



UNIVERSITY OF
CALGARY
Department of Psychology

Psychology 205 (L02)
Principles of Psychology

Fall 2007

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| Instructor: | Dr. L. N. Brown | Lecture Location: | PF 114 |
| Phone: | 220-3598 | Lecture | Saturday |
| | | Days/Time: | 1:00 – 5:00 pm |
| Office: | Ed Block 259 | | |
| Office Hours: | By appointment | | |

Please read the entire course outline as MANY questions that you may have about the course are usually addressed in the outline.

Please Note: If you register in this course you agree to be available to write the final exam that is scheduled for December 8th, 2007 by the Registrar's Office. ([see University exam policy – Calendar page 45](#)).

Course Description and Goals:

This course is designed for students who have little or no background in psychology. By the end of the course, students will have a better understanding of psychology and of the various methods used to study human behavior. My main goal in this course is to create an environment that enhances (i) your ability to think about psychological issues from a critical perspective, (ii) your reasoning skills, and (iii) your ability to think in a creative manner. It is my experience that students, who exercise these types of abilities, relative to passive reading and/or rote memorization of the course information, tend to attain a better grade and report greater satisfaction from the course.

Lectures are intended to highlight and extend (not summarize) the material in each chapter. Students are encouraged to ask questions and/or provide comments during the lectures as class discussions enhance learning. Students are responsible for the material covered in all lectures, videos, and textbook readings. Please note that you are encouraged to make arrangements with another student for class information that you may have missed due to absenteeism.

Required Text/Materials

Kosslyn, S.M., & Rosenberg, R.S. (2005). *Fundamentals of Psychology: The Brain, the Person, the World* (2nd Ed.) Boston, MA: Pearson/Allyn and Bacon. Available at the University Bookstore.

Lecture Materials

Portions or outlines of the lecture materials may be posted on Blackboard at the instructor's discretion. Borrow missed notes from a classmate.

Blackboard: <https://blackboard.ucalgary.ca/webapps/login>

Communicating with the Instructor via email

Given the numerous students in the course I do not use email as a means of communication. In addition, I find that face-to-face communication is more personal and seems to work well. If you need to contact me please see me in person after class, during office hours, or you can contact me at my office (220-3598).

Evaluation

There will be two midterms and a final exam. The first test will be worth 28%, the second test will be worth 32%, the final will be worth 36%, and the experiential-learning component will be worth 4%. The mid-terms are not cumulative. However, the final exam will have 6 questions from the material covered previously during the term (i.e. 3 questions from the material covered on each mid-term).

The format of each test will consist of multiple choice. Not all of the test material will be covered in class as you are responsible for all assigned readings from the text even when the specific material was not covered in class. Likewise, some of the material covered in class will not be covered in the textbook. In short, for a successful completion of this course I strongly recommend that you attend lectures AND read your textbook.

Experiential-Learning/Article-Evaluation Course Component (4%)

This experiential-learning/article-evaluation component provides enriched learning opportunities in this introductory course. You can complete this component by participating in research studies (Option 1: Research Participation), by completing 1-page evaluations of journal articles from a designated list (Option 2: Article Evaluations), or by a combination of the two options. Thus, you will learn more about research in psychology by taking part in research studies and/or by reading and evaluating published research articles.

Option 1: Research Participation. Students can complete this course component by participating in Departmentally approved research studies. Information about current studies is on the Experimetrix website at <http://experimetrix.com/uc>. The read.me link at that site provides a guide to using the system and assigning earned credits. The last day to participate in research and to ASSIGN YOUR CREDITS TO THIS COURSE is **Fall: December 6, 2007**. Students earn 0.5% (0.5 credits) for each 30 minutes of participation. There are seven research area groups within the department (Behavioural Neuroscience; Clinical Psychology; Cognition and Cognitive Development; Industrial/Organizational Psychology; Perception, Aging, and Cognitive Ergonomics; Social Psychology and Social Development; Theoretical Psychology). Students are encouraged to participate in studies in as many of those areas as possible, according to their interests and contingent on research study availability. Each educational hands-on learning experience will be followed by an educational debriefing experience. Students who attempt to complete this course requirement solely through Option 1 should be able to do so, provided they are persistent and do not wait until the end of term to participate. Students who leave their participation until the end of term may not find enough research opportunities available. Thus, students are encouraged to plan ahead carefully.

