

Department of Psychology

PSYC102

004: MWF 10-11am

005: MWF 11-12pm

CIRS 1250



PSYC102: Introduction to Psychology

Instructor:

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Kenny 2033 (Wed, 12-1pm)

What does it mean to be *human*?

Psychology is the science of mind and behaviour: psychologists empirically test and theorize about how we think and reason about the world, about others, and about ourselves. As a field, psychology holds the promise of helping us understand all aspects of human nature, including our ability to see, think, feel, and act in the world.

This course is a survey of seven areas of psychology: intelligence, personality, emotion and motivation, health, social, developmental, and clinical psychology. Other major topics are covered in PSYC101, which is *not* a pre-requisite for this course.

We will ask many “big questions” about human nature: can we scientifically measure thoughts and behaviours? Are we born with set personalities and thoughts (both good and bad) or can these be changed with experience? How are people similar and how are we different? Why do we sometimes cooperate and sometimes hurt each other? What is “normal” behavior? Can psychological research help us lead happier lives?

Course Goals

This is a *survey course*: rather than giving you an in-depth look into one specific topic in psychology, we will instead spend a little bit of time on many different topics. It's like an appetizer plate: a little bit of everything that's good. Survey courses have one big benefit: we are not stuck on any one topic for too long, so if you don't like a particular area we'll soon move to another. But the cost is that it's sometimes hard to appreciate the links that connect these different topics.

In creating this course, we've thought long and hard about the kinds of things we want you to take away. In each section of this course we will aim to meet four major goals:

(1) Understand the major theories, approaches, and findings.

This is the obvious goal: by the end of the course, we expect that you'll have a firm grasp of the major theories in each of the seven subfields we learn about (e.g., the major approaches to treatment of clinical disorders), as well as the milestone experiments that have contributed to these theories (e.g., the Zimbardo prison experiment).

(2) Understand the “big questions” driving research in psychology.

Psychology is a young science, and there are many things that we don't yet know. While you will learn about many things that psychologists today accept as facts about human nature, you will also discover that most questions in psychology remain unanswered and are actively being researched (maybe one day you will contribute to answering them!). As a result, we will emphasize the big, unanswered questions that are behind most psychological research today. For example, when learning about intelligence, personality, and development, we will explore the big question of *nativism* – which aspects of our psychology are we born with, and which change with experience (e.g., are we born with fixed intelligence, personality, and our own sense of morality, or do these develop and change)?

(3) Understand psychology as a science.

Much like chemists or biologists, psychologists use precise tools to measure human behaviour and use data to inform their theories. Throughout this course, you will learn about the variety of scientific tools that psychologists utilize in their research. This includes understanding the basics of experimental methodology, such as personality tests, longitudinal developmental studies, and precisely controlled experiments, as well about more general scientific literacy, such as reading graphs and understanding data.

(4) Apply the knowledge to real-world situations.

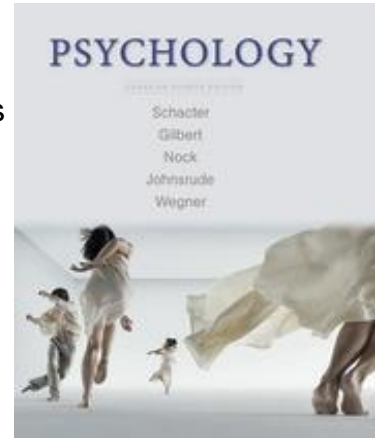
Perhaps unlike other sciences, psychology is immediately applicable to what we do every day. Throughout the course, we will strive to make theories applicable to everyday situations, and we will often ask you to think about these links yourself. In class, we will frequently discuss the role of psychology to various events that have happened throughout our history. We also offer a host of *optional readings* that connect psychology to our everyday lives and shows you the influence psychology has had on our culture.

Textbook

Schacter, Gilbert, Nock, Johnsrude & Wegner. (2017) *Psychology, 4th Canadian Edition + Launchpad.*

You can get your textbook in one of two ways:

1. The bookstore is carrying a soft copy of your textbook with only the chapters we need (for a big discount). This will include a code giving you access to Launchpad and a free online version of the book.
2. You can purchase the online-only copy of the book by visiting directly through Launchpad (see below). Please note that this will not give you a substantial discount on the softcover, so we recommend that you buy the softcover book from the bookstore.



Previous and Non-Canadian editions of our textbook have not been verified by us as appropriate for the course.

Use them at your own risk!

Launchpad

What is Launchpad?

