

Department of Psychology
PSYC 1020H-B: Introduction to Psychology
FALL 2011 OSHAWA

Instructor: Barb Bond
 Trent email: bbond@trentu.ca
 Office Hours: 9:20 PM – 10:20PM Thornton Faculty Wing Cubicles
 Please email one day in advance, if possible, to arrange to meet.
 Psychology Dept. LHS C104, 705-748-1011 Ext. 7535

Course Description: PSYC 1020-B is a survey of some of the major areas of psychology, including its historical development, the methods of the science, biological and perceptual processes, memory, altered states of consciousness, learning, and cognition and language development.

Course Format: Lecture and Seminar: Tuesday 6:30 – 9:20
 Web CT: Students should log-in to WebCT on a regular basis for important information about the course.
 OSHAWA weblink to academic timetable <http://www.trentu.ca/oshawa/CurrentSchedule.htm>

Required Texts: Weiten, W., & McCann, D. (2010). *Psychology: Themes and variations* (2nd Canadian ed.). Toronto: Thomson / Nelson.

American Psychological Association (2010). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (6th ed). Washington, DC: Author

Recommended Text: Mitchell, M. L., Jolley, J. M., & O'Shea, R. P. (2010). *Writing for psychology* (3rd ed.). Belmont, CA: Wadsworth.

Evaluation	• Test 1	15%	Tuesday Oct. 4
	• Test 2	15%	Tuesday Nov. 1
	• Test 3	15%	Tuesday Nov. 22
	• Test 4	15%	Dec 13
	• Lab Introduction Assignment	20%	Tuesday Nov. 1
	• Critical Thinking Applications	20% (4 @ 5%)	See course schedule
	• SONA – bonus marks (research participation)	4%	

Learning Outcomes It is the responsibility of each student to read and accept the due dates outlined on the course syllabi
 Students successfully completing this course will be able to:

1. Identify and differentiate between the major contemporary theoretical perspectives of psychology as they pertain to the sub-disciplines of neuroscience, sensation, perception, consciousness, learning, memory, cognition, language, motivation, and emotion.
2. Identify the research methodologies and experimental designs used in psychological research and articulate the benefits and limitations of each.
3. Read and summarize current empirical psychological literature according to the American Psychological Association (APA) guidelines.
4. Develop a tolerance for the ambiguity involved in using theoretical perspectives of psychology to understand and explain the principles of human behaviour.

Explanation of Assignments

1. **Tests:** There will be four approximately two-hour tests worth 15% each, held during the regular lecture periods (Except Test 4 which is TBA). Each test will consist of a set of multiple choice questions based on lectures, textbook, and lab/seminars (1st test will cover material from the start of the course; 2nd test will cover material following the 1st test, etc.). Each test will also include one short essay question. Students will be provided with two to three essay questions in advance of each test so that they may prepare (but the test is closed-book) and one of these essay questions will be randomly drawn on test day.
2. **Lab Assignment:** One of the primary purposes of the class assignment is to provide students with an opportunity to demonstrate and improve their skills in written communication and to acquire a basic facility in psychological report writing. Students will prepare one introduction section for a lab report. The class assignment must be written in clear, concise, grammatically well-constructed English.

The appropriate writing style (APA style) for laboratory reports is included in Mitchell et al. (2010). Marks will be deducted for sloppy or poorly written work. The reports must be typed. I will not read carelessly presented papers and will return them to students to be rewritten before they are marked. These papers will receive a deduction of 5% per day until resubmitted.

3. **Critical Thinking Applications** (4 CTA worth 5% each, completed in class). Students will work in small groups of 4-5, randomly selected by the professor. Students will be given a question to discuss/debate with their peers and they will submit one response per group. Each CTA will require a reading or video to read or watch in advance and students must come to class with notes prepared in order to qualify for participation in the group CTA. Students who do not come prepared or who miss a class with a scheduled CTA will receive a grade of zero on that CTA.

Course Policy on late assignments & attendance in class/labs

Tests:

Students who miss a test will be assigned a mark of **zero** for that test unless the student is able to provide evidence of a medical reason for failure to write or to convince the professor that he/she had a legitimate reason for failing to do so. Those students who are able to provide acceptable reasons will be allowed to write a make-up test, which will be arranged at a later date.

Assignment:

The written assignments *must be submitted in class by the assigned due date*. The grade will be reduced by **5% for each day assignments are late (up to 7 days after the due date)**. After this point the assignments will be assigned a grade of zero. These conditions will not apply if the student is able to provide *documentation* of a legitimate medical or other reason for the late submission. Assignments are not accepted by email, fax, or under the professor's door.

