PSYC 1200 Introduction to Psychology

Syllabus

The field of psychology is relatively young, compared to other sciences, such as physics and biology. As you’ll discover, the official beginning of psychology as a science did not occur until the late 1800s. Even so, the popularity of psychology as a career path, in various forms, has increased astronomically since that time. As an illustration of psychology’s popularity, departments of psychology frequently host more faculty members than any other department on university campuses. Moreover, vastly more students enrol in Introduction to Psychology classes than almost any other introductory course. In other words, your decision to register in this Introduction to Psychology course is part of a broader trend that has increasingly placed the science of psychology as among the most popular disciplines offered by institutions of higher education.

We are very glad to welcome you to PSYC 1200 and hope that you find the topics interesting and informative. We will be discussing issues related to human thought and behaviour. Your best strategy for effectively learning the content of this course is to turn the material that we discuss, as much as possible, to develop a better understanding of yourself and other people that you know. That strategy should definitely help you perform well on examinations and the other components of the course and, more importantly, the knowledge that you accumulate in this course may also help you perform better in life.

Contacting your instructor

For information on contacting your instructor as well as other important information from your instructor see the Instructor Letter in your course website.

Course description

The University of Manitoba Undergraduate Calendar describes this course as follows:

Basic concepts and principles of individual behaviour are examined, particularly those of human development, normal and abnormal behaviour, social psychology, learning, perception, and psychological measurement. Students may not hold credit for PSYC 1200 (017.120) and any of: PSYC 1201 (017.120) or PSYC 1211 (017.121) or PSYC 1221 (017.122). This course is a prerequisite for all other courses in Psychology.

The primary purpose of this course is to provide an overview of the theoretical approaches and empirical studies that have contributed to the current state of knowledge about the nature and causes of psychology (a field of study that encompasses human and animal behaviour, brain mechanisms, and mental processes). In the process of being exposed to theory and research findings in psychology, the hope is that students will also acquire an appreciation for the methodologies used by psychological researchers and for the range of influences that guide their own behaviour and subjective experience.

Course goals

The course is designed to facilitate students in acquiring an understanding of:

1. the basic terms and concepts associated with different facets of psychological research;
2. the major theoretical approaches to psychology;
3. common research methods used in the scientific study of psychology; and
4. how to take advantage of library resources.
Course materials

Required

Bookstore

The following materials are available for purchase from the University of Manitoba Bookstore. Please order your materials immediately, if you have not already done so. See your Distance and Online Education Student Handbook for instructions on how to order your materials.


Included with the required textbook for this course are several online resources corresponding to every chapter, including an electronic version of your textbook, videos and animations to help you get a better understanding of the course content, and practice tests that will help you prepare for exams. This online learning resource is called MindTap and instructions on how to access these materials are included in the course site. Making use of these online resources is optional, but many students find them a great way to learn about psychology and that they help bring the material to life.

Downloadable lectures (consisting of both audio and visual material that will be essential for your success in acquiring the course material) and other important materials can be found in the course website.

Course overview

Overview

The course will provide a basic introduction to all of the many facets of the science of psychology. After providing some general details about what psychology is, the history of psychology as a science, and the research methods that psychologists employ, the order of topics will roughly follow a simple to complex sequence. The earlier topics will focus on the essential biological and mental processes that all of us rely on to think and to guide our actions. As the course progresses, there will be an increasing emphasis on environmental influences on thought and behaviour, such as the influence of parenting styles on child development.

The latter part of the course will describe factors that influence human interactions with one another, the primary focus of social psychology, and the nature and treatment of disordered psychological processes, which is the central concern of clinical psychologists and psychiatrists. All issues that bear on the behaviour and mental processes of living things are an appropriate target for scientific investigation by psychologists. As we host your tour through the various subjects that psychologists are interested in and what they have discovered about those topics, we hope you will be impressed by the broad scope of modern psychology.

Topics

1st Term

- Unit 1: Psychology’s History and Methods
- Unit 2: The Biology of Thought and Behaviour
- Unit 3: Sensation and Perception
- Unit 4: Learning and Consciousness

2nd Term

- Unit 5: Cognitive Processes & Library Assignment
- Unit 6: Intelligence, Motivation, and Emotion
- Unit 7: Developmental, Personality, and Health Psychology
- Unit 8: Clinical and Social Psychology
Learning activities

- **Online powerpoint content presentations:** Powerpoint slides with a voice-over detailing the content will be available for viewing and listening by students.