This course uses an online platform bundled with your textbook called *Launchpad*. This platform allows us to provide you with interactive and novel methods of learning and assessment, including videos, quizzes, flashcards, etc. *Launchpad content will comprise 15% of your final grade, and is thus mandatory for this course.*

Accessing Launchpad

You will access Launchpad through Canvas: go to Modules then Launchpad. The first time you follow this link you will be asked to register your Launchpad account by entering an access code. *You can begin by asking for Free Access for 14 days if you are unsure if you will stay in this course.* Otherwise, you will either be asked to buy a digital-only version or redeem the code you received when purchasing your textbook at the bookstore. **Please keep your receipt when you purchase your textbook as it has a copy of your access code.**

Launchpad FAQ

On Canvas, under Files/FAQs you will find a PDF document that answers many frequently asked questions, especially for signing up for the system and for dealing with some common problems students encounter. Please check the FAQ before contacting us with questions.

Piazza Discussion Boards

Why Use Piazza?

Our two sections are large – each has 370 students. The biggest challenge for us as instructors is to make sure that everyone is getting a personalized experience and that we are addressing your specific questions. Unfortunately, we don't have time to speak to each of you individually after class or time to answer every question during class.

Thus, we strongly encourage you to post your questions on our Piazza discussion boards both during and after class. We check them daily and will answer any and every question you have about course content.

Accessing Piazza

You can access Piazza directly through Canvas by following the Piazza link in the sidebar.

Keep it Anonymous!

We want you to feel comfortable asking questions. For that reason, we encourage you to post every question *anonymously* (Piazza will have a check box offering this). This keeps your identity secret from us and other students and hopefully makes you feel more comfortable asking questions.

Are you taking or planning on taking PSYC101?

If you are planning on taking PSYC101 or are taking it at the same time as this course:

The bookstore offers four different versions of the textbook you can buy:

1. The cheapest option is the **custom-edition with 6 months** of Launchpad access which is ideal if you are *only taking our course and do not plan on taking PSYC101 at any point*. ISBN: 9781319263027
2. The second option is the **full custom-edition text with 24 months** of Launchpad access. This is ideal if you are taking PSYC102 now and will take PSYC101 next year as you will not have to buy another textbook or any more access codes. ISBN: 9781319262976
3. The third option is the **full digital text with 24 months** of Launchpad. This is the same as the option (2) above but does not come with a physical copy of the textbook, and is therefore cheaper. ISBN: 9781319252694
4. The last option is the **custom digital text with 6 months** of Launchpad access. This is the same as the option (1) above but does not come with a physical copy of the textbook, and is therefore cheaper. ISBN: 9781319252687

Please review these options carefully when purchasing your book!

Optional Readings

The topics that psychologists investigate are incredibly applicable and have been affecting our day to day lives since psychology became a science in the early 20th century. In this course, we always strive to show you some of these links in order to both make the theories we talk about more understandable, but also to help you understand the role of psychology in broader society.

For each of the seven areas of psychology we study in this course, we have provided three to five different optional readings on Canvas under Files/Optional Readings. ***Very importantly – these readings will never appear on any quiz, midterm, or exam, not even as bonus questions.*** They exist for your interest and enrichment only.

During class, we will note when one of the topics aligns nicely with an optional reading, so if a particular topic interests you, you can find much more about it. We also encourage you to ask us questions about the readings if anything is ever unclear. We can also always suggest further readings if you are particularly interested in a topic.

What to Study and What to Skip

Most of this syllabus is about the material you have to know. But this course will throw a lot of information at you and not all of it will be relevant when we test you. We want to emphasize some things that you have to study and some things you can skip.

- **Lecture vs. Textbook:** approximately 30-50% of the lecture content is not covered in the textbook. Similarly, parts of the textbook (e.g., “Ethics” section in Chapter 2) will not be discussed in lectures. *You are responsible for both the lecture content and the textbook content, even if they do not overlap.*
- **Videos:** we will show many in-class videos. You should treat these as lecture material – take good notes because the content discussed in the video could appear on a test. *We cannot share all videos with you due to copyright issues.*
- **You are not responsible for any dates, places, numbers, optional readings, or most people’s names:** we’ll make sure you know when you have to know a name, but it will usually be obvious (e.g., Freud, Piaget).
- **Anecdotes or stories:** unless we tell you otherwise, if we ever talk about a story or an event as an aside *you are not responsible for memorizing them.* Please do not frantically write down every word we say, we will always try to emphasize what is important.

