



Psychology 1X03/1N03 Course Outline - Fall 2012

Course Staff	Location	Office Hours
Dr. Joe Kim Instructor	PC/106	Posted weekly on AVENUE
Deanna Minervini Instructional Assistant	IntroPsych Learning Lab PC/416	Posted weekly on AVENUE
Megan O'Connor Emma Wallace Senior TAs	IntroPsych Learning Lab PC/416	

All correspondence regarding this course should be sent to: intropsych@mcmaster.ca using your McMaster e-mail. If you have additional questions regarding course material you have several options:

- See Course Staff during Office hours
- Join discussions in tutorial, AVE forums and online Live Chat (see below)
- Drop by the IntroPsych Learning Lab (PC-416) between 12:00 PM-2:00 PM, Monday to Thursday

You may also call the Learning Lab at X24428 during office hours. Please note that **phone messages will not be returned**. If you have a request, please see Deanna Minervini 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.

Course Description

This course is an introduction to the scientific investigation of problems in Psychology, Neuroscience and Behaviour. We will use a framework of psychological research methods to understand processes such as Learning, Cognition, Personality and Social Psychology. We will focus on developing skills to evaluate information that is useful in psychology and beyond:

- Apply terms used in psychology and evaluate research methods
- Integrate knowledge from several key areas in psychology
- Research and critically evaluate scientific information

This course (along with Bio 1P03 or Grade 12 Biology) also serves as a prerequisite to Psych 1XX3/1NN3 offered in Term 2 which must be completed if you intend to pursue an honours program in psychology.

Evaluation

Your final grade in Psychology 1X03 will be determined by the following measures:

Tutorial Participation	10%
AVENUE Tests	30%
Final Examination	60%
Research participation (optional)	5%

Tutorial Participation (10%)

Weekly 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 three weeks**, your TA will assign you a tutorial grade out of 10 using the rubric below as a guide. At the end of the semester, your top 3 of 4 tutorial grades will be counted to calculate your final participation grade

		EVALUATING CONTRIBUTION				
		Excellent	Satisfactory	Poor		
ATTENDANCE	3 of 3 classes	8-10	6-7	4	Excellent	Regularly makes thoughtful contributions
	2 of 3 classes	6-8	2-4	0-2	Satisfactory	Occasional makes valuable contributions
	1 of 3 classes	4	0	0	Poor	Little to no participation

Note that **students who regularly attend tutorials but make little or no contribution to discussions cannot receive a grade higher than 4 out of 10**. Therefore, it is essential that you **participate** if you wish to earn a high participation grade.

AVENUE Tests (30%)

There are 12 weekly online AVENUE Tests during the semester which will cover material from the assigned Web Modules AND the Textbook or Journal readings. For example, AVE Test 1 will contain material covered from the Introduction Web Module and the Textbook Chapter Reading 1. 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 assess and consolidate your knowledge of the week's 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 and textbook readings from the same week as covered in tutorial. Each AVE Test will be worth (3%) and will consist of 10 multiple choice questions. AVE Tests will be made available online every Friday at 6AM and will promptly close on Saturday at 6AM. You will have 20 minutes to complete each test once you open it. After closing on Saturday, the AVE Test is reviewed and grades are released the following Monday.

At the end of the semester, your top 10 out of 12 AVE Test grades will count toward 30% of your final grade.

The questions are designed to go beyond mere recall and 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** 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.

Final Exam (60%)

A **cumulative** Final Exam will be written in December 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 from 60% to 55%. The Final Exam covers material presented in web modules, tutorials, and assigned readings from the **entire term**.

Research Participation Option

You have the option to reduce the weight of your Final Exam from 40% to 35% 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 **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 1X03, 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. If you would like to choose this option, please see Ann Hollingshead in the Psychology Building, Room 205.
- 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: Your course handbook contains valuable information regarding course structure, outlines, and guides for web modules and tutorials.

Course Textbook: Your course textbook can be purchased at Titles Bookstore and contains essential readings with testable material for the course.

IntroPsych.net: There are many supplementary resources that have been specially developed to compliment the handbook at IntroPsych.net including examination practice tests, study aids, interactive glossary, 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

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 6PM for the *following* week's tutorials. Once a web module is released, it stays up all year for you to reference. However, 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 12:00PM-2:00PM by course staff (Teaching Assistants, Course Coordinator, and Dr. Kim) 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.

Discover Psychology: Science You Can Use: If you are interested in pursuing a program in psychology or are just interested in learning more about psychology, neuroscience and behaviour, plan to attend this special live lecture series. Although many colloquiums can seem intimidating and out of reach, these talks are made especially for you, the IntroPsych student. Each month a different faculty member will present a fascinating talk focusing on the most interesting and accessible research. If you can't make it in person, you can always watch the lecture later as it is posted on iTunes University. Please visit www.discoverpsychology.ca for details.

Privacy and Conduct

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.

All posts onto discussion forums should be polite and refrain from derogatory and unacceptable language.

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 midterm and exam to come.

