

COURSE SYLLABUS



COURSE TITLE: PSYC-110: Experimental Psychology

CLASS SECTION: 003

TERM: Fall 2023

COURSE CREDITS: 3

DELIVERY METHOD(S): Face to face and online D2L

Camosun College campuses are located on the traditional territories of the Ləkʷəŋən and W̱SÁNEĆ peoples. We acknowledge their welcome and graciousness to the students who seek knowledge here.

Learn more about Camosun's [Territorial Acknowledgement](#).

INSTRUCTOR DETAILS

NAME: Dr. Michael Pollock

EMAIL: If you need to contact me about an urgent personal matter, you can email me at pollockm@camosun.ca. Otherwise, for help with course-related material outside of class time, please come see me during my office hours.

OFFICE: Fisher 308B

HOURS: Mondays to Fridays at 9:30-10:20

As your course instructor, I endeavour to provide an inclusive learning environment. However, if you experience barriers to learning in this course, do not hesitate to discuss them with me. Camosun College is committed to identifying and removing institutional and social barriers that prevent access and impede success.

INSTRUCTIONAL ASSISTANT DETAILS

NAME: Sarah McCabe

EMAIL: mccabes@camosun.ca

OFFICE: Fisher 312

HOURS: By appointment

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION

This course presents experimental methodologies used in psychology, including how data is collected, organized, and interpreted in psychological research. Topics: psychobiology, sensation, perception, cognition, learning theory, memory, assessment, and experimental design. Topics are discussed and demonstrated in lectures and labs.

PREREQUISITE(S):

One of:

- C in English 12
- C in Camosun Alternative

CO-REQUISITE(S):

See Pre-requisites

EXCLUSION(S):

Not Applicable

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES / OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of this course a student will be able to:

1. Describe the components and rationale for the experimental methodologies used to acquire psychological knowledge.
2. Describe the difficulties inherent in psychological research and conduct thoughtful critiques of select studies.
3. Design and conduct studies of psychological topics and present the outcomes in a clear, logical fashion.
4. Apply psychological concepts to the study of neuroscience, sensation, perception, learning, memory, intelligence, and language.

The outcomes will be measured by a combination of examinations, assignments, presentations, group work, and discussions.

REQUIRED MATERIALS & RECOMMENDED PREPARATION / INFORMATION

Myers, D.G. & DeWall, C.N. (2021). *Psychology*. (13th ed.). Worth Publishers.

- Note: there are two options for getting this textbook through the Camosun College Bookstore (<https://www.camosuncollegebookstore.ca/>):
Option a) "Psychology Vol 1 W/Launchpad 6 Month Access LI" – while still available, this option is recommended since it includes both a printed copy and a digital copy of the textbook
Option b) "Psychology Etext W/Launchpad 6Mnth Access" – this option includes only a digital version of the textbook

COURSE SCHEDULE, TOPICS, AND ASSOCIATED PREPARATION / ACTIVITY / EVALUATION

The following schedule and course components are subject to change with reasonable advance notice, as deemed appropriate by the instructor.