Requirements

Midterm #1	25%
Midterm #2	25%
Final Exam	33%
Online Quizzes	10%
LearningCurves	5%
HSP Participation	2%

Grade Conversion

A	80-100%
B	68-79%
C	55-67%
D	50-54%
F	<50%

Scaling Policy

The Department of Psychology reserves the right to scale grades in order to maintain fairness across different sections or with school norms. The anticipated distribution of grades is an average of 65 – 67% with SD of 14%. *Once submitted by us, the grades that you receive in this course may be scaled by the faculty (either up or down).* Your grades are not official until they appear on your transcript. Please review the **Course FAQ** for more details about the scaling policy.

Midterms

The two midterms will be non-cumulative. They consist of multiple-choice questions that will resemble your quizzes. They will include topics from the textbook (including those not covered during lecture) and topics covered in lecture (including those not covered in the textbook).

Final Exam

The final exam will be during the exam period and will be cumulative (i.e., it will cover the material from the entire course). It will be scheduled during the exam period by the registrar.

Online Quizzes (best 10 of 12)

At the end of each section, you will be asked to complete a quiz through the Canvas Assignments tab. These quizzes consist of about 15 - 20 multiple-choice questions. Each online quiz becomes available Friday, is due the following Monday at 11:59pm. We will count the best 10 out of 12 quizzes and each quiz is worth 1% of your final grade.

LearningCurve (best 20 of 30)

The LearningCurve exercises on Launchpad are open-book tests that reward you for doing your readings. They emphasize which sections you need to review and which sections you know. They are due before the last day of class (April 2nd, 2019). Each LearningCurve is worth 0.5% of your final grade, and you need to complete 20 out of 30 for the full grade.

Experiment (HSP) Participation

Participating in psychology experiments gives you a unique opportunity to learn about the scientific process. Experiments are usually done in either 30 or 60 minute slots, and give you either 0.5 or 1 credit (for maximum of 2% of your final grade). You will always be fully told about the nature of the experiment and each experiment will only proceed with your explicit consent. Details on registering for the experiments can be found at: <http://hsp.psych.ubc.ca>

Course Policies

Library Assignment instead of Experiment Participation

If you prefer not to do HSP experiments, you can perform a *Library Assignment* instead for 2% of your grade. They are due on the last day of classes (April 4th, 2019) and must be submitted directly to Dr. Odic. A full description of requirements is available on Canvas.

Email and Office Hours

We strive to be very responsive to your questions and concerns and are available during office hours or over email. The best and quickest way to get an answer is through Piazza, because all three of us monitor it regularly. If you do email us, we will do our best to reply within 48 hours of your email, excluding weekends.

Lecture Slides

Lecture slides will be made available to you immediately after the 11:00am class (expect them around 12:15pm). The lecture slides are sparse in content compared to the lecture itself and cannot act as a replacement for attending class. If you miss a class, please make sure you visit us during office hours or get notes from another student.

Missed Midterms, Quizzes, and LearningCurves

This course has a strict no-makeup policy. If you are unable to attend a midterm, you must email us before the deadline, not after. If you miss a midterm, quiz, LearningCurve, or exam without proper documentation or if you fail to notify us prior to the deadline, you will receive an automatic zero on that assessment. In documented cases of varsity athletic commitments, severe illness, or other extenuating circumstance verified by UBC Academic Advising as warranting Academic Concession, you must obtain appropriate documentation that indicates that you were unable to do or attend the test. In these cases, we will re-weigh the other midterms and exam to compensate for the missed assessment (e.g., if you miss the first midterm with a documented reason, your second midterm will be worth 37.5% and your final exam 45.5%). There will be no make-up quizzes or LearningCurves because not all are required for maximum points (so do them early).

Extra Credit: Participate in (Even More) Experiments

You can gain extra credit for this course (*maximum 3% for the entire course*) by participating in additional experiments or by completing a library project (see details on Canvas for the latter). Experiments are usually in 30 or 60 minute slots and worth 0.5 or 1.0 credits. Each credit beyond the mandatory 2 will count as extra credit and worth a bonus 1% up to the maximum 3% for the entire course. You will always be fully told about the nature of the experiment and each experiment will only proceed with your explicit consent. Details on registering for the experiments can be found at: <http://hsp.psych.ubc.ca>.

UBC Early Alert Program

During the term, we will do our best to reach out and offer support if we are concerned about your academic performance or wellbeing. We also encourage you to come and speak with us if you need assistance.

In addition, we identify our concerns using Early Alert. The program allows academic, financial, or mental health concerns to be identified sooner and responded to in a more coordinated way. This provides you with the earliest possible connection to resources like academic advising, financial advising, counselling, or other resources and support to help you get back on track.

The information is treated confidentially and is sent because we care about your academic success and wellbeing. For more information, please visit earlyalert.ubc.ca.

Academic Misconduct

What counts as Academic Misconduct?

