

Psychology 1000A - Basic Concepts in Psychology - Spring 2008

Location: T,Th 12:15 - 13:30; PE250

Instructor Info:

Coordinator: Dr. Margaret Forgie
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Office Hours: TBA

Teaching Assistant:

Ms. Kara Brissette
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Lecturers:

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

Required Text:

Vokey, J.R. and Allen, S. (eds.). (2007). *Psychological Sketches, Eighth Edition*. Psynk: University of Lethbridge.

Course Description:

This course utilizes an innovative approach to the introduction of the content, philosophy, and methods of the broad field of scientific psychology. Special lectures will be presented 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; however, common ground will be found in the scientific psychologist's approach to posing and answering questions about behaviour. Because the subject matter of psychology is behaviour, students will be exposed to information, discussion, and research relating to the behaviour of humans as well as a wide variety of other species.

Course Requirements:

- (1) Lectures. Each available member of the Departments of Psychology and of Neuroscience will present lectures on topics close to his or her own areas of teaching and research expertise and, as a result, students will receive up-to-date information from faculty who are actively involved in these topics. Although attendance at lectures is not mandatory, each student is responsible for the material that is presented in the lecture (content, as well as any announcements etc.) whether or not you choose to attend.

NB: Powerpoint slides and other lecture materials will not be distributed to the class.

- (2) Readings. The textbook is composed of a series of essays, written by the members of the department, and designed to be read as companions to the lectures that you will hear, offering additional background information on the general research area under discussion. One of the lecturers does

not yet have their essay incorporated into the text (see starred entry on the accompanying course schedule), and this essay will be distributed to the class prior to those presentations. In all cases, the lecturer will assume that you have read the accompanying essay when giving his or her lecture.

- (3) **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 - 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-choice questions and will count equally towards 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 webCT testing utility.

******NB. All students are to write the exams within the scheduled dates.**

NO EXCEPTIONS WILL BE MADE

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 Counselling Services 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)

Experimental Research Participation:

In addition to the foregoing, the introductory course is designed to provide students with an opportunity to participate in active research programs of faculty members. Calls for volunteers to assist in these projects will be made during the semester, in class or 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 for 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 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, WebCT Testing, and email:

- (1) Course Information, Testing and Evaluation: **webct.uleth.ca**

WebCT Testing. 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 your webCT account in order to obtain course information, and to write the online exams. If you require assistance with anything related to these issues, please see the Student Help Desk on the sixth floor of U-hall (E section).

Exams for this course will be closed book exams, written out-of-class, using the online WebCT testing utility. Exams will be written, on computer, in the University of Lethbridge's Testing Facility. A demonstration of the web testing procedure and other details related to the tests will be presented in class. Should you have problems with your webCT account, please contact the Curriculum Redevelopment Centre (CRDC) in LI 108.

(2) The University Testing Facility and Procedures:

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

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 sign in on a classlist. Please also note that you must be finished your test by the closing time of the facility or you will not be allowed to complete it.

Regular Hours:

Monday to Thursday 10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Friday 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Saturday 12:00 Noon. to 6:00 p.m.

Sunday 12:00 Noon to 10:00 p.m.

Holidays 12:00 Noon to 5:00 pm

(3) Email Accounts:

My 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 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.