

PSYC 110-006 (Fall): Course Outline

Introduction to Experimental Psychology

Course Web Site: <http://members.shaw.ca/dpolson/psyc110/fall04/006/>

Instructor: David Polson, PhD

Email: polson@camosun.bc.ca

Phone: 370-3308

Office: Fisher 308a

Office Hours: TBA

Course Content

In this course we will explore experimental methodology in psychology, in particular, how data are collected, organized, and interpreted. Specific topics include: What is Psychology?; How Psychologists Do Research; Evolution, Genes, and Behavior; Neurons, Hormones, and the Brain; Body Rhythms and Mental States; Sensation and Perception; Learning and Conditioning; Thinking and Intelligence; and Memory. These topics will be discussed and demonstrated in lectures and labs. The prerequisite is English 12 or assessment. A highly recommended prerequisite is Math 10 or Math 11.

Course Objectives

At the end of the course, you will be able to:

1. apply the terminology of the topics covered in the course
2. demonstrate the skills involved in interrelating concepts
3. apply the psychological theories and concepts of the topics covered in the course
4. understand how psychological knowledge is acquired
5. design and run psychological studies
6. recognize and critique the difficulties inherent in psychological research
7. demonstrate skills in presenting data to other students

Course Materials

- Wade, C., Tavis, C., Saucier, D., & Elias, L. (2004). *Psychology (Canadian Edition)*. Toronto, Ontario, Canada: Pearson Education.
- Companion Web Site: http://wps.prenhall.com/ca_ph_wade_psych_1/
- *MyPsychLab* (CD that comes with textbook).

Course Structure

During “lecture” time, we are scheduled to meet in Fisher 100 on Tuesdays at 6:00 pm. The major focus of the lectures will be the “Looking Back” questions at the end of each chapter (see *Study Questions* section). Lectures will include in-class exercises for which you will be awarded marks (see *Class Exercises* section). There will also be opportunities to earn bonus marks for volunteering the answers to the study questions (see *Bonus* section).

During “lab” time, we will meet in either Fisher 310 or a computer lab. The meeting place will be announced in class each week. To start, you will write a quiz based on that week’s topic (see *Quizzes* section). Then, you will work on a lab exercise (see *Lab Exercises* section).

Course Components

Study Questions. At the end of each chapter in the textbook, under the “Looking Back” section, you’ll see a list of study questions. We will focus on the answers to these questions during lectures. Importantly, some of these very same questions will be appear on the exam. I will narrow down the list of possibilities several days before each exam.

Bonus. During some lectures I will pose one of the study questions to the class and any student who volunteers and does a satisfactory job answering the question will earn a bonus of **10 points** toward his/her final grade. You can earn up to 30 bonus points in this way. If aren’t keen on speaking in class, see me about alternative ways of earning bonus points.

Class Exercises. Marks will be awarded for attending lectures and completing an in-class exercise. For example, you may watch a video and answer a series of questions about it. There will be ten occasions on which to earn these points. Overall, this component counts for **50 points** toward your final grade.

Quizzes. The Companion Web Site and the *MyPsychLab* CD supplement the textbook extremely well. You should acquaint yourself with all they have to offer and take advantage of them. For quiz purposes, pay special attention to the following. On the Companion Web Site, for each chapter, under “Study Guide,” you’ll see listed: Pretest, Guided Review, Matching, Applications Quiz, and Chapter Exam (don’t worry about Web Essay). During lab periods, to start, you will write a quiz based on the current chapter. The quiz will be comprised of questions sampled from these sections on Companion Web Site. There will be a quiz for each chapter we cover in the textbook, nine in total. Each quiz is worth 20 points. Your lowest score will be dropped. Overall, this component counts for **160 points** toward your final grade.

Exams. There will be three exams. Each exam tests you on material from the three chapters leading up to it. Exams will consist of multiple choice items and items selected from the study questions (see *Study Questions* section). Overall, this component counts for **560 points** toward your final grade.

Laboratory Exercises. Each week an exercise will be scheduled during lab time that has been designed to give you an opportunity to apply some of the concepts covered in lectures. The details will be provided during the lab. For some labs, you will receive points for attendance, participation, and/or submitting a small in-class assignment. In total, laboratory exercises count for **80 points** toward your final grade.

Laboratory Project. Throughout the semester you will be working on a laboratory project designed to give you some “hands-on” training in carrying out psychological research. At the end of the course you will submit a report based on your findings. You may also be required to present your findings to your lab class. Guidelines will be provided. The laboratory project counts for **150 points** toward your final grade.

