If an error occurs, and your credit is not noted on the experimetrix website, you may use this slip as confirmation of participation. If your credit does not appear on the experimetrix website, please present this slip to Ann Hollingshead by visiting her office in PC-207.

Additional Notes

- 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 PC 207 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: The course handbook contains valuable information regarding course structure, including essential group project handouts. It also 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. This textbook is a great resource that will help you fully understand the complex material found in the web modules. Students who do not have a strong background in biology will especially benefit from reading the textbook. Weekly tests will also contain questions pertaining to material covered in the textbook.

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 tutorials to give you plenty of time to preview. Once a web module is released, it stays up all year for you to reference. **Be sure to view the assigned web modules before you arrive at your weekly tutorial session to stay on schedule and actively participate.**

Live Chat: Click on LiveChat (within a web module or in AVENUE) to join a live discussion with fellow students. LiveChat is moderated Monday to Thursday 12PM-2PM by Instructional Staff so you can get instant feedback if you're confused!

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 "discussion board guidelines" posted online to help keep the 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 this 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, 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.

A Note About Note Taking

Students often wonder (and worry) about how extensive their notes should be. This 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 the practice questions that follow the handbook outlines, you should find yourself in good shape for the tests and exam to come.

Other Resources: For anything else you might need

Ann Hollingshead: Academic Counselor for Psychology, Neuroscience & Behaviour and Experimentrix who knows absolutely everything there is to know about PNB courses is available in PC/207, Ext. 23005.

Psych Society: a student run academic group that organizes academic and social activities, and provides academic support ranging from info nights to mentorship programs. They can be found in their office in PC 209.

<http://www.science.mcmaster.ca/psychology/psychsociety/>

BioPsych Society: Also located in PC 209, this student run group coordinates academic and social events. They can be reached by emailing macbiopsych@gmail.com, or visiting their website: <http://macbiopsych.synthasite.com/>

Course Content Schedule

The general schedule for the 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	Chapter reading	Web Module Topic	Note
Jan 7		Introduction	
Jan 14	1	Development 1 Development 2	AVE Test 1
Jan 21	2	Evolution 1 Evolution 2	AVE Test 2
Jan 28	3	Neuroscience 1	AVE Test 3
Feb 4	3	Neuroscience 2	AVE Test 4
Feb 11	4	Vision	AVE Test 5
Feb 18		READING WEEK: Optional info session on applying to Level 2 Honours PNB	NO CLASSES
Feb. 25	4	Colour Perception	AVE Test 6
Mar 4	4	Form Perception 1 Form Perception 2	AVE Test 7
Mar 11	4	Audition	AVE Test 8
Mar 18	4	Hunger & Chemical Senses	AVE Test 9
Mar 25	5	Psychopathology I	AVE Test 10
Apr 1	6	Psychopathology II	AVE Test 11

AVE Tests open each week on Friday at 6AM and close promptly on Sat at 6AM.