The University of British Columbia has a very precise definition of which behaviours count as academic misconduct. You are strongly encouraged to read and make sure you understand this policy. If you have any questions, please ask us. You can find the UBC policy on Academic Misconduct here:

www.calendar.ubc.ca/vancouver/index.cfm?tree=3,54,111,959

How is Academic Misconduct Caught?

Very easily (we are psychologists, after all). Besides being able to easily catch cheating during exams from simply seeing you, the Department has implemented software that can reliably detect cheating on multiple-choice quizzes, midterms, and exams by analyzing the patterns of students' responses.

How is Academic Misconduct Treated?

In all cases of suspected academic misconduct, the parties involved will be pursued to the fullest extent dictated by the guidelines of the University. Strong evidence of cheating may result in a zero credit for the work in question. According to the University Act (section 61), the President of UBC has the right to impose harsher penalties including (but not limited to) a failing grade for the course, suspension from the University, cancellation of scholarships, or a notation added to a student's transcript.

Academic misconduct, including cheating, plagiarism, and handing work in somebody else's name is simply not worth it. If you are struggling in this course, please come and talk to us – it is our job to help you!

Monday	Wednesday	Friday
	1/2 Experimental Methods <i>Reading: Chapter 2</i>	1/4 Experimental Methods <i>Reading: Chapter 2</i>
1/7 Intelligence <i>Reading: Chapter 10</i> <i>Online Quiz 1: Methods</i>	1/9 Intelligence <i>Reading: Chapter 10</i>	1/11 Intelligence <i>Reading: Chapter 10</i>
1/14 Personality <i>Reading: Chapter 12</i> <i>Online Quiz 2: Intelligence</i>	1/16 Personality <i>Reading: Chapter 12</i>	1/18 Personality <i>Reading: Chapter 12</i>
1/21 Emotion and Motivation <i>Reading: Chapter 8</i> <i>Online Quiz 3: Personality</i>	1/23 Emotion and Motivation <i>Reading: Chapter 8</i>	1/25 Emotion and Motivation <i>Reading: Chapter 8</i>
1/28 <u>MIDTERM #1</u> <i>Online Quiz 4: Emotions</i>	1/30 Health Psychology <i>Reading: Chapter 14</i>	2/1 Health Psychology <i>Reading: Chapter 14</i>
2/4 Health Psychology <i>Reading: Chapter 14</i> <i>Online Quiz 5: Health, pt1</i>	2/6 Health Psychology <i>Reading: Chapter 14</i>	2/8 Health Psychology <i>Reading: Chapter 14</i>
2/11 Social Psychology <i>Reading: Chapter 13</i> <i>Online Quiz 6: Health, pt2</i>	2/13 Social Psychology <i>Reading: Chapter 13</i>	2/15 Social Psychology <i>Reading: Chapter 13</i>
MIDTERM BREAK (2/18 – 2/22)		

Monday	Wednesday	Friday
2/25 Social Psychology <i>Reading: Chapter 13</i> <i>Online Quiz 7: Social, pt1</i>	2/27 Social Psychology <i>Reading: Chapter 13</i>	3/1 Social Psychology <i>Reading: Chapter 13</i>
3/4 <u>MIDTERM #2</u> <i>Online Quiz 8: Social, pt2</i>	3/6 Developmental Psychology <i>Reading: Chapter 11</i>	3/8 Developmental Psychology <i>Reading: Chapter 11</i>
3/11 Developmental Psychology <i>Reading: Chapter 11</i> <i>Online Quiz 9: Dev, pt1</i>	3/13 Developmental Psychology <i>Reading: Chapter 11</i>	3/15 Developmental Psychology <i>Reading: Chapter 11</i>
3/18 Psychological Disorders <i>Reading: Chapter 15</i> <i>Online Quiz 10: Dev, pt2</i>	3/20 Psychological Disorders <i>Reading: Chapter 15</i>	3/22 Psychological Disorders <i>Reading: Chapter 15</i>
3/25 Psychological Therapy <i>Reading: Chapter 16</i> <i>Online Quiz 11: Disorders</i>	3/27 Psychological Therapy <i>Reading: Chapter 15</i>	3/39 Psychological Therapy <i>Reading: Chapter 16</i>
4/1 No Class <i>Reading: None</i>	4/3 Review and Synthesis <i>Online Quiz 12: Therapies</i> <i>All LearningCurves Due!</i>	

FINAL EXAM WILL BE SCHEDULED IN THE EXAM PERIOD (APRIL 8 – 26)

Have more questions about the course?

Please check out the Course FAQ on Canvas under the Files tab
or ask them on Piazza!