Psychology 1000A - Basic Concepts of Psychology
Department of Psychology
The University of Lethbridge
Fall 2016

Class Schedule & Location: Tuesday & Thursday 12:15 to 13:30 pm; PE250

Coordinator Information

Dr. Margaret Forgie

Office: University Hall, D850
Email: forgie@uleth.ca

Course Description:

Psychology is the science of behaviour, mind, and body, in both human and non-human animals. Behaviour refers to the observable actions of an individual. Mind refers to an individual's sensations, perceptions, memories, thoughts, dreams, motives, and other subjective experiences. Both of these are inextricably linked to one's fundamental physiology. In short, psychological science is a diverse area of study, with research topics that include all aspects of behaviour and experience. *Basic Concepts of Psychology* utilizes an innovative, team-taught approach to the introduction of the content, philosophy, and methods of the broad field of scientific psychology; reflecting the research interests of all members of the Department of Psychology at the University of Lethbridge.

Required Text and Reading*:

Vokey, J. R., & Allen, S. W. (Eds.). (2015). *Psychological sketches: What if?* Lethbridge, AB: Psyence Publishing Society.

*One of our newest members does not yet have a second chapter in the current printing of the textbook. In this case, a reading will be posted to Moodle to accompany the lecture.

Course Format:

(1) Lectures and Readings. Each class, a lecture will be presented on a particular topic/area of psychology. All students are expected to prepare in advance of class, which includes reading assigned textbook material or other readings. Although attendance at lectures is not mandatory, each student is responsible for any material that is presented in class (content, as well as any announcements) whether or not you choose to attend. Class meetings may include discussion, films, and other activities that will NOT be made available to students who do not attend class.

(2) Evaluation (100%). Your grade in the course will be based on your performance on three out-of-class exams given throughout the semester (each covering approximately 4 weeks' worth of lectures and readings). Exams are closed-book and will be based on material from both the lectures and the readings. Each of these exams will consist of multiple-guess questions and will count equally toward your final grade. Additional work will not be assigned for those who wish to improve their course grade and the weighting of exams will not be changed for poor performance. Due to university regulations, the third exam will be written during the final exam period.

Exam 1: Wednesday, October 5 to Wednesday, October 12
Exam 2: Friday, October 28 to Wednesday, November 2
Exam 3: Tuesday, December 13 to Sunday, December 18

Students with Special Needs:

If you have a documented condition that prevents you from fully participating in this course, including evaluation procedures, it is your responsibility to contact Dr. Forgie regarding your individual situation. Please note that no accommodations will be given without official notification from the Accommodated Learning Centre (http://www.uleth.ca/ross/accommodated-learning-centre/), and that not all accommodations are available for this course (see section below: Copyright, Moodle, and Intellectual Property).

Missed Exam Policy:

With the exception of extreme extenuating circumstances (e.g., prolonged illness, accident, or bereavement), all students must write the exams within the designated time period. Should you find yourself in an extreme situation, please contact Dr. Forgie ASAP via email. Medical reasons must be supported by a physician's statement that you were either unable to attend university for the entirety of designated time period, or your performance would be seriously affected by sudden onset of illness during that time period. Your documentation must include the physician's name and contact information. Similar documentation is required for any non-medical reason (e.g., bereavement). Please see the email policy below.

NB: Without documentation, a grade of 0 (zero) will be recorded for any student who does not write the exam during the designated time period.

Course Rules and Regulations:

Students are responsible for familiarizing themselves with the Academic Regulations and Policies contained within the University of Lethbridge Academic Calendar. In particular, all students should be familiar with Sections 4, 5 and 9 of Part 4. You can access the current calendar for the 2016/2017 academic year at: https://www.uleth.ca/ross/academic-calendar/2016-17.

As per the University Calendar, Section 5.h.1.: "*When a student disrupts instructional activities, the instructor may exclude the student immediately from instructional space and/or from future scheduled instructional meetings of that course pending further actions by the Dean*."
When students conduct a social chit-chat session during the lecture, it disrupts instructional activities and, consequently, professors will respond according to the University Calendar regulation. To minimize other forms of disruption, **cell phones MUST be turned off during the lecture and texting is absolutely prohibited**. Students are permitted laptops or tablets for the sole purpose of taking notes; subject to modification by individual lecturers. Avoid engaging in off-task internet use as it distracts you and others around you. Unless you are a student with special needs (see below), there is no reason to be doing anything with your device other than taking notes. Finally, a diversity of viewpoints will inevitably exist in the university classroom. Voicing well-reasoned disagreement with others' viewpoints and asking questions is perfectly fine; being combative, intolerant, or disrespectful towards others is not (see the University Calendar Section 5.b.1).

Copyright, Moodle, and Intellectual Property:

With the exception of information that is freely available on the internet, all course information should be treated as copyright protected. You are free to download and print a SINGLE copy of any materials posted for your use within Moodle, and you are free to take your own notes in class and from the textbook (of course!). You are *not* permitted to distribute the information in any form to persons not registered in this course in this semester. Once the information is in your hands, you are responsible for what you do with it and your professors will not be held responsible for students who choose to violate the law. The Students' Union maintains a Note Bank for students to turn in their class notes at the end of

semester. Stop and think before you turn in your "notes". You are legally responsible for what you submit. Audio or video recording of lectures or any other in-class presentation or activity is ***strictly prohibited.*** Doing so violates the intellectual property rights of your professor and the privacy of your classmates who have not consented to have their images and voice/questions recorded.