Evaluation

Component	Points
Class Exercises	50
Quizzes (best 8 of 9)	160
Exams (3)	560
Lab Exercises	80
Lab Project	150
TOTAL	1000

Bonus up to... 50

Final Grade / Percentage Equivalents

A+	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	D	F
> 95%	90-94%	85-89%	80-84%	75-79%	70-74%	65-69%	60-64%	50-59%	< 50%

Notes, Rules, & Guidelines

- Multiple choice portions of exams will not be returned to you, but you can review them with me during office hours.
- I will be continually updating and posting your scores on the course web site. You should check it regularly to ensure that your scores have been recorded correctly.
- Final grade scores will NOT be rounded to the nearest whole number (e.g., 84.9% = B+; 85.0 = A-).
- If you know you are going to miss a lab for a particular week, come and see me the week before and I will arrange with you to join another lab section for that week. Do not switch lab sections without my permission.
- If you miss an exam, you must contact me within 1 week of the exam date to be eligible to write it at a later date. Make-up exams will be granted only with a medical note.
- If you are found plagiarizing another person's work, you will be given an automatic 0% for your work. If you are found cheating on an exam, you will be given an automatic 0% for your exam. In lab work, if you are found fabricating data, you will be given an automatic 0% for your assignment.
- After two cases of plagiarism or cheating, you may be failed for the entire course.

SCHEDULE

Week 1 Sept 7 (T) →	Lecture <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Introduction to course format Lab <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Introduction to Lab; Lab Exercise A
Week 2 Sept 14 (T) →	Lecture <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Required: Chapter 1: What is Psychology? Lab <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Quiz 1; Lab Exercise B
Week 3 Sept 21 (T) →	Lecture <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Required: Chapter 2: How Psychologists Do Research ○ Required: Appendix: Statistical Methods ○ Recommended: <i>MyPsychLab</i> Module 1: Research Methods and Statistics Lab <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Quiz 2; Lab Exercise C
Week 4 Sept 28 (T) →	Lecture <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Required: Chapter 3: Evolution, Genes, and Behavior Lab <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Quiz 3; Lab Exercise D
Week 5 Oct 5 (T) →	Lecture <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ EXAM 1 Lab <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Lab Exercise E
Week 6 Oct 12 (T) →	Lecture <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Required: Chapter 4: Neurons, Hormones, and the Brain ○ Recommended: <i>MyPsychLab</i> Module 2: Brain and Behavior Lab <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Quiz 4; Lab Exercise F
Week 7 Oct 19 (T) →	Lecture <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Required: Chapter 5: Body Rhythms and Mental States ○ Recommended: <i>MyPsychLab</i> Module 7: Consciousness Lab <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Quiz 5; Lab Exercise G
Week 8 Oct 26 (T) →	Lecture <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Required: Chapter 6, Sensation and Perception ○ Recommended: <i>MyPsychLab</i> Module 3: Sensation ○ Recommended: <i>MyPsychLab</i> Module 4: Perception Lab <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Quiz 6; Lab Exercise H
Week 9 Nov 2 (T) →	Lecture <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ EXAM 2 Lab <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Lab Exercise I
Week 10 Nov 9 (T) →	Lecture <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Required: Chapter 7: Learning and Conditioning ○ Recommended: <i>MyPsychLab</i> Module 5: Learning Lab <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ CANCELLED (Remembrance Day)

<p>Week 11 Nov 16 (T) →</p>	<p>Lecture</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Required: Chapter 7: Learning and Conditioning (cont.) <p>Lab</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Quiz 7; Lab Exercise J
<p>Week 12 Nov 23 (T) →</p>	<p>Lecture</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Required: Chapter 9: Thinking and Intelligence ○ Recommended: <i>MyPsychLab</i> Module 8: Language, Emotional Intelligence, Problem Solving <p>Lab</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Quiz 8; Lab Exercise K
<p>Week 13 Nov 30 (T) →</p>	<p>Lecture</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Required: Chapter 10: Memory ○ Recommended: <i>MyPsychLab</i> Module 6: Memory <p>Lab</p> <p>Quiz 9; Lab Exercise L</p>
<p>Week 14 Dec 7(T) →</p>	<p>Lecture</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ EXAM 3 <p>Lab</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ TBA

* * * **STUDYING ADVICE** * * *

Textbooks on how to study in college and university suggest that to do reasonably well in a course you should be prepared to put in at least two hours of study outside of class for every hour in class. Thus, you should have at least eight hours available per week to study for this course.