

Psychology 1000A: Basic Concepts of Psychology

Fall 2009

Department of Psychology¹
The University of Lethbridge

Location:

Tuesday and Thursday, 12:15 - 13:30, PE250

Course Coordinators:

Dr. Scott Allen & Dr. John Vokey

Lecturers:

Available members of the Department of Psychology and the Department of Neuroscience at the University of Lethbridge.

Required Text:

Vokey, J. R., & Allen, S. W. (Eds.). (2009). *Psychological sketches (9th Edition)*. Lethbridge, AB: Psyence Ink.

Course Description:

This course utilizes an innovative, team-taught approach to the introduction of the content, philosophy, and methods of the broad field of scientific psychology. To this end, your lecturers will be comprised of different faculty members from the closely related departments of Psychology and Neuroscience at the University of Lethbridge. All lectures will focus on current, sometimes controversial and, we hope, always interesting topics. Given the format of the course, each lecture is intended to stand alone in the sense that other lectures preceding and following it will rarely make explicit cross-references to it. The common ground is to be found in the scientific psychologists' approach to posing and answering questions about any behaviour (e.g., both human and non-human animal models will be discussed).

Course Format:

1. *Lectures*. Members of the Department of Psychology and of the Department of Neuroscience will present lectures on topics within the realm of their teaching and research expertise. Each of the lectures will have an associated reading that you should read *before* attending the lecture. Please be aware that the instructors' lecture notes, presentation slides, etc., will *not* be made available following the lecture. Please be sure to ask any questions you have of the instructor *during* the presentation. If you develop further questions following the presentation, please direct those questions (at least initially) to the course Teaching Assistant through the class email list so that all may benefit from the discussion.
2. *Evaluation*. Your mark in the course will be based on your performance on three out-of-class tests given throughout the semester (each covering approximately 4 - 5 weeks worth of lectures and readings). All tests will be based on material from both the lecture and the textbook. Each of these tests will consist of multiple-guess questions and will count equally towards your final grade. The tests will not be cumulative. The third test will be written during the final exam period. All three out-of-class tests will be closed-book and will be

¹ If you've printed a paper copy of this document (and thus lost all the links), it is available at:
<http://www.uleth.ca/fas/psy/Resources/Courses/index_cou_6.html>

written in the University's [Testing Centre](#) using the [Blackboard\(WebCT\)](#) testing utility. The tests are scheduled to be written at your convenience, during Testing Centre hours, within the following periods:

Test 1	Tuesday, October 13 - Monday, October 19
Test 2	Thursday, November 12 - Wednesday, November 18
Test 3	Monday, December 14 - Tuesday, December 22

Please note that accommodations for missed exams will only be provided in extreme, extenuating circumstances (e.g., prolonged, documented illness).

Grading:

Your final letter grade will be calculated as follows (of course, if you're precisely on the border you will receive the higher grade):

%	Grade	%	Grade	%	Grade	%	Grade
90 - 100	A+	77 - 80	B+	67 - 70	C+	55 - 60	D+
85 - 90	A	73 - 77	B	63 - 67	C	50 - 55	D
80 - 85	A-	70 - 73	B-	60 - 63	C-	0 - 50	F

Students with Special Needs:

If you are a [student with disabilities](#) and wish help with your classes, you may receive help by contacting the [Disabilities Resource Centre](#).

Experimental Research Participation:

In addition to the lecture component of this course, additional learning opportunities in the form of chances to participate in ongoing psychological research will be provided. Announcements regarding such opportunities will be made during the semester through postings in the "announcements" section of Blackboard(WebCT). Projects usually require one hour or less of your time, but this may vary. In recognition of the value of your time, and in recognition that you are learning something about the discipline of psychology beyond what you would in the normal classroom environment, an extra credit of 1 to 2% for each study in which you participate will be added to your total grade to a MAXIMUM extra credit of 5%. Note that there is no guarantee that all students will be able to achieve the maximum extra credit. These extra credits are added only after all grade cutoffs have been established such that students who choose not to participate are not disadvantaged.

Web Sites, Testing, and email:

1. *Course Information:* All students have a U of L email account. Your Blackboard(WebCT) username is equivalent to your email username (the part of your email address that comes before “@uleth.ca”) and your Blackboard(WebCT) password is your email password. You will need to access Blackboard(WebCT) (<https://courseware.uleth.ca/webct>) in order to obtain course information, handouts, and to write the online exams. If you require assistance with anything related to using computers at the U of L, please contact the Student [Help Desk](#).
2. *Computer-based Examinations:* Exams for this course will be closed book exams, written out-of-class, using the online, Blackboard(WebCT) testing utility. All students will write their exam at the University of Lethbridge’s Testing Facility. Should you require assistance with your Blackboard account please contact the Curriculum Redevelopment Centre (CRDC) in L1108. The University Testing Facility is located in B770. 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. Opening and closing days and times will be given on the course schedule. The testing centre hours are listed at:
http://fusion.uleth.ca/crdc/testcenter/testcenter_student_info.htm
All students must submit their exam by the closing time of the testing centre. Please allow yourself adequate time to complete your exam.
3. *Email Accounts:* Our primary method of communicating with you for general notices will be via email and in-class announcements. Please be sure you check your U of L email account on a regular basis, or have that account forwarded to your usual email provider. Please do regular housekeeping so that you do not miss important notices that relate to this class due to a full mailbox.

Now that all that housekeeping is dealt with, we’d like to welcome you to this course. There is much in it that is fascinating (at least to us!) and the material is varied enough that we believe, as in P.T. Barnum’s circus, that there is “something for everybody” in this course. We sincerely hope you enjoy it.

- S. Allen & J. Vokey