



**School of Arts & Science
PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT**

**PSYC 110
Experimental Psychology
Quarter 2 Winter 2007**

COURSE OUTLINE

1. Instructor Information

(a)	Instructor:	Dr. R. G. Tonks
(b)	Office Hours:	On campus -Tues 11:00-11:30; 1:00-2:00; Thurs 10:30-11:30 Online - Mon & Wed 10:00-11:00 approx.
(c)	Location:	Fisher 314F
(d)	Phone:	370-3202
(e)	Email:	Through WebCT

Course 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 will be discussed and demonstrated in lecture and laboratory activities. Math 10 is highly recommended and Math 11 is recommended. Prerequisites: English 12 or assessment.

At the end of the course, the student shall:

1. Apply the terminology of the topics covered in the course
2. Demonstrate the skills involved in interrelating concepts presented in the course
3. Apply the psychological theories and concepts of the topics covered in the course
4. Understand how psychological knowledge is acquired and modified
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

As such, this course is intended to offer a broad survey of the fundamental topics of psychology. Beginning with a brief overview of the nature of psychology and a sample of the diverse areas of human life that it touches, this course aims to provide students with a foundation in research methods and critical thinking skills needed to understand basic research in psychology. An emphasis is placed on understanding psychology as an experimental science, covering topics such as: physiological bases to psychology, sensation and perception, memory, consciousness, learning, thinking and intelligence. Along with providing students with some 'hands-on' training in carrying out psychological research, there is an opportunity for students to become fluent with psychological theories and concepts through lab exercises that accompany the lectures.

2. Intended Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course the 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.

3. Required Materials

Texts	Wade, Tavris, Saucier & Elias (2007). <i>Psychology. Canadian (2nd) edition.</i> Toronto: Pearson.
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4. Course Content and Schedule

Teaching Schedule	Keep up with the weekly readings and assignments through WebCT
Dates for completion of topics	
Week 1 Jan 11th - Introduction to WebCT	
Week 2 Jan 18th - Chapter 1 What is psychology?	
Week 3 Jan 25th - Chapter 2 How Psychologists do Research	
Week 4 Feb 1st - Appendix Statistical Methods (pp 648-656)	
Week 5 Feb 8th - Chapter 3 Evolution Genes & Behaviour	
Week 6 Feb 15th - Chapter 4 Neuroscience	
Week 7 Feb 22 - Catch up & Review	
Week 8 Mar 1st - Midterm	
Week 9 Mar 8th - Chapter 5 Body Rhythms & Mental States	
Week 10 Mar 15th - Chapter 6 Sensation & Perception	
Week 11 Mar 22nd - Chapter 7 Learning & Conditioning	
Week 12 Mar 28th - Chap 9 Thinking & Intelligence	
Week 13 Apr 5th - Chapter 10 Memory	
Week 14 Apr 12th - Catch up & Review	
Apr 16-24 Final Exam	

5. Basis of Student Assessment (Weighting)

Exams & Quizzes:

There will be two exams and a collection of quizzes. The *quizzes (practice tests)* will be open book, but will be timed. These weekly practice exams may be taken twice in order to obtain the minimum 50% to get marks. If you don't make the 50% mark the first time, you will be able to take it a second time to try to get the marks for that week's practice test. This should help to prepare you for the two exams.

The *midterm & final exam* will be based upon the material covered in the textbook, *chapter study guide* and the laboratory activities. These tests will involve various multiple-choice, some matching and a few short answer questions. It is expected that you come to campus to write the midterms and final exams unless you are out of town. In such cases a proctor must be arranged with the instructor to supervise your exam writing. The exams and assignments will be due on the dates indicated on the course syllabus and the final exam will be during the regular exam period in April.

Weekly lab assignments and a research report comprise the activities and marks for the lab portion of this course and are due on the dates indicated on the corresponding web pages.

