Psychology 1XX3/1NN3 Winter 2012 Course Outline

Course Staff	Location	Office Hours
Dr. Joe Kim Instructor (Mac)	PC/106	Posted weekly on AVE
Dr. Chris Teeter Instructor (Con)	TBA	TBA
Blake Butler Lecture TA	TBA	TBA
Julia Riddell Course Coordinator	IntroPsych Learning Lab PC/416	Monday: 12PM-2PM Wednesday: 10AM to 2PM Friday: 12AM to 4PM
Kyla Baird **Deanna Minervini** Senior TAs	IntroPsych Learning Lab PC/416	
Drop-in TA hours	Lobby of Psychology	Monday-Thursday: 11AM-2PM

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

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

Psych 1XX3/1NN3 builds on the research methods and levels of analysis approach introduced in PSYCH 1X03/1N03. 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. A semester long research project will thread throughout the course as you develop research skills in locating, evaluating, synthesizing and reporting on topics in psychology using multiple levels of analysis.

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%
Research Project	15%
AVENUE Quizzes	20%
Final Examination	55%

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. At the end of the semester, your top 3 of 4 tutorials grades will be counted to calculate your final Tutorial Participation grade.

ATTEN	CONTRIBUTION TO TUTORIAL/ONLINE DISCUSSION			
	Excellent	**Good**	**Fair**	**Poor**
(3 of 3)	10	8	6	4
(2 of 3)	6-8	4-6	2-4	0-2
(1 of 3)	4	2	0	0

EVALUATING CONTRIBUTION	
Excellent	frequent, stimulating
Good	frequent, valuable
Fair	occasional, forced
Poor	infrequent, irrelevant

Note that a **student who attends3 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.

AVENUE Quizzes (20%)

There are 9 AVENUE Quizzes during the semester which will cover material from the assigned Web Modules 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 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 quiz will cover the web module and live lecture from the week before. For example, AVE Quiz 1 (due January 20) will contain material covered from the Development I and II Web Modules, and live lecture from the week of January 9-13. Each AVE Quiz will be worth **2.5%** and will consist of multiple choice questions. Avenue Quizzes will be made available online every Monday at 6 AM and will promptly close on Friday at 6 AM .

At the end of the semester, your top 8 of 9 AVE Quiz grades will count toward 20% 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 each quiz** 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 Quiz.After closing on Friday, the AVE Quiz is reviewed and grades are released the following Monday.

Final Exam (55%)

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 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.

Research Project (15%)

Over the semester you will conduct and communicate research about a specific topic in psychology, neuroscience & behaviour. Your first step is to learn about basic methods for conducting academic research through the Library Research web module and completing the Library Research Skills AVE Quiz (worth 1%). In your tutorial, groups of 4-5 students will be assigned a research trigger similar in structure to the case studies presented in IntroPsych tutorials. Your group will discuss ideas and research together. Each member of the group will write their own two page paper (worth 9%) that will address the trigger from a unique level of analysis. Lastly, the group will get together to present and overview of their findings to their tutorial (worth 5%).

Research Participation Option

You have the option to reduce the weight of your Final Exam from 55% to 50% 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 48.5%. If you complete **four credits** your exam will be worth 47% (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 quizzes 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 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 you to reference. **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 Friday 11AM-2PM by Instructional Staffso 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. Please review follow the guidelines posted to keep 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 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.

Other Resources: For anything else you might need

Ann Hollingshead: Academic Counselor for Psychology, Neuroscience &Behaviour and Experimetrix who knows absolutely everything there is to know about PNB courses lives in PC/207, Ext. 23005.
Psych 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 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	Chapter reading	Web Module Topic	Live Lecture	Tutorial	Note
Jan. 2		Library Research	No	No	
Jan. 9	1	Development I Development II	Yes	Yes	
Jan 16	2	Evolution I Evolution II	Yes	Yes	AVE Quiz 1-Development **AVE Library Quiz Due**
Jan. 23	3	Neuroscience I	Yes	Yes	AVE Quiz 2- Evolution Tutorial Grade 1
Jan. 30	3	Neuroscience II	Yes	Yes	AVE Quiz 3-Neuro I
Feb. 6	3	Neuroscience III	Yes	Yes	AVE Quiz 4- Neuro II
Feb. 13			**No**	**YES**	AVE Quiz 5- Neuro III **Group Meeting with TA (in tutorial)** Tutorial Grade 2
Feb. 20		READING WEEK: Mon February 20 to Fri February 25			NO CLASSES
Feb. 27	4A	Vision	Yes	Yes	
Mar. 5	4B	Colour Perception Depth, Distance and Motion	Yes	Yes	AVE Quiz 6- Vision **Individual Paper Due Mon March 5th at 5PM**
Mar. 12	4C	Form Perception I Form Perception II	Yes	Yes	AVE Quiz 7- Colour + DDM Tutorial Grade 3
Mar. 19		Audition Music Perception	Yes	Yes	AVE Quiz 8- Form Presentations in Tutorial
Mar. 26		Hunger & Chemical Senses	Yes	Yes	Presentations in Tutorial AVE Quiz 9- Audition + Music Tutorial Grade 4
April 2			No	No	**Group Project Peer Eval DUE Tues April 3rd** Classes end Wed April 4th