



**School of Arts & Science
PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT**

**PSYC 110-D01
Experimental Psychology
2009w**

COURSE OUTLINE

**Camosun
College**

Course Outline

**Instructor:
Dr. R. G. Tonks**

Winter 2009

**Office:
Fisher 308A**

e-mail: through D2L

[Course Syllabus](#)

Phone: 370-3308

Office Hours "Online" - Weds 10:00-12:00

Introduction to Experimental Psychology

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.

Learning Outcomes:

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.

Course Text: Gerrig, Zimbardo, Desmarais, Ivanco (2009). *Psychology and Life*. Canadian edition. Toronto: Pearson.

Teaching Schedule: Keep up with the weekly readings and assignments through D2L

(see [start page](#) for general information)

Evaluation:

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, *lectures (and audio files)* 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.

Marking Scheme:

Practices Tests (Quizzes)	10 %	Weekly
Midterm Exam	25 %	Feb 26 (tentative)
Final Exam	30%	April exam period
Laboratory Exercises	15 %	Weekly
Research Project	20 %	April 9th
Article Summary		Optional

Grading Scheme: (Camosun Standards)

A+ 90 - 100

B 73 - 76

D 50 - 59

A 85-89

B- 70 - 72

F 0 - 49

A- 80 - 84

C+ 65 - 69

I = Incomplete*

B+ 77-79

C 60 - 64

*(If the missing work is not completed within 6 weeks from the semester end, the grade will become **F**).

Interpretation of Grades

Letter Grades are established according to the college definition as well as my own teaching experience.

A: Superior levels of achievement. High quality is expected which shows a full understanding of the work that is to include some form of exceptional achievement (i.e. new insight, obvious quality of research, clear presentation above and beyond the minimum required, better work than the majority of the class).

B: High levels of achievement. Here a grade corresponds to good work that shows full understanding. It does not have the same degree of exceptional achievement that makes an A, but is distinctly beyond the minimum required, and above average.

C+: Satisfactory level of achievement. This is seen as average or acceptable quality.

C: Sufficient level of achievement to proceed with next level of study. Reaches average work, showing an understanding of the material and the minimum requirements have been met, however there are usually some errors and mistakes made that hold the grade here. It does not indicate the student is having any significant difficulties.

D: Minimum level of achievement for which credit is granted; a course with a D grade cannot be used as a prerequisite. This grade is given for work that is present but is not providing sufficient insight or completeness. It is likely lacking in details, but has some approximation of adequate work.

F: Minimum level is not achieved.

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..."*

**All students are expected to follow the College's
[Student Conduct Policy](#) as outlined in Camosun
College Calendar**