Critical Thinking Applications:

Students who do not come prepared for the CTA, or who miss a class with a scheduled CTA, will receive a grade of zero on that CTA. These group CTA's cannot be made up at another date. Students who do not come prepared with written notes to demonstrate their preparation cannot participate in the CTA and will receive a grade of zero.

Lectures:

Lectures are intended to complement assigned readings, not merely to review the same material as covered in the readings. **STUDENTS WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR INFORMATION IN THE TEXT NOT COVERED IN LECTURES.** A lecture guide will be provided on "myLearningSystem (WebCT)" prior to each lecture. These are not meant to substitute the lecture but to serve as a guide for the major topics to be covered in lecture and to assist students in material to cover for test preparation.

Laboratory/Seminar Sessions:

Much of the seminar material is combined within the lecture material, but some will be presented after the lecture. During these sessions students will become familiar with basic concepts and issues in psychology, as well as statistical concepts and experimental methods. Four seminar sessions are devoted to the group CTA, please see the course schedule for the exact dates for these.

Attendance in lectures and seminar will not be taken, but is highly recommended that students attend all classes for optimum success in the course.

**Participation in Research - SONA System**

Most faculty and upper-year students are involved in research for which they require participants. Students are often preferred for this purpose and will be invited to volunteer as participants during the year. Your cooperation will be very much appreciated. Universities are as much places of research as they are of teaching and psychological research cannot be carried out without the cooperation of students who serve as participants.

All research involving human participants is conducted under the ethical guidelines of the Canadian Tri-Council Policy on Human Research and must be approved by the Ethics Committee at the university

During the year, students will be invited to sign up for research participation at times when it is convenient for them and the investigator to meet. At that time, students will be informed as to the general nature of the study, what will be expected of them in the role of participants, and of any possible negative consequences that might result from serving as participants in that particular study.

You should be aware that no person can be required to serve as a participant in any research project and persons who do volunteer are free to withdraw from participation at any time before or during a study. In cases of unwillingness to participate, or withdrawal from a study for personal reasons, there will be no penalty or negative consequences to the student. Participation is entirely voluntary and students participate on the basis of informed consent. The researcher will keep a record of each student's hours of participation, which will be submitted to the SONA system for use in calculating grades in this course. It is your responsibility to register in SONA with the correct course code.

Voluntary participation in departmental research provides an opportunity to earn up to an additional 4% to be added to your final grade. See details on your class website. Additional information can be referenced on the Psychology Departmental website at: <http://www.trentu.ca/psychology/researchparticipation.php>

Through voluntary participation in four hours of research conducted by Psychology faculty and senior students, students in this course may earn an additional 4% to be added to their final grades. Thus, for example, a grade of C+ (68%) would become B- (72%) for a student who participated for the maximum of 4 hours, with each hour of participation earning 1%.

As an alternative to participation in research, students can complete the following activities to earn an additional 2% to their final mark:

a Attend two separate Department of Psychology colloquia during the academic year and write a brief report (500 words) on the contents of both invited talks.

b Write a 750 word report on a psychology journal article (supplied by course instructor)

Regardless of which option is chosen, the 2% bonus credit can only be earned if the typed report is submitted to course instructor by Nov. 1, 2011.

Student may complete any combination of research or assignments to acquire the bonus 4% credit.

To find out what research is currently available for you to participate in, please login to the Psychology Research Participation System at <http://trentu.sona-systems.com/>

The Student User Guide that explains how to login, sign up for studies, and track credits is available off the Psychology website <http://www.trentu.ca/psychology/> Look for the link entitled "Research Participation Pool".

When you sign up please note that it is your responsibility to accurately register the correct course code (i.e., registering with the wrong course code will impede assignment of bonus credits).

PSYC 1020H-B FALL 2011 Schedule

Date	Topic	Reading	Seminar Topic
Sept. 13	Introduction to Psychology	Chapter 1	Current perspectives in psychology
Sept. 20	Research Methods	Chapter 2	The experimental method
Sept. 27	Writing in Psychology & Introduction Assignment Instructions (Don't miss this class!).	TBA	Critical Thinking Application, in class group assignment (5%) Topic: Research Methods
Oct. 4	Test 1 (15%)	Intro to Psych; Methods; APA Style	
Oct. 11	Biological Bases of Behaviour	Chapter 3	Lateralization of the brain
Oct. 18	Sensation & Perception	Chapter 4	Critical Thinking Application, in class group assignment (5%) Topic: Biology
Oct. 25	Reading Week		
Nov. 1	Test 2 (15%)	Biology; Sensation/Perception; APA Style	Introduction Assignment Due in class (20%).
Nov. 8	Learning I	Chapter 6	Classical & Operant conditioning applications
Nov. 15	Learning II	Chapter 6	Critical Thinking Application, in class group assignment (5%) Topic: Learning
Nov. 22	Test 3 (15%)	Theories of Learning, APA Style	
Nov. 29	Cognition & Language	Chapter 8	Probability in real life
Dec. 6	States of Consciousness	Chapter 5	Critical Thinking Application, in class group assignment (5%) Topic: Cognition/Critical Thinking
Dec 13	Test 4 (15%)	Cognition & Language; States of Consciousness; APA Style	