DATE	CLASS	READINGS DUE	LECTURE TOPIC	QUIZ/EXAM/ASSIGNMENT DUE
2023-09-04	Lecture		COLLEGE CLOSED	Labour Day
2023-09-05	Lab			
2023-09-11	Lecture	Prologue: The Story of Psychology	Lecture #1. History of Psychology	Online Quiz #1 due day before
2023-09-12	Lab			In-class Quiz #1 and AppliedGame #1
2023-09-18	Lecture	Ch. 1: Thinking Critically With Psychological Science	Lecture #2. Research Methods	Online Quiz #2 due day before
2023-09-19	Lab			In-class Quiz #2 and AppliedGame #2
2023-09-25	Lecture	Ch. 4: Nature, Nurture, and Human Diversity	Lecture #3. Genetics & Evolution	Online Quiz #3 due day before
2023-09-26	Lab			In-class Quiz #3 and AppliedGame #3
2023-10-02	Lecture		COLLEGE CLOSED	National Day for Truth and Reconciliation
2023-10-03	Lab		Midterm Review #1	
2023-10-09	Lecture		COLLEGE CLOSED	Thanksgiving Day
2023-10-10	Lab			Midterm Exam #1 in-class
2023-10-16	Lecture	Ch. 2: The Biology of Mind	Lecture #4. Nervous System	Online Quiz #4 due day before
2023-10-17	Lab			In-class Quiz #4 and AppliedGame #4
2023-10-23	Lecture	Ch. 3: Consciousness and the Two-Track Mind	Lecture #5. States of Consciousness	Online Quiz #5 due day before
2023-10-24	Lab			In-class Quiz #5 and AppliedGame #5
2023-10-30	Lecture	Ch. 6: Sensation and Perception	Lecture #6. Sensation & Perception	Online Quiz #6 due day before
2023-10-31	Lab			In-class Quiz #6 and AppliedGame #6
2023-11-06	Lecture		Midterm Review #2	
2023-11-07	Lab			Midterm Exam #2 in-class
2023-11-13	Lecture		COLLEGE CLOSED	Remembrance Day
2023-11-14	Lab			
2023-11-20	Lecture	Ch. 7: Learning	Lecture #7. Learning	Online Quiz #7 due day before
2023-11-21	Lab			In-class Quiz #7 and AppliedGame #7
2023-11-27	Lecture	Ch. 8: Memory	Lecture #8. Memory	Online Quiz #8 due day before
2023-11-28	Lab			In-class Quiz #8 and AppliedGame #8
2023-12-04	Lecture	Ch. 9: Thinking and Language	Lecture #9. Thinking & Language	Online Quiz #9 due day before
2023-12-05	Lab			In-class Quiz #9 and AppliedGame #9
TBA				Final Exam in-class

Students registered with the Centre for Accessible Learning (CAL) who complete quizzes, tests, and exams with academic accommodations have booking procedures and deadlines with CAL where advanced notice is required. Deadlines can be reviewed on the [CAL exams page](http://camosun.ca/services/accessible-learning/exams.html). <http://camosun.ca/services/accessible-learning/exams.html>

EVALUATION OF LEARNING

COMPONENT	WEIGHT PER ITEM	NUMBER OF ITEMS	TOTAL WEIGHT
Online Quizzes	0.5%	9	4.5%
In-class Quizzes	3%	9	27%
AppliedGames	1%	9	9%
Midterm Exams	15%	2	30%
Final Exam	29.5%	1	29.5%
		TOTAL	100%

If you have a concern about a grade you have received for an evaluation, please come and see me as soon as possible. Refer to the [Grade Review and Appeals](#) policy for more information.

<http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-1-programming-and-instruction/e-1.14.pdf>

COURSE GUIDELINES & EXPECTATIONS

This introductory course will familiarize you with the historical roots of experimental psychology and review some of its current topics, which include the following: psychological research methods, behavior genetics, evolutionary psychology, neuroscience, states of consciousness, sensation, perception, learning, memory, thinking, and language. In addition to studying the concepts associated with these topics, you will have the opportunity to engage in your own independent research. The survey of psychological concepts covered in this course will provide you with the background in psychology required for taking specialized courses in psychology while the first-hand experience you will gain in conducting psychological research will provide you with the skills to critically evaluate research claims for their practical usefulness in your personal and professional life.

ASSIGNED READINGS

All of the assigned readings for this course are from the course textbook. The Course Schedule above lists the specific chapters and subsections of the textbook that you are to read each week. You should complete these assigned readings prior to class so that you can fully contribute to discussions of the material. Concept notes, available in D2L Content, list the names of the concepts and their associated points (taken from the assigned readings) that you will need to know for quizzes and exams. However, it is recommended that you read all of the information in the assigned readings and not just rely upon these concept notes since the organization, figures, and additional information contained within the course textbook will help improve your overall understanding of the concepts.