Option 2: Article Evaluations. Students can complete this course component by reading and evaluating journal articles to learn more about research in psychology. Students earn 1% (1 credit) for each acceptable evaluation. Students can submit only one evaluation per due date (Due dates: **Fall: Sept 28, Oct 19, Nov 9, Nov 30** and only one evaluation per research area group per term. Consult the document “ArticleEvaluationForm.doc” on Blackboard for more information about this option.

Option 3: Combinations of Options 1 and 2. Students can complete this course component through any combination of Options 1 and 2. For example, a student could complete 3.0% through research participation and 1.0% through article evaluations, or vice versa. Given that article evaluations count for 1.0%, students who complete, for example, 2.5% through research studies would have to complete two article evaluations to successfully complete all of the 4.0% course component. As mentioned under Option 2, students can only submit one article evaluation per due date. Thus, students who opt to combine Options 1 and 2 must plan ahead carefully.

Grading Scale

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|----|---------|----|--------|----|--------|----|--------|
| A+ | 96-100% | B+ | 80-84% | C+ | 67-71% | D+ | 54-58% |
| A | 90-95% | B | 76-79% | C | 63-66% | D | 50-53% |
| A- | 85-89% | B- | 72-75% | C- | 59-62% | F | 0-49% |

Grading System: (all grades with a .5 or more will be rounded-up to the next letter grade) As stated in the University Calendar, it is at the instructor’s discretion to round off either upward or downward to determine a final grade when the average of term work and final examinations is between two letter grades.

To determine final letter grades, final percentage grades will be rounded up or down to the nearest whole percentage (i.e., 89.5% will be rounded up to 90%; 89.4% will be rounded down to 89%, etc.).

Lecture Schedule:

Lecture topics may overlap, but exam dates are fixed. It is in your best interest not to get behind in the readings as we cover a significant amount of material in this course.

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| Sept 15 | Ch 1, 2 | Course Outline and Course Description Introduction, Neurotransmission |
| Sept 22 | Ch 2, 3 | Neurotransmission, Brain Structures, Sensation & Perception (88-89, 97-109) |
| Sept 28 | | Due date for Article Evaluation if you selected this as an option |
| Sept 29 | Ch 3, 4 | Sensation & Perception (88-89, 97-109), Learning Models (127-139) |
| Oct 6 | | No Classes Thanksgiving Weekend |
| Oct 13 | Midterm 1 Ch 4 | Chapters 1, 2, 3 (88-89, 97-109), 4 (127-139) Learning Models (139-160) |
| Oct 19 | | Due date for Article Evaluation if you selected this as an |

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|---------------|-------------------|--|
| | | option |
| Oct 20 | Ch 5, 6 | Memory, Intelligence (223-249) |
| Oct 27 | Ch 8, 9, | Personality (308-313), Lifespan Development (343-354), |
| Nov 3 | Midterm 2 | Chapters 4, (139-160), 5, 6 (223-249), 8 (308-313), 9 (343-354), |
| | Ch 10 | Stress, Health, and Coping |
| Nov 9 | | Due date for Article Evaluation if you selected this as an option |
| Nov 10 | | No Classes, Remembrance Day Weekend |
| Nov 17 | Ch 10, 11 | Stress, Health, and Coping, Psychological Disorders |
| Nov 24 | Ch 11, 12 | Psychological Disorders, Treatments, Social Psyc (508-519) |
| Nov 30 | | Due date for Article Evaluation if you selected this as an option |
| Dec 8 | Final Exam | Chapters 10, 11, 12, 13 (508-519) |

University of Calgary Curriculum Objectives:

The core competencies addressed in this course include several aspects. With respect to acquiring the information presented in this course, you are encouraged to use creative and critical thinking, and to analyze problems by using abstract reasoning. Aside from having an increased knowledge of the processes involved in sensation and perception, it is anticipated that by the end of the course you will have increased your ability to think about perceptual issues in a critical manner. It is also anticipated that this course will exercise your reasoning skills in an insightful and logical manner. Where appropriate, findings from recent research will be integrated into the course material.