- **Research participation:** Students will take part in ongoing research studies conducted at the University of Manitoba. Alternative options will be made available for students wishing to fulfill this requirement of the course in another way.

- **Library resources online Exploration:** Using a series of online tutorials, students will explore the library’s general online resources and become acquainted with more specific ones available from the library in the psychology arena.

- **Group discussion participation:** Students will actively participate in their assigned groups’ online discussion board a minimum of four times each term. Discussion will center on topics related to relevant and current psychology material.

- **Online self-check quizzes:** Students are encouraged to do self-checks of content mastery during each unit by utilizing the online quizzes.

Evaluation and grading

**Loss of data and technical difficulties in the completion of online examinations and assignments**

The instructor of the course understands that sometimes web-based data can be lost or corrupted and those unfortunate instances are beyond a student’s control. Students who experience technical difficulties and/or a loss of data associated with their completion or submission of an online examination or assignment will be given fresh opportunities to complete those components of the course. In the case of examinations, another set of exam questions will be generated to allow the student another opportunity to complete the test. In the case of written assignments, the student’s deadline for submitting the assignment will be extended, allowing them to complete that component of the course without penalty.

**Distribution of marks**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Evaluation</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Research Participation</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Library Resources (T2)</td>
<td>5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Discussion Group Participation (T1/2)</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mid-Term Tests (T1 &amp; T2 @17.5%)</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final examinations (T1 &amp; T2 @ 25%)</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
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**Grading scale**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Letter grade</th>
<th>Percentage range</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>95 – 100</td>
<td>Exceptional</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>86 – 95</td>
<td>Excellent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>80 – 85</td>
<td>Very good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>73 – 79</td>
<td>Good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>66 – 72</td>
<td>Satisfactory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>56 – 65</td>
<td>Adequate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>50 – 55</td>
<td>Marginal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>less than 50</td>
<td>Failure</td>
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**Note:** All final grades are subject to departmental review.
Assignments

Assignments (20%)

• Research Participation (5%)
  Completion of psychological research studies often depend on access to human participants. You can contribute to the science of psychology at the University of Manitoba by setting up an account and signing up for research studies at the following website: https://umanitobapsych.sonasystems.com/Default.aspx?ReturnUrl=/ A number of studies are available to participate in online, so your distance from the University of Manitoba campus should not be an obstacle for your completion of this component of the course. For each ½ hour of participation, you will receive 1 credit; the maximum number of credits that you can be awarded is 8. Once you have accumulated 8 credits, you will receive full marks for the research participation component of your final course mark (which will contribute 5% to your final course grade). For those who do not wish to complete the research participation component of the course by participating in research studies, please let your instructor know, and he/she will arrange another way for you to complete this component of the course. You are encouraged to sign up early (immediately) for access to the subject pool information.

• Library Resources Online Exploration (5%)
  A lecture on how to use library resources will be posted online early in the Second Term. A brief assignment will also be posted to provide you with an opportunity to use the online databases that psychological scientists at the University of Manitoba use to access reference material (which typically consist of articles published in scholarly journals).

• Group Discussion Participation (5%)
  At the beginning of the First Term, students will be divided into groups of approximately 20. For each test there will be a discussion question that will integrate major concepts from the units. Each member will have the task of contributing to the discussion four times during each term (two times per question). The first time will be your “answer” to the question; the 2nd time will be to follow up with other students’ comments. Contributions to the discussion groups must be posted by 11:59 PM on the last week-day of the week they are due (see course schedule). In order to receive credit for your postings, they must fulfill the criteria listed below.
  Your 1st/3rd postings must:
  • be more than four sentences in length;
  • be clearly written and with very few grammatical and spelling errors; and
  • be related to the topic of discussion by answering the posted question.

  Your 2nd/4th postings must:
  • make reference to previous discussion postings by other students
    i.e., “I disagree, with your application of Freud’s theory and here is why......”;
  • be polite and respectful of other people’s views;
  • be more than four sentences in length; and
  • be clearly written and with very few grammatical and spelling errors.

Assignment due dates
Consult your course schedule for the assignment due dates.