ONLINE QUIZZES

To help ensure you are familiar enough with the concepts from the assigned readings to be able to engage in in-depth discussions of them in class, before each lecture day you should complete in D2L the quiz for that lecture. All quizzes will cover solely the material from the assigned readings that the concept notes contain. Each quiz will contain 20 questions about randomly chosen concept points on a given lecture topic. Each question on the quizzes will describe one of the concept points and ask for the name of that concept. The format of the quizzes will be matching-type questions, with each question listing alphabetically as answer options the names of all the concepts from the relevant lecture and you will be instructed to match the given concept description with its concept name. Half of the quiz questions will be *knowledge-type questions* which use for descriptions of the concepts the same wording as the points in the concept notes, while the other half of quiz questions will be *understanding-type questions* which reword these points usually in the form of a real-life scenario. You can access each quiz through D2L Quizzes and take it an unlimited number of times up until its deadline (see the Course Schedule above), with only the highest score you achieve recorded as your mark for that quiz. In addition to being worth marks, the quizzes will also help prepare you for exams since they cover the same content from the concept notes, although they use different scenarios for the understanding-type questions.

IN-CLASS QUIZZES

The format of the in-class quizzes will be the same as the online quizzes described above except that they will be closed-book (i.e., no notes allowed), will be held in lab, and you will only be given a single attempt at each of them.

EXAMS

Exams will be in-class, closed book, and will follow the same format as the in-class quizzes (as described above) except that they will be longer (~50-100 questions) and cover multiple lecture topics. The content of the questions will cover equally the concepts from each lecture topic that the exam is designed to assess your knowledge/understanding of. You will only be given a single attempt at each exam.

APPLIEDGAMES

The Nobel prize-winning psychologist, Daniel Kahneman, once wrote, *“The test of learning psychology is whether your understanding of situations you encounter has changed, not whether you have learned a new fact.”* With that purpose in mind, you will be given research assignments designed to have you apply your knowledge from this course to simulated real-life scenarios. Using computer programs called AppliedGames that are available in D2L Content, you will work to solve relevant practical problems that might be encountered outside the classroom. You can then submit the best results from your AppliedGame attempts to D2L Assignments for marks. Different options are randomly given each time you attempt the games so that your understanding of their concepts is tested and not just your ability to memorize answers.

AppliedGame	Mission	Corresponding lecture topic	Research concepts covered
AppliedGame1 - Be A 'Psychometrician'	An airline company has hired you to measure possible indicators of alertness in its pilots at the beginning of a long haul flight and determine which of these indicators best predict the pilots' sleepiness by the end of the flight.	Research methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Variables • Operational definitions • Types of measurements • Tables • Scatterplots • Line of best fit • Quantitative research
AppliedGame2 - Be A 'Researcher'	The College President has hired you to determine the cause of a new disorder that's broken out on campus.	Research methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Naturalistic observation • Case study • Survey • Correlational research • Experimental research • Independent variable • Dependent variable • Deductive reasoning • Seeking to falsify hypotheses
AppliedGame3 - Be A 'Behavioral Geneticist'	The Prime Minister is interested in exposing populations of Canadians to remedial education programs (such as StrongStart) to help close the gap in academic performance seen between urban and rural areas. However, he is concerned whether genetic effects on academic performance place serious constraints on the effectiveness of such programs. Therefore, the Prime Minister has hired you to estimate the heritability of academic performance in urban and rural populations.	Genetics (heritability)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Correlation coefficient (r)
AppliedGame4 - Be A 'Neurosurgeon'	Since your neurosurgeon friend has been called away on a family emergency, he has asked you to cover for him and diagnose the specific brain area that is dysfunctioning in each new patient admitted to his hospital department.	Nervous system (functional neuroanatomy)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None

AppliedGame5 - Be A 'Psychopharmacologist'	A drug company has hired you to test 10 of their new drugs to determine if they improve or worsen the likelihood of displaying sleep apnea.	Consciousness (drugs and sleep disorders)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experimental design • Independent variable • Experimental group • Control group • Dependent variable • Random assignment • Confounding variable • Hypothesis testing (alternative & null hypotheses)
AppliedGame6 - Be A 'Psychophysicist'	The Royal Canadian Air Force has hired you to find out whether a test of contrast sensitivity can accurately distinguish between good and poor pilot visual performance.	Sensation and perception (difference thresholds)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Descriptive statistics (n, mean, median, mode, range, S.D., skewness) • Frequency histogram • Inferential statistics (<i>p</i>-value, statistical significance, <i>t</i>-test) • Bar graph • Effect size
AppliedGame7 - Be A 'Behavioral Therapist'	You are a behavioral therapist and have your own clinic for treating clients. To meet the appropriate standard of care for your clients, you always try to stay in close contact with the latest scientific literature. As part of this important goal, any time a new scientific claim is reported in the media that may be of relevance to your clients' needs, you immediately search for the original study that it was based on to confirm the practical significance of its results.	Learning (conditioning)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Primary research article • PsycINFO search • APA-style reference • Critical analysis of study methods/results
AppliedGame8 - Be A 'Memory Researcher'	You are a memory researcher planning your next study to help find solutions to people's memory problems. To avoid going down dead ends, you first write a detailed review of the relevant past scientific literature to find out what's already been shown to work or not for improving memory.	Memory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Independent variable • APA-style in-text citation • Article review • Experimental condition • Control condition • Dependent variable • Effect size
AppliedGame9 - Be A 'Problem Solver'	You are a superhero named "ProblemSolver" who has vowed to help others make the	Thinking (problem solving steps and errors)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hypothesis testing • Operational definition