University Policies

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:

Academic dishonesty, which includes plagiarism and cheating, is an extremely serious academic offence and carries penalties varying from a 0 grade on an assignment to expulsion from the University. Definitions, penalties, and procedures for dealing with plagiarism and cheating are set out in Trent University's *Academic Integrity Policy*. You have a responsibility to educate yourself – unfamiliarity with the policy is not an excuse. You are strongly encouraged to visit Trent's Academic Integrity website to learn more – www.trentu.ca/academicintegrity.

ACCESS TO INSTRUCTION:

It is Trent University's intent to create an inclusive learning environment. If a student has a disability and/or health consideration and feels that he/she may need accommodations to succeed in this course, the student should contact the Disability Services Office (DSO office room #111, 905-435-5100), disabilityservices@trentu.ca as soon as possible. Complete text can be found under Access to Instruction in the Academic Calendar.

Departmental Policy on Tests, Exams, and Assignments

A. MIDTERMS & FINAL EXAMINATIONS

Midterm examinations for half courses within the Psychology Department are scheduled by the instructor of the course. Midterm examinations for full courses and final examination for all courses are scheduled by the Registrar's Office. Students are strongly urged NOT to make any commitments (i.e., vacation, job related, or other travel plans) during either the term as a whole or the final examination period. Students are required to be available for all examinations during the periods for which they are scheduled (as published in course syllabi).

B. DEFERRAL OF MIDTERM / FINAL EXAMINATIONS and/or TERM WORK

Extensions of deadlines for completion of assignments or writing of midterms/final examinations may be granted to students on the basis of illness, accident, or other extreme and legitimate circumstances beyond their control. Consideration for deferrals will not normally be granted on the basis of vacation/travel plans or job-related obligations.

C. SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Students should expect that supporting documentation will be required and must be submitted before a deferral is approved. For illness or accident, supporting documentation will take the form of: (1) the Trent University Medical Certificate from Health Services: (<http://www.trentu.ca/healthservices/medical.html>), or (2) a certificate or letter from the attending physician clearly indicating the start and end dates of the illness and the student's inability to write an examination, complete assignments, and/or attend classes, as relevant to the particular request. For other circumstances, students should consult the individual Psychology faculty member about acceptable forms of documentation.

Notes

1. Academic Integrity:

For the purpose of interpreting and applying the University policy on academic dishonesty, the Department of Psychology has adopted the following:

When a student submits a piece of written work in fulfillment of an assignment, he/she implicitly acknowledges the following: a) that she/he is the sole author of the work; b) that the wording and organization of the work, apart from acknowledged quotations, is her/his own; and c) that she/he has not and will not submit this work, either as a whole or in part, to satisfy another course requirement. These basic assumptions will be reasonably interpreted. They do not preclude collaboration between students upon a single project, by prior arrangement with the instructor, for shared academic credit (either for written or oral presentation).

For an elaboration of the Department's policy on, and for specific examples of, plagiarism, students should consult the sections on academic honesty (pp. 6-8), and appropriate citing and referencing (pp. 135-137, 169) in Mitchell et al. (2010). Students who have doubts about what might be considered academic dishonesty are urged to consult the instructor of the course. Ignorance of the University or Department policy does not excuse academic dishonesty. Submissions that fail to meet one or more of these considerations will be subject to procedures laid down in the policy on academic dishonesty as stated in the University calendar.

2. It is the policy of the Department NOT to accept faxed assignments.

3. The same assignment cannot be submitted in more than one course without the prior written permission of all instructors concerned. The written approval must be attached to the work when it is submitted.
4. Students are required to use American Psychological Association style (6th edition).
5. Please see the Trent University academic calendar for University Diary dates, Academic Information and Regulations, and University and departmental degree requirements.
6. Last date to withdraw from a Fall half-term course without academic penalty in 2011-2012 is November 9, 2011.