Course Content Schedule for Psychology 1X03/1N03 – Fall 2012

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
Sep 3			No Tutorial
Sept 10	Introduction	1	AVE Test 1
Sept 17	Research Methods 1 and 2	2	AVE Test 2
Sep 24	Classical Conditioning 1 and 2	3 (i)	AVE Test 3
Oct 1	Instrumental Conditioning 1 and 2	3 (ii)	AVE Test 4
Oct 8	Language Library Research	4	AVE Test 5 Thanksgiving No tutorials this week
Oct 15	Problem Solving	Journal article	AVE Test 6
Oct 22	Categories & Concepts	Journal article	AVE Test 7
Oct 29	Attention	5(i)	AVE Test 8
Nov 5	Memory	5(ii)	AVE Test 9
Nov 12	Personality 1 and 2	6	AVE Test 10
Nov 19	Forming Impressions	7(i)	AVE Test 11
Nov 26	Influence of Others 1 and 2	7(ii)	AVE Test 12
Dec 3	---	---	No Tutorial

Welcome to Psychology 1X03

Welcome to PSYCH 1X03: Introduction to Psychology, Neuroscience & Behaviour, one of the two IntroPsych courses offered at McMaster University (PSYCH 1XX3 is offered in Term 2). Your IntroPsych course follows in the tradition of McMaster University's long-standing reputation of excellence in innovative teaching and learning. In this course, you will experience a unique blended learning model combining online learning technology with traditional face-to-face instruction. On your way to the midterm and final exam, there are several resources available to help you master the curriculum:

Web Modules: A unique aspect of your experience is that the primary course materials are available in web Modules. See, hear and interact with a dynamic interface that can be accessed anytime in the comfort of your room, or anywhere you have internet access. Play rich media; pause, jump, explore the searchable content; chat with fellow students viewing the web Module; ask questions to the online TAs; test yourself with checkpoints; take a Live Poll; and post a link or leave a comment on the Shout Wall.

Tutorials: You will join a small tutorial section (capped at 26 students) led by a Teaching Assistant (TA) who is enrolled in or has completed PSYCH 3TT3: Applied Educational Psychology. Each year, our TAs receive top ratings from students across campus so don't be shy in asking questions. If you think your TA is especially amazing, consider nominating them for the Kathy Steele Award which honours the top TA of the year. Your TA will guide discussions, lead activities, demonstrations and answer any questions you might have. Tutorials are updated each year with the help of by feedback from students and TAs.

Learning Lab drop-in centre: Have a question or still confused about a specific concept? Need some one-on-one time? Want to meet TAs and students from outside your tutorial? Drop by our friendly Learning Lab in in PC-416, open Mon-Thur 12:00 PM- 2:00 PM. You can catch up on web Modules and speak with students, TAs and the Instructional Staff to get personal time to answer your questions and help you with administrative tasks.

Discover Psychology Live lectures: If you plan to pursue a program in the department or are just interested in learning more about psychology, neuroscience and behaviour, how could you possibly miss the Discover Psychology lecture series that accompanies this course. If you can't make it in person, be sure to catch the lecture on iTunes University and join the discussion board chats. These lectures are delivered by faculty members in the Department of Psychology, Neuroscience & Behaviour and are specifically designed to be interesting and engaging to you, the IntroPsych student! A complete list of speakers, topics and abstracts is available on the <http://discoverpsychology.ca> website.

We have many talented and passionate members of the Instructional Staff and Development Team that work hard to bring you an exceptional course experience. This year, IntroPsych was honoured with the 2010 President's Award for Excellence in Course and Resource Design. Our unique IntroPsych Program has also received widespread media attention in the Globe and Mail, CHCH News, and Maclean's (not to mention Mac's own Daily News). Importantly, the continual development of the IntroPsych Blended Learning Environment model is supported by ongoing research. As the Director of the Pedagogy Research Lab, I am actively interested in teaching, learning and technology from both an academic and a practical perspective. For more information, visit <http://www.pedagogylab.com>

University can sometimes seem like an impersonal and strange place, especially for Level 1 students who are dealing with many adjustments. I hope that in exploring the course resources you will not forget that there is a real live faculty member responsible for the IntroPsych Program—me! I have regular office hours (posted weekly on AVENUE) set aside solely to give me a chance to meet and talk with you. If you have a question, comment, complaint, concern, or just want to see and chat with a live faculty member, do come. Many students are reluctant to talk to a faculty member outside of class. Don't give in to the feeling! I have had many great conversations with students that have started off with a supposedly “silly” question.

As a Teaching Professor, my primary responsibilities are teaching and interacting with students; even my area of research interest concerns pedagogy - the formal study of teaching and learning. My goal is to help you understand and appreciate some of the really interesting and important things that we know (or think we know) about human thought and behaviour. In most fields - and as you will see, certainly in psychology - the simplest questions are often the most important and difficult to answer.

One last piece of advice - get involved in the course! IntroPsych is a fascinating world waiting to be explored by you! Keep up with the web modules, actively participate in tutorials, join the discussion forums, and attend the Discover Psychology talks on Fridays. It really will make all the difference. Following each web Module, I would also encourage you to participate in the feedback surveys. Many of the most popular interactive features were suggested by students just like you. I really do read every single comment and they have contributed enormously to minor and major changes made to all aspects of the course, and this includes the very course handbook you hold in your hands.

On behalf of all the wonderful people that work hard on the frontlines and behind the scenes, best of luck and have a great year!

Dr. Joe Kim

E-mail: intropsych@mcmaster.ca

Twitter: macintropsych