	right choices when trying to solve problems.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Writing a Methods section • Correlational analyses • Statistical significance • Writing a Results section • Writing a Discussion section
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INDEPENDENT RESEARCH OPPORTUNITY

With special permission from the instructor, you may conduct actual research in which you develop and write in stages throughout the semester a psychological research project involving a longitudinal study of yourself and your group members. Each week, you will work on your research project outside of class time and then in lab consult with your instructor about it. This research project is not for marks but instead is optional, designed to help those who wish to learn how to apply research methods to best answer their own personal psychological questions/problems. In addition, students who complete a project that has received instructor approval of each its stages will be given an exclusive invitation to submit their research report for publication in our department's online journal, the *Journal of Camosun Psychology Research (JoCPR)*.

DEADLINES

The Course Schedule above lists the specific dates for when the quizzes/exams/assignments are due. There are no make-up exams for this course. Failing to take an exam by its scheduled date will result in a score of zero for that exam. Exceptions may be granted at the discretion of the instructor for demonstrated cases of hardship or extenuating circumstances (e.g., a medical emergency). In contrast to the hard deadlines for exams, the marks from quizzes not completed by their deadlines will automatically be waived and their weight distributed proportionately to the remaining course items. AppliedGames may submitted for marks past their soft deadlines, without late penalties, until the last day of labs has passed, at which point any missed AppliedGames will receive a score of zero. While you will only be able to submit each AppliedGame's results to D2L a single time for marks, you can do the AppliedGames multiple times in order to achieve a mark you are satisfied with before you submit its results to D2L.

SCHOOL OR DEPARTMENTAL INFORMATION

Camosun Psychology Club - Everyone interesting in discussing psychological questions/problems is welcome! For further information, please contact the Student Society's Club's Coordinator, Tagg

Kelt: keltt@camosun.ca

Journal of Camosun Psychology Research – Contact your Psychology Instructor to discover how to publish research in it. <https://cc.arcabc.ca/islandora/object/cc%3Apsycjournal>

American Psychological Association - The hub of our discipline. <https://www.apa.org>

Canadian Psychological Association - The Canadian hub of our discipline. <https://cpa.ca/>

Co-operative Education & Career Services - Learn about how to access a co-op experience for your career. <https://camosun.ca/services/co-operative-education-and-career-services/contact-co-operative-education-and-career>

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITY

Enrolment at Camosun assumes that the student will become a responsible member of the College community. As such, each student will display a positive work ethic, assist in the preservation of College property, and assume responsibility for their education by researching academic requirements and policies; demonstrating courtesy and respect toward others; and respecting expectations concerning attendance, assignments, deadlines, and appointments.

SUPPORTS AND SERVICES FOR STUDENTS

Camosun College offers a number of services to help you succeed in and out of the classroom. For a detailed overview of the supports and services visit <http://camosun.ca/students/>.

