

Psychology 1000: Basic Concepts of Psychology

Spring 2012

[Department of Psychology](#)
The University of Lethbridge

Location:

Tuesday and Thursday, 12:15 - 13:30, PE250 (section A).

Course Coordinator:

[Dr. Scott Allen](#)

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. It consists of three, interrelated components: (1) the textbook containing original articles written especially for this course by experts in the field from faculty members of the closely-related departments of Psychology and Neuroscience at the University of Lethbridge, (2) unique and original lectures from the authors of the articles, and (3) the opportunity to participate in the research conducted in the laboratories of the faculty. Each of the chapters and lectures focusses on current, sometimes controversial and, we hope, always interesting topics. 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 behaviour (e.g., both human and non-human animal models will be discussed).

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.). (2011). *Psychological sketches (10th Edition)*. Lethbridge, AB: Psyence Ink.

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

Test 1	Wednesday February 8 - Tuesday February 14
Test 2	Friday March 16 - Thursday March 22
Test 3	Saturday April 21 - Monday April 30

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) there will be no rounding of grades to the next category (i.e., 79.9 is less than 80 so is a B+, not an A-):

% 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:

This course is designed to provide students with an opportunity to participate in active research programs of faculty members. This participation allows you to get direct experience in how many of the experiments and studies you will read and hear about are actually done, and provides an opportunity for you to see what goes on in the labs, and meet senior undergraduate and graduate students conducting their own laboratory research projects. Calls for volunteers to assist in these projects will be made during the semester, via e-mail. If you are asked to volunteer, and you accept, each project usually requires one hour or less of your time, but this will depend on the individual research project. In recognition 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% for each study in which you participate will be added to your total grade to a maximum of 5% (so, it is theoretically possible to score

105%). Note that there is no guarantee that all students will be able to achieve the maximum extra credit. As these are extra credits, students who choose not to participate are not disadvantaged.

The available studies will be listed on the system at <http://psychleth.sona-systems.com>. Your username will be the same one you use to access Moodle. A password will be emailed to you (i.e., it *won't* be your email password). The system should be available starting around January 16th and the deadline for participating in studies is April 16th.

Web Sites, Testing, and email:

1. *Course Information:* All students have a U of L email account. Your Moodle username is equivalent to your email username (the part of your email address that comes before “@uleth.ca”) and your Moodle password is your email password. You will need to access Moodle (<https://moodle.uleth.ca>) 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, Moodle testing utility. All students will write their exam at the University of Lethbridge’s Testing Facility. Should you require assistance with your Moodle 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 & the instructors