



Psychology 1XX3 Summer 2012 Course Outline

Course Staff	Location	Office Hours
Dr. Joe Kim Course Instructor	PC/106	By appointment
Sandra Thomson Course TA	PC/230	By appointment
Deanna Minervini Course Coordinator	IntroPsych Office PC/416	Monday: 12-5PM Wednesday: 12-5PM

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

Class meets on Mondays (beginning June 18) in CNH-B107 from 9:30AM-12:30PM
VoiceThread Tutorials are completed online (details announced in class on Monday June 18).

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 analyses 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!

Evaluation

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

AVENUE Tests	30%
Voice Thread Tutorials	10%
Final Exam	60%

AVENUE Tests (30%)

There are 6 AVENUE Tests during the course which will cover material from the assigned Web Modules. Each Test is "open book" and you 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 modules assigned for the week as indicated on the course content schedule. For example, AVE Test 1 (due Fri June 29) will contain material covered from the Development 1 and 2 and Evolution 1 and 2 Web Modules. Please note that for the week of July 2, class lecture will take place on Wed July 4 (due to holiday Monday) and for the week of July 16, there is no scheduled in-class lecture. However, that week you will complete AVE Test 4

which will contain material exclusively from the in-class lectures to date.

Each AVE Test will be worth **6%** and will consist of 10 multiple choice questions and will be made available online Friday at 6 AM and will promptly close 24 hours later on Saturday at 6 AM.

At the end of the course, your top 5 of 6 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** that will be graded immediately and provide feedback on why your chosen option was correct or 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 a Test closes, grades are released the following Monday.

VoiceThread Tutorial Participation (10%)

A unique feature of this course will be your participation in VoiceThread tutorials which are completed online contributing to 10% of your final grade (www.voicethread.com). Detailed information on login and participation will be explained on the first day of class. You will be assigned with a group of students to a specific VoiceThread section and explore discussions and activities related to the week's course content.

Your TA will expect **active** participation to create a dynamic learning environment. Each week, you must complete the assigned VoiceThread tutorial by Thursday 6AM to receive participation a grade score out of 10, according to rubric below.

At the end of the course, your top 5 of 6 VoiceThread Participation grades will count toward 10% of your final grade.

Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor
9-10	7-8	4-6	0-3
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Participates in all assigned QsParticipation shows insight and relates to course materialTakes the next step (e.g., Discusses research from outside sources; Stimulates conversation)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Participates in all assigned QsParticipation shows insight and relates to course material	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Participates in only part of assigned QsParticipation relates to course material but lacks original thought	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Does not participate in assigned Qs or only at a basic levelParticipation is unrelated to course material

Final Exam (60%)

A **cumulative** Final Exam will be written on Wed August 1, 10:30AM to 1230PM in CNH-B107. The exam will test content covered from the web modules (~70%) and in-class lectures/VoiceThread Tutorials (~30%). If you choose to complete the optional research participation option (see below), the weight of your final examination will be reduced by 5 to 8%.

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 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 purple 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 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 205 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 **not** explicitly test material contained only 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 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 in-class lecture and VoiceThread 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.

Discussion Boards: More extended topic discussions are available on the AVENUE Discussion Board. Please review follow the guidelines posted to keep boards organized.

General Information

Privacy

In this course we will be using AVENUE and VoiceThread 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 quizzes and exam to come.

Course Content Schedule

The general schedule for this course content is given below. Any changes to this structure will be announced on AVE. It is your responsibility to keep up-to-date with any schedule changes.

Week	Web Modules to review before class	Monday Class Lecture	Wednesday VoiceThread	Friday Test
June 18	_____	“Multiple perspectives for the biological analysis of human thought and behaviour Part 1”.	Introductions	Practise Test
June 25	Development 1, 2 Evolution 1, 2	“How do gene-environment interactions across the lifespan and history of a species affect your behaviour today?”	VoiceThread 1	Test 1
July 2	Neuroscience 1, 2, 3	NOTE: Class Lecture takes place on Wed July 4 this week due to holiday Monday “1 in a 100 billion: How studying small and large scale brain activity reveals human nature.”	VoiceThread 2	Test 2
July 9	Vision Essentials Colour Perception	“Living in a visual world.”	VoiceThread 3	Test 3
July 16	_____	NO CLASS LECTURE	VoiceThread 4	Test 4
July 23	Form Perception 1, 2	“Pattern recognition, faces and understanding.”	VoiceThread 5	Test 5
July 30	Hunger	“Multiple perspectives for the biological analysis of human thought and behaviour Part 2”.	VoiceThread 6	Test 6

Final Exam is Wednesday Aug 1, 10:30AM-12:30PM, CNH-B107