



Psychology 1XX3/1NN3 Winter 2014 Course Outline

Course Staff

Location

Office Hours

Dr. Michelle Cadieux
Instructor

PC/416

Posted weekly on Avenue

All correspondence regarding this course should be sent to: intropsych@mcmaster.ca using your **McMaster email**. **Do not use the Avenue to learn messaging system! This is not your McMaster email.**

If you have additional questions regarding course material you have several options:

- See Dr. Cadieux during Office hours
- Join discussions on the Avenue forums

You may also call the IntroPsych office at Ext. 24428 during office hours. Please note that **phone messages will not be returned**. If you have a request, please see Dr. Michelle Cadieux in person during office hours or send an email to intropsych@mcmaster.ca. Please note that during busy periods, it may take up to 48 hours to return your email message. Please be patient!

Course Description

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!

Quick Start Guide

Before your first:

1. Read the **ENTIRE** course outline.
2. Write the important dates in your calendar (See page 7 for dates).

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 up on the discussion board.
3. For weekly web modules, look up unfamiliar words in the glossary and review to get a solid foundation. As with most university courses, the psychology knowledge base you are expected to understand is cumulative and small gaps can turn into large gaps.
4. Complete the assigned readings (textbook and articles) to gain context, background and additional examples to consolidate your knowledge.
5. Study Groups - Join one or start one with peers on Avenue.
6. Complete the weekly activities and questions in the handbook (you may consider using a separate piece of paper to make sure you have enough space). These can be a great starting point for your study group.

McMaster Student Absent Form (MSAF)

What is it?

This is a self-reporting tool that allows you to report absences for up to 5 days due to illness. You are limited to 1 per semester so use it wisely. The MSAF form should be filled out *immediately* upon your return to class and it is *your* responsibility to follow up with your instructor to discuss the nature of the accommodations. If you miss more than 5 days or exceed 1 request per semester, you must contact your Associate Dean's Office (Faculty Office). At this point, you may be required to provide additional supporting documentation.

Please use intropsych@mcmaster.ca as the contact email on your MSAF

NOTE: it is *your* responsibility to catch up on missed work! It is a good idea to get peer contacts during the first week of classes so you can share notes and catch each other up on missed work.

Where do I go to fill this out?

Go to the McMaster website and either search MSAF or type in <http://www.mcmaster.ca/msaf/> in the search bar. At this point, read the page and click agree. From there you will be guided through the process in filling out the form.

Evaluation

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

AVENUE Quizzes	40%
Final Examination	60%
Research Participation (optional)	5-8%

AVENUE Quizzes (40%)

There are 11 weekly online AVENUE Quizzes during the semester. You will complete two quizzes per week. They will cover material from the assigned Web Modules AND the Textbook or Journal readings. For example, AVE Quiz 1 will contain material covered from the Introduction Web Module and the Textbook Chapter 1 reading. Each Quiz is “open book” and you may collaborate with your peers but may NOT post questions. AVE Quizzes are an opportunity to assess and consolidate your knowledge of the week’s content in preparation for the Final Exam where you will be working independently and without access to supporting resources.

Each Quiz will cover the web module and textbook readings from the same week as covered during the webmodules. Each AVE Quiz will consist of 10 multiple-choice questions. AVE Quizzes will be made available online every Thursday at 6AM and will promptly close on Saturday at 6AM. You will have 20 minutes to complete each quiz once you open it. After closing on Saturday, the AVE Quiz will be reviewed and grades will be released on the following week.

Quiz Drop: At the end of the semester, your top 10 out of 11 Quiz grades will count toward 40% of your final grade. You can drop 1 additional quiz by signing up for cohortunited.com and completing a brief survey. More detailed information will be posted to Avenue at the beginning of the term.

Quiz questions are designed to go beyond mere recall and challenge you to apply and demonstrate your comprehension. In other words, simply memorizing terms will not lead to a favourable grade. To help you prepare and assess your study, you will have a **Pre-Quiz** each for each module that will be graded immediately and will provide you with feedback on why your chosen option was correct/incorrect. The pre-quiz is drawn from the same question bank as your actual quiz, but does not officially count for grades. However, it **must** be completed to gain access to the weekly AVE Quiz. Pre-quizzes should be used as a study aid. We recommend you complete the pre-quiz after watching the web module. The pre-quizzes will help you know what material will need reviewing before the Quiz.

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 Saturday 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 and don’t wait until the last minute!

Final Exam (60%)

A cumulative Final Exam will be written in class on August 6th 2014. 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, 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 called Sona, which can be accessed at **mcmaster.sona-systems.com**. To access Sona for the first time, select the “New Participant?” option at the bottom-left of your 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 Sona with a username and temporary password that you can use to access the website. You should change your temporary password to something more memorable by selecting “My Profile”. **Note: You must activate your McMaster ID before you can create a Sona account. To activate your ID, please go to www.mcmaster.ca/uts/macid**

Completing Your Research Participation Credit

When you log into Sona, you will be prompted to choose a course. Please select Psych 1XX3 from the list. You will also be asked to fill out a short survey. This information is used to filter out any experiments for which you are not eligible.

To register for an experiment, select “Study Sign-Up” from the main Sona 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 participation (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 Time Slots for this Study” to view available timeslots, then select “Sign-Up” to register for a time that fits your schedule. You will receive a confirmation email with the details of your selection. Be sure to write down the experiment number, experimenter name, location, and telephone extension from this email.

After you have completed an experiment, you will be given a blue slip verifying your participation. This slip is for your records only – in the event that an experiment is not credited to your Sona account, this slip is your proof of participation. Shortly after completing an experiment, you should notice that the experimenter has credited your Sona account.

Additional Notes

- You must complete two full hours of experiments, and no less, if you wish to earn at least 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 Dr. Michelle Cadieux, in PC 416 during office hours.
- **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 quiz your knowledge.

Course Textbook: Your course textbook is **Discover Psychology, Volume 2** and can be purchased at the Campus Bookstore. This textbook 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 quizzes 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. Quiz 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 year for your reference. **Be sure to view the assigned web modules 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 "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 quizzes 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 quizzes and exam to come.

Other Resources

Ann Hollingshead: Academic Counsellor for Psychology, Neuroscience & Behaviour (PNB) who knows absolutely everything there is to know about PNB courses. Available in PC/109, Ext. 23005.

PNB 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 or reach by email at pnb_society@gmail.com

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 www.mcmasterbiopsych.com

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.

Week of	Web Module	Chapter Reading	Notes
June 23	Development 1 + 2 & Evolution 1 + 2	Chapter 1 & Chapter 2	Quiz 1 & Quiz 2
June 30	Neuroscience 1 & Neuroscience 2	Chapter 3 (p.72-87) & Chapter 3 (p.87-97)	Quiz 3 & Quiz 4
July 7	Vision & Colour Perception	Chapter 4 (p.98-119, 130-133) & Chapter 4 (p.119-125)	Quiz 5 & Quiz 6
July 14	Form Perception	Chapter 4 (p.135-149)	Quiz 7
July 21	Audition & Hunger and the Chemical Senses	Article & Article	Quiz 8 & Quiz 9
July 28	Psychopathology 1 & Psychopathology 2	Chapter 5 (p.150-178) & Chapter 5 (p.178-199) + Chapter 6	Quiz 10 & Quiz 11
August 4	Civic Holiday – No Class		FINAL EXAM August 6 in-class

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