Online Course Information and Testing:

It is the responsibility of all students to familiarize themselves with the Moodle LMS and to check the site on a regular basis to keep abreast of the course material. https://moodle.uleth.ca/
Your Moodle username is equivalent to your U of L email username (the part of your email address that comes before "@uleth.ca") and your Moodle password is your email password. Should you require assistance with Moodle, please contact the Teaching Centre staff (email: teachingcentre@uleth.ca).

(1) Course Information: All course information will be made available from the Moodle LMS system. This information includes the syllabus and updates on the projected class schedule and reading list. Students will be able to track their standing in the course by accessing the Moodle gradebook.

(2) Examinations: Exams will be written out of class at the University of Lethbridge Testing Centre, using the online Moodle testing utility. Students should familiarize themselves with Testing Centre procedures and hours of operation before arriving to write the exams:
http://www.uleth.ca/teachingcentre/testing-centre

Access is granted on a first-come, first-served basis. Once you enter the facility, you will be required to present valid picture ID (either your student card or a valid driver's license) and to fill out a brief form that registers your exam. All students must submit their exam by the closing date and time of the testing centre. Please allow yourself adequate time to complete your exam. It is strongly recommended that students write the exam as early as possible during the scheduled exam time because seating in the Testing Centre is limited and demand for seats is high.

(3) Email: All course information will be available on Moodle and Course Announcements will be sent to your U of L account and posted on Moodle. Please check your official U of L email account on a daily basis. Please do your best to remember to do regular housekeeping of your U of L account so that you do not miss important notices that relate to this course due to a full mailbox. Occasionally, you will receive emails from the account Memorandum, Department regarding Extra Credit Participation or other notices (check that your junk/spam filter allows this account to send to your U of L account).

NB: Email Policy
Please note that Dr. Forgie will not reply to any email that is not sent from your official U of L account unless it is an emergency situation. Furthermore, do not expect a reply to an email that does not include the course number and section in the subject header and your ID# and full name (as it appears on your registration) in the signature. **Most importantly, you will not receive a reply to an email regarding basic course information that has been made available in class, has been posted on Moodle, is given within this syllabus, or if you are disrespectful in your wording.**

Extra Credits for Research Participation:

In addition to the foregoing, this course provides students with an opportunity to get involved as a participant in ongoing research projects. If you volunteer to be a participant, each project usually requires about one hour of your time. In recognition of the value of your data, and in recognition that you are learning something about the discipline of scientific psychology, beyond that of the typical classroom environment, an extra credit of 1 to 2% for each study (variable) in which you participate will be added to your final course percentage. MAXIMUM EXTRA CREDIT = 5%. These extra credits are added after all grade cutoffs have been established for course work (see Grading Scheme below), such

that students who choose not to participate are not disadvantaged.

Directions for Participation: Following add/drop, you will receive an email to your U of L account with your Login name and password. It is IMPORTANT that you keep this information. The first time you login to the Sona System you will use your user name and the password [psyc1000a]. Once you have signed in you may change your password (recommended). Please go to http://psychleth.sona-systems.com and sign in as soon as you receive notification to do so. Studies will then become available on September 16, 2016.
NB: There will be NO transfer of credits between courses. If you are registered in another course that offers credits, a second email will be sent to you with a different email and password. Sign up in the course to which you want your credits to be assigned. Further studies and timeslots will be added throughout the semester, please keep checking, but remember that participation is on a first-come basis. Note that there is no guarantee that all students will be able to achieve the maximum credit. The last date to participate in studies is December 7, 2016. If you experience problems with the Sona System, or you have inquiries regarding participation in studies, DO NOT CONTACT Dr. Forgie. All questions regarding research participation should be directed to Ms. Leanne Wehlage-Ellis at wehlage@uleth.ca.

Grading Scheme:

Letter grades will be assigned to final course percentages according to the following scale:

A+ ≥ 90	B+ 77 - < 80	C+ 67 - < 70	D+ 55 - < 60
A 85 - < 90	B 73 - < 77	C 63 - < 67	D 50 - < 55
A- 80 - < 85	B- 70 - < 73	C- 60 - < 63	F < 50

Tips for success in PSYC 1000:

Keep your chin up. Research tells us that texting while driving increases one's risk of car accident to a degree roughly equivalent to that of driving drunk. Professors' experience tells us that texting during class increases students' risk of failing to a degree roughly equivalent to that of coming to class drunk. Increase your likelihood of success - don't do either, or send a designated note-taker on your behalf.

Understand that your professors are your allies, not your adversaries. Your professors want nothing more than for you to feel passionate about, engaged in, and enthralled by psychology as much as we are. We want you to learn, understand, and apply the material, to succeed and earn high grades in the course. We can help you achieve this goal, but we can't do it for you. Achieving success requires regular class attendance, showing up on time (i.e., *before* the lecture begins), staying until class has officially ended, paying full attention during lecture, participating in class activities, completing all assigned work, and checking Moodle frequently for valuable resources.

If in doubt, find out. If you are unclear about any of the material presented in class or in any assigned readings, or if you have a question that has not been answered in any of the valuable course resources that have been provided to help you, then ASK! Your professors are more than happy to address any questions you may have.

Enjoy a great semester!