Academic Advising	http://camosun.ca/advising
Accessible Learning	http://camosun.ca/accessible-learning
Counselling	http://camosun.ca/counselling
Career Services	http://camosun.ca/coop
Financial Aid and Awards	http://camosun.ca/financialaid
Help Centres (Math/English/Science)	http://camosun.ca/help-centres
Indigenous Student Support	http://camosun.ca/indigenous
International Student Support	http://camosun.ca/international/
Learning Skills	http://camosun.ca/learningskills
Library	http://camosun.ca/services/library/
Office of Student Support	http://camosun.ca/oss
Ombudsperson	http://camosun.ca/ombuds
Registration	http://camosun.ca/registration
Technology Support	http://camosun.ca/its
Writing Centre	http://camosun.ca/writing-centre

If you have a mental health concern, please contact Counselling to arrange an appointment as soon as possible. Counselling sessions are available at both campuses during business hours. If you need urgent support after-hours, please contact the Vancouver Island Crisis Line at 1-888-494-3888 or call 911.

Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

The College is committed to providing appropriate and reasonable academic accommodations to students with disabilities (i.e. physical, depression, learning, etc). If you have a disability, the [Centre for Accessible Learning](#) (CAL) can help you document your needs, and where disability-related barriers to access in your courses exist, create an accommodation plan. By making a plan through CAL, you can ensure you have the appropriate academic accommodations you need without disclosing your diagnosis or condition to course instructors. Please visit the CAL website for contacts and to learn how to get started:

<http://camosun.ca/services/accessible-learning/>

Academic Integrity

Please visit <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-1-programming-and-instruction/e-1.13.pdf> for policy regarding academic expectations and details for addressing and resolving matters of academic misconduct.

Academic Progress

Please visit <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-1-programming-and-instruction/e-1.1.pdf> for further details on how Camosun College monitors students' academic progress and what steps can be taken if a student is at risk of not meeting the College's academic progress standards.

Course Withdrawals Policy

Please visit <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-2-student-services-and-support/e-2.2.pdf> for further details about course withdrawals. For deadline for fees, course drop dates, and tuition refund, please visit <http://camosun.ca/learn/fees/#deadlines>.

Grading Policy

Please visit <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-1-programming-and-instruction/e-1.5.pdf> for further details about grading.

Grade Review and Appeals

Please visit <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-1-programming-and-instruction/e-1.14.pdf> for policy relating to requests for review and appeal of grades.

Mandatory Attendance for First Class Meeting of Each Course

Camosun College requires mandatory attendance for the first class meeting of each course. If you do not attend, and do not provide your instructor with a reasonable reason in advance, you will be removed from the course and the space offered to the next waitlisted student. For more information, please see the "Attendance" section under "Registration Policies and Procedures"

(<http://camosun.ca/learn/calendar/current/procedures.html>) and the Grading Policy at <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-1-programming-and-instruction/e-1.5.pdf>.

Medical / Compassionate Withdrawals

Students who are incapacitated and unable to complete or succeed in their studies by virtue of serious and demonstrated exceptional circumstances may be eligible for a medical/compassionate withdrawal. Please

visit <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-2-student-services-and-support/e-2.8.pdf> to learn more about the process involved in a medical/compassionate withdrawal.

Sexual Violence and Misconduct

Camosun is committed to creating a campus culture of safety, respect, and consent. Camosun's Office of Student Support is responsible for offering support to students impacted by sexual violence. Regardless of when or where the sexual violence or misconduct occurred, students can access support at Camosun. The Office of Student Support will make sure students have a safe and private place to talk and will help them understand what supports are available and their options for next steps. The Office of Student Support respects a student's right to choose what is right for them. For more information see Camosun's Sexualized Violence and Misconduct Policy: <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-2-student-services-and-support/e-2.9.pdf> and camosun.ca/sexual-violence. To contact the Office of Student Support: oss@camosun.ca or by phone: 250-370-3046 or 250-3703841

Student Misconduct (Non-Academic)

Camosun College is committed to building the academic competency of all students, seeks to empower students to become agents of their own learning, and promotes academic belonging for everyone. Camosun also expects that all students to conduct themselves in a manner that contributes to a positive, supportive, and safe learning environment. Please review Camosun College's Student Misconduct Policy at <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-2-student-services-and-support/e-2.5.pdf> to understand the College's expectations of academic integrity and student behavioural conduct.

Changes to this syllabus: Every effort has been made to ensure that information in this syllabus is accurate at the time of publication. The College reserves the right to change courses if it becomes necessary so that course content remains relevant. In such cases, the instructor will give the students clear and timely notice of the changes.