Mid-term tests (35%)
These online tests will be administered approximately half-way through term 1 and term 2. The tests will consist of 50 multiple choice questions that are randomly selected from a test bank, creating a unique test for each student. Students will have 60 minutes to complete the test once they log in to it on the scheduled date. The tests will be available on the scheduled date for a 24 hour period from 8 a.m. to 8 a.m.
Final exams (50%)
The final exam will be written at the University of Manitoba (UM), Fort Garry campus or at an approved off-campus location. Students needing to write at an off-campus location must declare a location by the specified deadline date (see off-campus declaration and policy under Student Resources on course homepage). Students writing at the UM Fort Garry campus do not need to declare an exam location.

The Registrar’s Office is responsible for the final exam schedules which is available approximately one month after the start of the course.

Each final examination (one will be scheduled for each term) will consist of 50 multiple-choice questions and must be written under the supervision of an invigilator. Questions for the first term’s final exam will be drawn from units 3 and 4 (chapters 4, 5, and 6 and online lectures 4–6), whereas questions for the second term’s final exam will be drawn from units 7 and 8 (chapters 11–16 and online lectures 7 & 8).

Plagiarism, cheating, and examination impersonation
You should acquaint yourself with the University’s policy on plagiarism, cheating, and examination impersonation as detailed in the General Academic Regulations and Policy section of the University of Manitoba Undergraduate Calendar. Note: These policies are also located in your Distance and Online Education Student Handbook or you may refer to Student Affairs at http://www.umanitoba.ca/student.

Plagiarism and Cheating at the University of Manitoba
Plagiarism or any form of cheating is subject to serious academic penalty. It is the responsibility of the students to acquaint themselves with Section 7 from the University of Manitoba Undergraduate Calendar for the current academic year—see Policies on Plagiarism and Cheating, and Examination Impersonations. Academic dishonesty can result in serious consequences; e.g., a grade of zero on an assignment or test, an F on a transcript (with a notation “CW” indicating compulsory withdrawal). The penalty can also include suspension for a period of up to five years from registration in courses taught in a particular department in Arts and from all courses taught in this Faculty. The Faculty reserves the right to check any work suspected of plagiarism through electronic resources. Speak to your instructor if you have any questions.

A student who arranges for another individual to undertake or write any nature of examination for and on his/her behalf, as well as the individual who undertakes or writes the examination, will be subject to discipline under the university’s Student Discipline Bylaw, which could lead to suspension or expulsion from the university. In addition, Section 362 of the Canadian Criminal Code treats the impersonation of a candidate at a competitive or qualifying examination held in connection with a university as an offence punishable by summary conviction.

The following outlines three forms of academic dishonesty

Plagiarism is to take the WORDS or IDEAS (found on paper or electronic format) of another person and pass them off as one’s own.

Submission of a paper written in part or in whole by someone other than yourself is considered to be plagiarism and/or cheating

Cheating in examinations or tests can take a variety of forms including, but no limited to, the use of unauthorized materials, and copying material from others. An assignment that is prepared for one course cannot be submitted for another course; this is called duplicate submission and is a form of cheating.

Examination Impersonation – A student who arranges for another individual (student or non-student) to write any nature of examination, as well as the individual who writes the exam, will be subject to discipline under the University of Manitoba’s Student Discipline By-Law.
Distance and Online Education (DE) Student Resources

In your course website there are links for the following:

• Contact Distance and Online Education Staff
• Distance and Online Student Handbook
• Distance and Online Education Website

Acknowledgements

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Jason Leboe received a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1997 and a Master of Arts degree in 1999, both from Simon Fraser University in Burnaby, British Columbia. He received his Ph.D. from McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario in 2002 and became a faculty member in the Department of Psychology at the University of Manitoba in the same year. His area of research expertise is human memory and cognitive processing, for which he has received significant funding from the Natural Science and Engineering Research Council, the Canadian Foundation for Innovation, and the Manitoba Research & Innovations Fund. He has also received a Department of Psychology Award for excellence in teaching in 2007 and a University of Manitoba Rh Award for excellence in social science research in 2008.

Dr. Launa Leboe
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Launa Leboe received a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1997 from Simon Fraser University in Burnaby, British Columbia, and received a Master of Arts degree in 2006 and a Ph.D. in 2009 from the University of Manitoba's Department of Psychology. She joined the Department of Psychology as a member of the faculty in 2009. Dr. Leboe’s graduate studies were generously funded with scholarships from the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council and the Manitoba Graduate Fellowships program. Since 2003, she has published 8 articles in scholarly journals. Auditory cognition is Dr. Leboe’s primarily area of expertise.

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University of Manitoba, Distance and Online Education