It is my experience that students, who attend lectures, ask questions, and exercise critical thinking skills, relative to passive reading and/or rote memorization of the course information, tend to attain a better grade and report greater satisfaction from the course.

Reappraisal of Grades

A student who feels that a piece of graded term work (term paper, essay, test, etc.) has been unfairly graded, may have the work re-graded as follows. The student shall discuss the work with the instructor within fifteen days of being notified about the mark or of the item's return to the class. If not satisfied, the student shall immediately take the matter to the Head of the department offering the course, who will arrange for a reassessment of the work within the next fifteen days. The reappraisal of term work may cause the grade to be raised, lowered, or to remain the same.

If the student is not satisfied with the decision and wishes to appeal, the student shall address a letter of appeal to the Dean of the faculty offering the course within fifteen days of the unfavourable decision. In the letter, the student must clearly and fully state the decision being appealed, the grounds for appeal, and the remedies being sought, along with any special circumstances that warrant an appeal of the reappraisal. The student should include as much written documentation as possible.

Plagiarism and Other Academic Misconduct

Intellectual honesty is the cornerstone of the development and acquisition of knowledge and requires that the contribution of others be acknowledged. Consequently, plagiarism or cheating on any assignment is regarded as an extremely serious academic offense. Plagiarism involves submitting or presenting work in a course as if it were the student's own work done expressly for that particular course when, in fact, it is not. Students should examine sections of the University Calendar that present a Statement of Intellectual honesty and definitions and penalties associated with Plagiarism/Cheating/Other Academic Misconduct.

Academic Accommodation

It is a student's responsibility to request academic accommodation. If you are a student with a disability who may require academic accommodation and **have not** registered with the Disability Resource Centre, please contact their office at 220-8237. If you are seeking academic accommodation, please notify your instructor no later than fourteen (14) days after the commencement of the course. Note that the lecturer must approve any tape recordings of lectures.

Absence from a test:

Make-up exams are NOT an option without an official University medical excuse (see the University Calendar). You must contact the instructor **in person or by phone** before the scheduled examination or you will have forfeited any right to make up the exam. Please call my office 220-3598 to advise me that you will be absent for a test (i.e. please do not use email me this information). At the instructor's discretion, a make-up exam may differ significantly (in form and/or content) from a regularly scheduled exam.

It is the student's responsibility to contact the instructor about when and where the make-up exam will occur. That is, the instructor will NOT email make-up exam dates to students. Except in extenuating circumstances (documented by an official University medical excuse), a makeup exam is written within two (2) weeks of the missed exam.

A completed Physician/Counselor Statement will be required to confirm absence from a test for health reasons. The student will be required to pay any cost associated with the Physician Counselor Statement.

If you miss the final exam, you must contact the Registrar's office as soon as possible to apply for a deferred final exam; please let me know if you are applying for a deferred final.

Student Organizations

Psychology students may wish to join the Psychology Undergraduate Students' Association (PSYCHS). They are located in the Administration building, room 170 or may be contacted at 220-5567.

Student Union VP Academic: Phone: 220-3911 suypaca@ucalgary.ca
Student Union Faculty Rep.: Phone: 220-3913 socialscirep@su.ucalgary.ca

Important Dates

Fall Session:

The last day to drop this course and **still receive a fee refund** is September 21, 2007.
The last day to withdraw from this course is December 7, 2007.