Practices Tests (Quizzes)	10 %	Weekly
Midterm Exam	25 %	Mar 1 (tentative)
Final Exam	30%	April 16 - 24
Laboratory Exercises	15 %	Weekly
Article Summary		Optional

Article Summaries

This assignment involves finding an article through EBSCO data base and providing a brief review of that article. It is encouraged that you work in pairs on this assignment but you may work independently if you wish. To begin this assignment you will go online to the college library site and follow the directions that you have been given to locate an article on a psychological topic of your choice.

Once you have found the article provide the following:

Brief description (don't just cut and paste the abstract, methods, etc., but rather write one in your own words).

Identify the theory (ies) that is being considered in this study and describe the hypothesis (es) being tested.

What are the main variables and what conclusions do they come up with? Here you should identify both the conclusions of the author(s) as well as your own critical comments. Look back over your earlier work on critical thinking and apply some of the criteria that were considered to this situation. See Smith (1995) - Critical Thinking

Write a one-page summary of the article, citing it in APA reference style (Web Referencing)

6. Grading System

Standard Grading System (GPA)

Percentage	Grade	Description	Grade Point Equivalency
95-100	A+		9
90-94	A		8
85-89	A-		7
80-84	B+		6
75-79	B		5
70-74	B-		4
65-69	C+		3
60-64	C		2
50-59	D		1
0-49	F	Minimum level has not been achieved.	0

Temporary Grades

Temporary grades are assigned for specific circumstances and will convert to a final grade according to the grading scheme being used in the course. See Grading Policy at camosun.ca or information on conversion to final grades, and for additional information on student record and transcript notations.

Temporary Grade	Description
I	<i>Incomplete:</i> A temporary grade assigned when the requirements of a course have not yet been completed due to hardship or extenuating circumstances, such as illness or death in the family.
IP	<i>In progress:</i> A temporary grade assigned for courses that are designed to have an anticipated enrollment that extends beyond one term. No more than two IP grades will be assigned for the same course.
CW	<i>Compulsory Withdrawal:</i> A temporary grade assigned by a Dean when an instructor, after documenting the prescriptive strategies applied and consulting with peers, deems that a student is unsafe to self or others and must be removed from the lab, practicum, worksite, or field placement.

Temporary grades are assigned for specific circumstances and will convert to a final grade according to the grading scheme being used in the course. See Grading Policy E-1.5 at camosun.ca for information on conversion to final grades, and for additional information on student record and transcript notations.

7. Recommended Materials or Services to Assist Students to Succeed Throughout the Course

LEARNING SUPPORT AND SERVICES FOR STUDENTS

There are a variety of services available for students to assist them throughout their learning. This information is available in the College calendar, at Student Services or the College web site at camosun.ca.

STUDENT CONDUCT POLICY

There is a Student Conduct Policy **which includes plagiarism**. It is the student's responsibility to become familiar with the content of this policy. The policy is available in each School Administration Office, at Student Services and on the College web site in the Policy Section.

STUDENT RIGHTS and RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Students are responsible for reading the assigned material according to the assignment dates so that they are prepared to participate in online discussions and group tasks. It is essential for students to consult the chapter study guides since they will reveal the topic activities that will form the basis of the tests.
2. If a student requires special accommodation to be successful in this course, please contact me the first week of class.
3. Students, and their prospective participants have the right not to participate in any given lab exercise.

4. As part of the course, specifically in the lab activities, you always have the right NOT to self-disclose any information.
5. Students are expected to follow certain standards of conduct:
 - a) Work must be used for this course only, and it must be original-authored by the student who submits the work.
 - b) Assignments that are copied (identical or plagiarized) between students will be given 0% for ALL students with identical work. If you want to work cooperatively, inform me ahead of time.
 - c) Fabrication of research data is not acceptable.
 - d) It is college policy that "If an instructor remains convinced that there has been a violation [such as plagiarism or cheating], he or she may assign a grade of F for the work involved, or for the course..."