



Psychology 1XX3/1NN3 Winter 2014 Course Outline

Course Staff	Location	Office Hours
Dr. Chris Teeter Instructor	PC Lobby	Posted weekly on Avenue
Marcus Morrissey Lecture TA	TBA	TBA
Dr. Michelle Cadieux Course Coordinator	IntroPsych Office PC/416	Posted weekly on Avenue
Phil Omorogbe Shams Lalani Head TAs	PC Lobby	
Dr. Joe Kim Course Supervisor		

Drop-in TA hours Lobby of Psychology Mon-Thurs 11AM - 2 PM

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 Course Staff during Office hours
- Join discussions in tutorial and 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!

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. There are also several lecture TAs who will be able to help you with content presented during lecture.

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!

Evaluation

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

Tutorial Participation	10%
AVENUE Quizzes	30%
Final Examination	60%
Research Participation (optional)	5-8%
Learning Portfolios (optional)	See section below

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	Good	frequent, valuable
	(2 of 3)	6-8	4-6	2-4	0-2	Fair	occasional, forced
	(1 of 3)	4	2	0	0	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.

Learning Portfolios

Learning Portfolios have been introduced to McMaster University as a digital tool to support student success, intellectual growth, and individual development within higher education and beyond. You can read more about Learning Portfolios at McMaster at the following link:

<http://dailynews.mcmaster.ca/article/learning-portfolio-officially-launches-at-mcmaster/>

In PSYCH 1XX3, Learning Portfolios will be used to help students discover the process of effectively “learning to learn”. At three points in the semester, students will respond to questions that engage reflection on performance and promote goal setting for future growth. By completing this project students will have multiple opportunities to review progress toward their goals and demonstrate engagement in the learning process. The portfolio will provide an ongoing record of students’ approach to learning, which can be reviewed at any point throughout the term. These acts of reflection drive the critical development of students as self-directed learners.

Reflection questions for each time point will be posted on Avenue. Students will have 1 week to complete their reflection. A breakdown of the schedule for the semester is as follows:

Reflection	Released:	Due:
1	January 13 th 6AM	January 20 th 6AM
2	February 24 th 6AM	March 3 rd 6AM
3	March 24 th 6AM	March 31 st 6AM

Your personal Teaching Assistant will review each reflection and provide feedback that promotes appropriate goal setting, advances behaviours that support meeting goals and engages students in the reflective process. Each of the three reflections will be assessed for thoroughness and quality and will be graded on a three point scale: Fail/Pass/Pass with distinction.

This is an **optional** but highly recommended project for you to be actively involved in understanding your approach to learning. **At the end of the semester, each student that has completed all 3 reflections with at least a passing grade will have their lowest tutorial participation grade dropped from their overall grade.**

AVENUE Quizzes (30%)

There are 11 AVENUE quizzes during the semester which will cover material from the assigned web modules, textbook readings, AND the live lecture. Each quiz is “open book” and you may collaborate with your peers, but may NOT post questions. A good way to think about the AVE quiz is an opportunity to quiz 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 quiz will cover the web module, textbook readings, and live lecture from the current week. For example, AVE quiz 1 (due January 18th 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 13th. Each AVE quiz will consist of multiple-choice questions. Avenue quizzes will be made available online every Friday at 6 AM and will promptly close on Saturday at 6 AM of the same week.

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-quiz** for each quiz that will be graded immediately and provide feedback on why your chosen option was correct/ incorrect. The pre-quiz 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 Quiz. Once the Quiz closes on Saturday, it will be reviewed and grades will be released the following Tuesday.

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.

The Power of Testing your Memory

Retrieval-Enhanced Learning

Many students likely view testing as a negative necessity of their courses and would prefer to have as few tests as possible. Thinking about testing this way is due to years of experiencing tests as a high-stakes assessment of learning. This is unfortunate given the fact that testing improves learning. Over the past hundred years research on the characteristics of human learning and memory has demonstrated that practice testing enhances learning and retention of information (e.g., Dunlosky et al., 2013; Roediger & Karpicke, 2006a). Practice testing can take many forms. It can refer to practicing your recall of information by using of flashcards, completing practice problems or questions in a textbook, or completing low-stakes tests as part of a course requirement. This principle was the primary motivation for redesigning the PSYCH 1XX3 course to have weekly, low stakes quizzes.

