

Psychology 1000N – Basic Concepts in Psychology
Department of Psychology
The University of Lethbridge
Fall 2010

Location:

Th, 6:00 - 8:50 pm, PE275

Lecturer:

Dr. Margaret Forgie

Phone: 403-329-2437 (Psychology Department: 403-329-2235)

Office: D850

Email: forgie@uleth.ca (preferred contact)

Office Hours: By individual appointment at a mutually convenient time.

Graduate Student Assistant:

Mr. Mitch LaPointe (M.Sc. Candidate, Department of Psychology)

Phone: 403-329-2409

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Required Text:

Lindsay, D. S., Paulhus, D.L., and Nairne, J.S. (2008) *Psychology: The Adaptive Mind, Third Canadian Edition*. Nelson Education Ltd.: Toronto, ON..

Course Description:

Psychology is the science of brain, behaviour and mind. Behaviour refers to the observable actions of an individual person or animal. Mind refers to an individual's sensations, perceptions, memories, thoughts, dreams, motives, and other subjective experiences. Brain refers to the obvious biological underpinnings of both of these. So, in short, modern scientific psychology is a diverse area of study, with research topics that include all aspects of behaviour and experience. It is my hope that this course will stimulate your critical thinking skills regardless of the topic under discussion.

Course requirements:

(1) Lectures and Readings. Each class a lecture will be presented on a particular topic/area of psychological science with a companion reading from a chapter (or portion thereof) of the required textbook. For the purposes of tests, you will be expected to have knowledge of both the lecture and companion reading material. Although attendance at lectures is not mandatory, each student is responsible for any material that is presented in the lecture (content, as well as any announcements etc.) whether or not you choose to attend. **NB: I will neither post my powerpoint slides to Blackboard, nor distribute them in any other way to the class.**

(2) Evaluation. Your percentage mark in the course will be based on your performance on three out-of-class tests given throughout the semester (each covering approximately 4 to 5 weeks 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-choice questions and will count equally toward your final grade. Exams are **non-cumulative** and material to be covered on each test will be clearly outlined prior to the start of the exam. There is **no cumulative final exam** in this course

and, therefore, none will appear on the final exam schedule. Test 3, however, will be written during the final exam period. These out-of-class tests will be closed book, and will be written in the University's Testing Facility using the Blackboard testing utility (see below).

**NB. All students are to write the exams within the scheduled dates.
NO EXCEPTIONS WILL BE MADE**

Experimental Research Participation:

In addition to the foregoing, this course provides students with an opportunity to participate in the active research projects of faculty members. Calls for volunteers to assist in these projects will be made during the semester via email. If you are asked to volunteer, and you accept, each project usually requires one hour or less of your time, but this will 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 typical classroom environment, an extra credit of 1 to 2% for each study (depending on length of time required) in which you participate will be added to your total grade to a COURSE 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. All questions regarding research participation should be addressed to the individual lab, or the Administrative Assistant to the Department of Psychology, Ms. Wehlage-Ellis (wehlage@uleth.ca).

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 me if special arrangements are necessary to accommodate your individual situation. Please note that you must contact the Disabilities Resource Centre to acquire an official letter concerning your situation. No accommodations will be given without official notification from that office.

Grading:

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

A+ (90+)	B+ (77-79)	C+ (67-69)	D+ (56-59)
A (85-89)	B (73-76)	C (63-66)	D (50-55)
A- (80-84)	B- (70-72)	C- (60-62)	F (< 50)

Web Sites, Internet Testing, and E-mail:

(1) Course Information. All students have a U of L computer account. Your account name is equivalent to your username and your password is the same as you use for email. You will need this to access Blackboard (<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) Internet Examinations. Exams for this course will be closed book exams, written out-of-class, using the Blackboard testing utility. All students will write their exam at the University of Lethbridge's Testing Facility. Please read the sections of this syllabus that describe the exam format. Should you require assistance with your Blackboard account please contact the Curriculum Redevelopment Centre (CRDC) in L1108.

(3) Taking Your Test. Please see the following URL for Testing Centre Location and Procedures related to taking your test. Opening and closing days for each of the three tests in this course are given on the course schedule (see below).

http://fusion.uleth.ca/crdc/testcenter/testcenter_student_info.htm

(4) E-mail Accounts. My primary method of communicating with you for general notices and points of interest to supplement course information, 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 your best to remember to do regular housekeeping so that you do not miss important notices that relate to this class due to a full mailbox. PLEASE DO NOT ABUSE THE CLASS LISTSERV by sending communications to the list that are not relevant to class material.

General Schedule of Lectures and Topics*

Sept. 9	Introduction Psychology as a Science: Part 1 Psychology as a Science: Part 2	Chapter 1 Chapter 2
Sept. 16	Biological Processes	Chapter 3
Sept. 23	Sensation and Perception	Chapter 4
Sept. 30	Attention and Consciousness	Chapter 5

Test 1 - Opens Monday Oct. 4 @ 10:00 am and Closes Friday Oct. 8 @ 5:00 pm

Oct. 7	Learning and Memory: Part 1	Chapter 6
Oct. 14	Learning and Memory: Part 2	Chapter 7
Oct. 21	Cognition, Language and Intelligence: Part 1	Chapter 8
Oct. 28	Cognition, Language and Intelligence: Part 2	Chapter 9

Test 2 - Opens Monday Nov. 1 @ 10:00 am and Closes Friday Nov. 5 @ 5:00 pm

Nov. 4	Human Development (Emphasis on Childhood)	Chapter 10
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Nov. 11 NO CLASS - Statutory Holiday – Remembrance Day

Nov. 18	Human Development and Personality	Chapters 10 & 12
Nov. 25	Motivation, Emotion, and Stress	Chapters 11 & 16
Dec. 2	Psychological Disorders and Therapy	Chapters 14 & 15
Dec. 9	Social Psychology	Chapter 13

Test 3 - Opens Monday Dec. 13 @ 10:00 am and Closes Friday Dec. 17 @ 5:00 pm

*this is a tentative schedule to assist you with understanding the topics and reading load for this class. The listed readings may be started on the day indicated, which does not mean that we will cover that entire topic on that date. We will not cover all parts of certain chapters, and I will announce specific readings in class and via email as we cover each topic. Material to be covered on each exam will be clearly outlined prior to each test. ****Following the last class to be covered on each exam,** I will issue a handout to assist you with reviewing your notes. Regardless of the material that we have covered at that point, the exam dates will not change.