



Psychology 1X03 Course Outline – Spring 2014

Course Staff	Location	Office Hours
Dr. Jenna Cheal Instructor	PC/406	Posted weekly on AVENUE

All correspondence regarding this course should be sent to: chealj@mcmaster.ca using your McMaster e-mail not your Avenue to Learn account.

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. You will learn to:

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

Quick Start Guide

Before your first lecture:

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 this 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 to lecture to ask your instructor.
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) to gain context, background and additional examples to consolidate your knowledge.
5. Study Groups - Join one or start one with peers on AVE..
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.

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 1X03 will be determined by the following measures:

AVENUE Quizzes	40%
Final Examination	60%
Research participation (optional)	5%

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 in lecture. 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 is reviewed and grades are released the following week.

At the end of the semester, your top 10 out of 11 AVE Quiz grades will count toward 40% 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-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 officially count for grades. However, it **must** be completed to proceed 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 or attending the lecture. 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 on June 18th in our regular class location. 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, lectures, and assigned readings from the entire term.

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. In addition to providing you with extra credit, the research participation option allows you to take part in some exciting research taking place right here at McMaster and observe how psychologists conduct their studies.

The system that the department uses to track research participation is called Sona, which can be accessed

through mcmaster.sona-systems.com. To access Sona for the first time, select the “New Participant?” option at the bottom left 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 Sona with a username and temporary password that you can use to access the website. **Note: You must activate your McMaster ID before you can create an Sona account. To activate your ID, please go to www.mcmaster.ca/uts/macid**

Completing Your Research Participation Credit

When you log into Sona for the first time, you will be prompted to choose a course. Please select Psych 1X03 from the list. You should change your temporary password to something more memorable by selecting “My Profile”.

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 purple 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 your Sona account has been credited by the experimenter.

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 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 (recommended): Your course handbook contains valuable information regarding course structure, outlines, and guides for web modules and tutorials.

Course Textbook (required): 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 quizzes, 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 with Live Chat.

New web modules are released every Friday at 6AM for the *following* week's lectures. Once a web module is released, it stays up all semester for you to reference. However, be sure to view the assigned web modules **before** you arrive at your weekly lectures 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.

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 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 midterm and exam to come.

Course Content Schedule for Psychology 1X03 – Spring 2014

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
May 5	Introduction & Research Methods 1 and 2	Chapter 1 & Chapter 2	Quiz 1 & Quiz 2
May 12	Classical Conditioning & Instrumental Conditioning	Chapter 3 (p.94-120) & Chapter 3 (p.121-136)	Quiz 3 & Quiz 4
May 19	No class Monday & Problem Solving	Journal Article	Quiz 5
May 26	Language & Categories & Concepts	Chapter 4 & Journal Article	Quiz 6 & Quiz 7
June 2	Attention & Memory	5 (p.168-183) & 5 (p.184-204)	Quiz 8 & Quiz 9
June 9	Forming Impressions & Influence of Others 1 and 2	7 (p.217-229) & 7 (p.229-245)	Quiz 10 & Quiz 11
June 16			FINAL EXAM June 18 Location to be determined

* 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.

Introduction to Web Modules: Interactive and easy to navigate

Navigation: You can pause, skip, and review each web module whenever you want.

Viewing Options: You can view your web Modules with on an **outline** of the subtopics, **thumbnails** of the slides, or with a full **transcript** of Dr. Kim's narration.

Search: The Modules are fully indexed and can be searched by key words.

Checkpoints: Throughout the Modules you will find checkpoint questions designed to assess your understanding.

Shout Wall: Leave your mark. Comment or leave an interesting link for the rest of the class to see!

Polls: Share your opinion on topical questions related to the Module.

Media+, Docs+: Watch profiles of featured Psychology Faculty members and their research as well as bonus videos and games.

The image shows a screenshot of a web module interface titled "Introducing Psychology". The interface includes a video player at the top left showing a teaching professor, a navigation sidebar on the left, a main content area with a list of topics, and a control bar at the bottom. Callout boxes with arrows point to various features:

- Live Chat:** A live chat room to discuss the course with fellow students and Instructional Staff.
- +Media and +Docs:** Bonus videos and articles that correspond with lecture material.
- SHOUTwall:** A forum to leave a comment or interesting link for the rest of the class to see.
- TMI:** Teaching Professor profile.
- Lecture Outline:** A sidebar menu with sections like "Module 01 - What is Psychology?" and "Module 02 - A Brief History of Psychology".
- Notes:** A section for taking notes.
- Volume:** A volume control icon.
- PLAY/PAUSE:** A play/pause button.
- BACK/NEXT:** Navigation buttons for back and next slide.

The main content area lists topics such as "The Brain", "Sensation and Perception", "Memory", "Language", "Animal Behaviour", "Friendship and Attraction", "Stress and Health", and "Child Development". A thought bubble next to a brain image says "And lots MORE!". The control bar at the bottom shows "SLIDE 3 OF 34" and "PAUSED 00:21 / 00:41".