An excellent example of the power of testing memory comes from a study by Roediger and Karpicke (2006b), wherein undergraduate students were presented with short, educationally relevant texts for initial study. Following initial study students either studied the material again, or took a practice test. A final test was taken after a short retention interval (5 minutes) or long retention interval (2 days). After a short retention interval restudying produced better recall than testing (81% vs. 75%). However, with the long retention interval testing produced significantly better recall than restudying (68% vs. 54%). Thus, after two days performance declined 27% for students who restudied the material, but only 7% for students that practiced recall.

Interestingly, providing students with the correct answer feedback after a test enhances the positive effect of testing. With feedback, learners are able to correct errors, and maintain their correct responses. Moreover, taking a test and reviewing feedback can enhance future study sessions. Research shows that when a student takes a test before restudying material, they learn **more** from the restudying session than if they restudy without taking a test beforehand (e.g., Karpicke, 2009). This is called test-potentiated learning.

Why does testing improve retention of information and how can I use it?

Explanations for the positive effects of testing focus on how the act of retrieval affects memory. Specifically, it is suggested that retrieving information leads to an elaboration of memory traces and the creation of additional retrieval paths. Together these changes to memory systems make it more likely that the information will be successfully retrieved again in the future. This suggests that testing is not just an assessment tool, but also an effective learning tool.

As a student in PSYCH 1XX3 you can take advantage of retrieval enhanced learning each week in preparation for your weekly Quiz. This begins with studying web module content early in the week (e.g., Sunday or Monday). You can then engage in retrieval practice as a form of review after your initial study session. At this point you should be ready to complete the Pre-quiz and review the feedback (by Wednesday or Thursday). This gives you the opportunity to take advantage of test-potentiated learning when you review content again before completing your Quiz on Friday. This suggested schedule of studying, and incorporation of retrieval practice will help you learn and retain the course content. Engaging in this process each week enhances your long-term memory for course content and therefore advances your preparations for the final exam!

Suggested further reading:

1. Dunlosky, et al., (2009). *Psychological Science in the Public Interest*, 14(1), 4-58.
2. Karpicke, J. D. (2009). *Journal of Experimental Psychology: General*, 138, 469-486.
3. Roediger, H. L., & Karpicke, J. D. (2006a). *Psychological Science*, 17, 249-255.
4. Roediger, H. L., & Karpicke, J. D. (2006b). *Perspectives on Psychological Science*, 1, 181-210.

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 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 green 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 the course coordinator, Michelle Cadieux, in PC 416.
- **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 Titles 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 tutorials 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 tutorial session 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.

<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 6		Introduction	
Jan 13	1	Development 1 Development 2	AVE Quiz 1 Learning Portfolios 1
Jan 20	2	Evolution 1 Evolution 2	AVE Quiz 2
Jan 27	3: p. 72-87	Neuroscience 1	AVE Quiz 3
Feb 3	3: p. 87-97	Neuroscience 2	AVE Quiz 4
Feb 10	4: p. 98-119, 130-133	Vision	AVE Quiz 5
Feb 17		READING WEEK: Optional info session on applying to Level 2 Honours PNB	NO CLASSES
Feb. 24	4: p. 119.125	Colour Perception	AVE Quiz 6 Learning Portfolios 2
Mar 3	4: p. 135-199	Form Perception 1 Form Perception 2	AVE Quiz 7
Mar 10	Journal Article	Audition	AVE Quiz 8
Mar 17	Journal Article	Hunger and the Chemical Senses	AVE Quiz 9
Mar 24	5	Psychopathology I	AVE Quiz 10 Learning Portfolios 3
Mar 31	6	Psychopathology II	AVE Quiz 11

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